



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

34 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add

Paris, 22 June 2010

Original: English / French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee

Thirty-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil

25 July - 3 August 2010

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

SUMMARY

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

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

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/>

TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT	1
I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS	2
NATURAL PROPERTIES	2
AFRICA.....	2
1. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475) .	2
2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)	6
6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)	10
9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9).....	16
11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)	22
ASIA-PACIFIC.....	29
12. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)	29
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.....	32
14. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)	32
15. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis).....	35
CULTURAL PROPERTIES	42
ARAB STATES	42
17. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90).....	42
20. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev) ...	46
21. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)	53
ASIA AND PACIFIC	57
22. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)	57
23. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)	60
25. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172).....	65
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.....	69
27. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708).....	69
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.....	75
29. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)	75
31. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)	79
GENERAL DECISION.....	82
32. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) ..	82

I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1997

Property subject to the reinforced monitoring mechanism since 2009 (33 COM 7A.1)

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

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

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

The desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

Corrective measures were identified by the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission of 2009 and adopted by the World Heritage Committee during its 33rd session (Seville, 2009):

- a) Restructuring of the management of the park for a simple and efficient organisation specifically dedicated to the park;
- b) Strengthening of supervisory staff to ensure the main management missions (planning, surveillance, ecological monitoring, administration, logistics) ;
- c) Increasing the number and training of ground staff essentially devoted to surveillance ensuring this transition period, strengthened at the outset by support from armed forces;
- d) Functional zoning of the park with a priority intervention zone to conserve to the maximum the components determining the Outstanding Universal Value of the park (milieu and fauna);
- e) Implementation of an action plan targeting restoration of security and tranquility in this priority zone;
- f) Allocation of a provisional budget for these priorities, limited to the most necessary, to already engage in this phase a reflection on sustainable management;
- g) In parallel, implementation of a plan to emerge from the crisis, through concertation with the different protagonists, in particular from Chad and Sudan.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.1; 32 COM 7A.1; 33 COM 7A.1

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A.

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; April 2009: joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Insecurity
- b) Poaching
- c) Mining
- d) Transhumance and illegal grazing
- e) Illegal fishing
- f) Illegal occupation of the property

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/475>

Current conservation issues

On 8 April 2010, a summary report on the state of conservation of the property, dated 21 January 2010, was submitted by the Central African Republic. This report describes the corrective measures that were adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). By its Decision **33 COM 7A.1**, the World Heritage Committee had requested the development of a short-term emergency plan to restore the integrity of the property. Following this decision, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN proposed to the State Party to organise a workshop with all the stakeholders to develop this emergency plan. This proposal was welcomed by the Minister for Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing. Unfortunately, due to scheduling problems, it was impossible to organize the workshop before the 33rd session. It is currently planned for September 2010.

Nevertheless, the report of the State Party indicates some progress in the implementation of recommendations of the 2009 mission:

a) Restructuring of the management of the park for a simple and efficient organization specifically dedicated to the park

The State Party notes that the process of participatory development of a management strategy for the North-east protected areas, including the property, began in July 2009. This strategy should be validated during 2010. It includes, notably, the development of the entire North-East territory, and a decentralisation process to ensure effective control of resources and decisions relating to their management by the new village associations. Nearly 1500 persons in the peripheral area of the park benefited from several series of training sessions associated with awareness-raising campaigns on management and participatory preservation of natural resources. In January 2010, the Network of Local Associations for the Management of Village Hunting Zones (RALGEST-ZVC) was created. This platform, set up by the ECOFAC IV project, has an ascending configuration (local, municipal, sub-prefectural, prefectural, regional). In addition, the State Party indicates that the process of reviewing the draft code for the protection of wildlife has been initiated by the Ministry for Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing since June 2009.

b) Strengthening of supervisory staff to ensure the main management missions (planning, surveillance, ecological monitoring, administration, logistics)

A technical assistant for the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) was appointed in March 2009 and posted to the North-East with the conservation teams. Amongst other assignments, his mission is to act as an interface between the Ministry for Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing and the Ministry of National Defence on anti-poaching matters. Thus, several joint missions have already been undertaken by these two structures.

c) Increasing the number and training of ground staff essentially devoted to surveillance ensuring this transition period, strengthened at the outstart by support from armed forces

The State Party indicates that the management strategy for the North-East protected areas foresees the implantation of advanced management and surveillance bases and an increase in the number of the surveillance team of the park and peripheral Village Hunting Zones (ZCV). In October 2009, 90 new Water and Forestry agents were recruited and trained. The report notes that it is expected that 60 of them will be posted to the protected area of the North-East in support of around 60 ECOFAC guards-patrollers already in place.

d) Functional zoning of the park with a priority intervention zone to conserve to the maximum the components determining the Outstanding Universal Value of the park (milieu and fauna)

The management strategy of the North-East protected areas proposes a zoning of the property with a central nucleus surrounded by a ring of Village Hunting Zones (ZCV). In addition, the State Party mentions that a mapping project of the park incorporating the new configuration dictated by the draft strategy for the North-East protected areas has been available since November 2009 and should be validated in March 2010.

e) Implementation of an action plan targeting restoration of security and tranquility in this priority zone

The report indicates that military equipment was provided by the Ministry for National Defence to conservation teams of the North-East Protected Areas. This equipment has been restocked each year since 2007. However, the State Party does not specify whether an action plan focused on restoring security and tranquility in this priority zone will be developed.

f) Allocation of a provisional budget for these priorities, limited to the most necessary, to already engage in this phase a reflection on sustainable management

The State Party refers to negotiations with the European Union, which led to a forthcoming provision of new funds for the protection of the North-East Protected Areas, including the National Park of Manovo Gounda Saint-Floris. However, it appears that a provisional budget has not yet been defined.

g) In parallel, implementation of a plan to emerge from the crisis, through concertation with the different protagonists, in particular from Chad and Sudan

The report of the State Party mentions that the cross-border actions taking into account all the contextual issues related to the conservation of natural resources and the development of local communities are planned as part of regional activities financed by the European Union, but details of the nature of the activities are not provided.

In April 2010, the World Heritage Centre nevertheless held a meeting between representatives of the State Party, Chad and Sudan, to inform them of the request of the World Heritage Committee, through its Decision **33 COM 7A.1**, to organize a high-level meeting with the authorities of the three countries to discuss progress made in addressing the deteriorating state of conservation. Unfortunately, only the Ambassador of the Central African Republic was present at the meeting, which was organized together with the Africa Department. However, the Ambassador deemed that with the improvement of relations between the three countries, the organization of such a meeting could be possible, and promised to follow up with his counterparts in Sudan and Chad, and to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangui. The World Heritage Centre will continue to follow up this matter with the Delegation of the Central African Republic.

The report of the State Party notes that the main conservation problems continue to be border poaching, the impact of the Sudanese conflict on security in the property, and the droughts of Sudan and Chad which have resulted in transhumance and great pressure on the pastures in the property. In addition, the report notes the recent arrival of Ugandan rebels from the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) in the region, which could create an environment of insecurity. It should be noted that the LRA recently created a situation of insecurity around Garamba National Park in the DRC. The report also mentions the lack of financial, human and logistical resources.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the strong mobilization of the politico-administrative bodies and the local communities as regards the conservation efforts described in the report. They also welcome the funding pledged by the European Union for the conservation of the property and the surrounding areas. They also note that the first aerial inventory mission on ECOFAV IV was conducted in 2008. A second, more extensive mission is planned for February 2010 in collaboration with the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme. However, they remain very concerned by the problems of border poaching that has decimated animal populations, and especially by reports of the infiltration of the LRA in the region that may have new impacts on security. They note the urgency of establishing an emergency plan to restore the short-term integrity of the property and create conditions for the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value, and hope that the workshop for the development of this plan could take place soon. At the same time they reiterate the importance of cooperation among the States Parties of the Central African Republic, Chad and Sudan to implement a common strategy for the protection of the property by involving the local communities in peripheral areas of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report seems to propose a zoning of the property with the creation of a central core surrounded by hunting zones within the property. If this is the case, they feel that this would change the protection status of the property and would require consultation with the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the property be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that the reinforced monitoring mechanism continue to be applied.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.1** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Regrets that the workshop to develop an emergency plan as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session had not yet been organized but notes that it is planned for September 2010;*
4. *Notes with concern the continuing insecurity in the border area of the property with Chad and Sudan, resulting in persistence of poaching and illegal uses of space;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to strengthen trans-boundary cooperation with Chad and Sudan in order to control poaching and the other illicit exploitation of the natural resources;*

6. Recalls its invitation to the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to organize a meeting with the authorities of the Central African Republic, Sudan, Chad and the representatives of the African Union, competent sub-regional organizations and the Director General of IUCN to discuss progress made in addressing the deteriorating state of conservation, with the assistance of the World Heritage Fund and other funds, if need be;
7. Urges the Central African Republic to develop and implement an emergency plan to restore the integrity of the property in collaboration with all the stakeholders based on the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of 2009;
8. Warmly welcomes the reinforcement of field staff with the involvement of local communities in the surveillance operations of the property, and the support of the national army, to better cope with the many threats to the property;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in implementing corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2009 mission, as well as additional information on the proposed zonage of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
11. Decides to continue application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;
12. **Also decides to maintain the Manovo Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1983

Criteria
(ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2003

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

- a) Potential impacts of civil unrest;
- b) Decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching;
- c) Lack of effective management mechanisms.

Desired state of conservation required for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
The desired state of conservation has yet to be defined.

Corrective measures identified

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

- a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures;
- b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas. The management plan should give special attention to:
 - (i) Establishing a revised zoning system for the property to guide management activities that fully consider the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve;
 - (ii) Establishing participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts associated to the management of areas in particular on the periphery of the property;
- c) Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Five year timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

- 2007: Preparatory work and developing contacts for technical and financial support, as well as implementation of emergency measures linked in particular to surveillance of the property;
- 2008-2009: Preparation of a management plan and implementation of priority activities;
- 2009-2011: Implementation and monitoring of activities under the management plan.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.2; 32 COM 7A. 2; 33 COM 7A.2

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for Technical Assistance.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities.

Previous monitoring missions

June 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Conflict and political instability;
- b) Lack of management control and access;
- c) Poaching;
- d) Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure;
- e) Bush fires.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). Therefore, progress on the implementation of corrective measures is difficult to assess.

However, IUCN has received reports from its network of experts and members on a number of conservation issues pertaining to the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). According to these reports, due to ongoing security concerns in Ivory Coast and the occupation of a large area of the property by the 'Forces Nouvelles' militia, the presence of the national park authorities in the property remains limited and there is little effective control and patrolling of the property (corrective measure a). This seems in contradiction to last year's State Party report, which mentioned that the State Party had regained control over the entire extent of the property. IUCN has also received reports that the State Party has been unable to rapidly deploy the planned mixed ranger patrols, including members of the Ivorian army and of the 'Forces Nouvelles' militia.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the World Bank's Protected Area Project for Ivory Coast (USD 2.54 million, 2009-2013) includes actions to improve the management of Comoé National Park, such as development of a management plan, support to park communities through public awareness campaigns, environmental education, land management contracts, and the development of alternative livelihoods. A study on the state of conservation of Comoé National Park has already been commissioned through this project, which should take place in 2010. IUCN also notes that a draft management plan for the property has been developed and is in the process of being finalized (corrective measure b).

They also note that the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), in collaboration with the management authority OIPR (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves) and the Max Planck Institute Apes Database project, conducted a survey in June 2009 of chimpanzees and elephants, as well as other large mammals and reptiles, within the south-west area of the property and the "GEPRENAF" zone adjacent to the property (West African pilot community-based natural resources and management programme). While the dataset was not large enough to allow population estimates, the results clearly indicate that significant populations of large mammals are still present in the south-west of the property and the GEPRENAF zone, including chimpanzees and elephants. The survey found that the density of chimpanzee nests in this area was 10.6 per km², indicating a relatively intact population. During the survey period, elephants were only directly observed in the GEPRENAF zone at a density of 1.9/ km. The results of the survey of chimpanzee and elephant populations are encouraging and indicate potential for their recovery across wider areas of the property. However, the survey also found a high incidence of poaching, deforestation and agricultural encroachment across the entire area, and IUCN has received additional information that a large influx of cattle into the property during the dry season is causing overgrazing and depleting waterholes important for the property's wildlife, which increase the need to rapidly deploy the planned mixed ranger patrols, including members of the Ivorian army and of the '*Forces Nouvelles*' militia.

IUCN also received reports that the German Cooperation (GTZ) has recently commissioned wildlife surveys within the property, as well as studies on the park's infrastructure and socio-economic conditions. The objective of these surveys and studies is to develop a conservation strategy for the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the park authorities, conservation organisations to work closely together in order to coordinate their conservation efforts. The results of any detailed wildlife surveys undertaken through the above projects could be used to monitor the recovery of wildlife populations and develop the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the funding secured through the World Bank's Protected Area Project for Ivory Coast to improve the management of Comoé National Park. They encourage the State Party to focus on implementing the corrective measures and rapidly deploy mixed ranger patrols, finalise the management plan, and develop an urgent rehabilitation plan for the property. They recall that the 2008 State Party report had indicated that three mining exploration licenses had been granted covering part of the property, and that the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **33 COM 7A.2** had urged the State Party to withdraw these licenses, in line with the World Heritage Committee's clear position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, and the international policy statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger until an effective management structure is in place and the recovery of the property's key wildlife populations is demonstrated.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
4. Considers that without a report by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures and on the status of wildlife populations, it is impossible to evaluate the progress made towards a removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Notes with concern reports received by IUCN that due to ongoing security concerns, the presence of the national park authorities in the property and its effective control and patrolling remains limited, in spite of earlier reports of the State Party that it had regained control over the entire property;
6. Welcomes the reported support of various donors for activities to improve the management of Comoé National Park, and encourages the State Party and conservation organisations working within the property to closely coordinate their conservation efforts;
7. Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 20 session (Vilnius, 2006) and in particular to rapidly deploy mixed ranger patrols, finalise the management plan, and develop an urgent rehabilitation plan for the property;
8. Reiterates its utmost concern about the granting of mining exploration licenses covering the property, urges the State Party to take the necessary steps to ensure the withdrawal of these licenses, and calls on the holders of any concessions to respect international standards, in line with the international policy statement of the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) of not undertaking these activities in World Heritage properties;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a proposal for the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures, including a copy of the draft management plan, an overview of current and projected budgets for the management of the property, the status of anti-poaching activities, and any data on wildlife populations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
11. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note : the following report on the World Heritage property of the Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) is to be read in conjunction with Item 32 of the present document.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1997; previously inscribed between 1984 and 1992

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

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

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

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

The Desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

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

- a) Ensure the protection of the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan within and adjacent to the property ;
- b) Improve the efficacy of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped;
- c) Ensure that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition;
- d) Undertake, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to the DRC (MONUC), a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region;
- e) Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into the DRC and the property;
- f) Maintain and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of Northern White Rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey;
- g) Strengthen efforts to improve relations with local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme;
- h) Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba Park guard force;
- i) Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG);
- j) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been adopted.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 7A.4; 31 COM 7A.6; 32 COM 7A.6; 33 COM 7A.6

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for the RDC World Heritage Properties ("RDC Programme") financed by the UNF, Belgium and Italy: (2001-2005) approximately USD 400,000; (2005-2008): USD 600,000. Two additional amounts from the Rapid Response Facility (totaling USD 60,000) training of guards and more recently replacement of communication equipment. Within the framework of the Third Phase, 200 000 Euros have been allocated, by the Spanish Government, for the site.

Previous monitoring missions

2006: World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the « DRC Programme ». March 2010: World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136>

Current conservation problems

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 8 February 2010. This report contained information on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures. From 20 to 30 March 2010, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission visited the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). At the time of writing this document, the mission report is being finalised and will be available on line at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/>.

The mission noted that since the last mission in 2006, the management of the Park was greatly handicapped by the presence of rebel groups of the Ugandan « Lord's Resistance Army » (LRA) in the zone and the consequent state of insecurity. As mentioned at the last session, the LRA attacks in the Park at the beginning of 2009, cost the lives of 15 persons, including a conservator, four guards, a driver and four women. Three children have been kidnapped. More than USD 1.6 million of material and equipment have been destroyed. Vast areas, notably in the buffer zones of the Park (Hunting areas – DC) have been inaccessible for surveillance purposes due to the LRA and military operations. Finally, soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), now numbering 11,000 in 2009, have been very involved in widespread poaching. Therefore the context has been extremely difficult for the implementation of the corrective measures.

The mission notes that security has improved recently: the last reports of incidents with the LRA date from August 2009, although the presence of some small bands of the LAR is not to be excluded. However, with an important FARDC presence, the signs of poaching of large wildlife seem to have increased despite the departure of the LRA. Indeed, with the departure from the zone of the majority of LRA rebels, the FARDC appear to have found the way clear to practice poaching. Cases of harassment of the local population in the villages and at the barriers on the roads have also been noted.

Despite these difficulties, efforts have been made to implement the corrective measures:

- a) *Authorize the translocation of the Northern White Rhinoceros from the Garamba National Park, ex situ, to a secure place, to guarantee the survival of the sub-species and with the aim of reconstituting the population in situ when feasible;*
- and
- b) *Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhinoceros population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in IUCN and AfRSG*

Between 2006 and 2008 intensive aerial and land searches were carried out to seek indications of the presence of rhinos. No indication was found. If in March 2011 there is no indication of rhino presence, the mission deems that this corrective measure will no longer be pertinent.

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

Although transborder cooperation between the DRC and Sudan in the management of the contiguous protected areas of the Garamba/ Lantoto National Park complex was engaged in 2008, the continuance of this transborder cooperation was interrupted following the attack of the LRA in January 2009. With an improvement in the security situation and the reconstitution of logistics lost in the attack, the recommencement of transboundary cooperation could be considered in 2010.

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

The mission noted that the presence of the brigade has caused more problems than solutions for the Park as on several occasions elements of the FARDC have been involved in poaching. In 2007, the Park obtained the withdrawal of the brigade but in November 2009, the brigade was once again posted there and continues to cause problems.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN deem that the problem of the involvement of undisciplined elements of the FARDC in poaching activities in and around the protected areas is common to all the World Heritage properties in the DRC and should be discussed by the high-level meeting requested by the Committee at its 31st session.

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

No progress has been made with regard to the recommendation that a high-level meeting between the DRC and the Sudanese Government be organized to discuss the problem of transborder poaching. If transborder cooperation with the Lantoto National Park will not enable discussion of this problem at the local level, a sustainable solution can only be found through high-level contacts between the two countries.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also consider that this problem should be discussed by the high-level meeting referred to above.

f) Undertake in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to the DRC (MONUC) a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region

According to the Park managers this cooperation has been particularly disappointing. The activities of MONUC are limited essentially to logistic support for the FARDC, without however changing the undisciplined behavior of the latter. The only success concerning the recovery of weapons (14 military weapons and 7 hunting rifles confiscated since April 2008) was due more specifically to an information network established by the Park. For the time being, this information network appears to be the most efficient way of recovering the weapons in the surrounding communities. The mission considered that the success of the system would require the maintenance of good-neighborliness with local communities. It thought that this measure remained pertinent even if the contribution of MONUC to its success was probably very limited.

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

The guards receive regular supplies of bivouac equipment thanks to partnerships, despite the important loss of equipment during the LRA attack in January 2009. However, less than 10 of the 140 Park weapons are serviceable. ICCN has attempted on several occasions to solve this problem, but without success. The official paramilitary status of the ICCN guards has been refused by the Government and a supply of arms or ammunition could not be obtained. Taking into account the threats to the Park and the risks of encounters during patrols, the mission considers that it is imperative that the guards be correctly armed. This corrective measure can only be implemented through Government contacts at the highest level.

h) *Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba guard force and maintain and strengthen anti-poaching efforts*

Since 2006, 70 new guards have been recruited and trained, and 37 former guards have retired. However, according to the Park manager, three-quarters of the 138 guards have not yet attained the required level of training to carry out the surveillance work efficiently. Since April 2008, the supervision of the guards in the field has been ensured by a former conservator of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Despite the problems of insecurity linked to the presence of the LRA, the managers of the Park have managed to maintain surveillance activities in the southern part of the Park, except during the four months following the January 2009 attack. Very little poaching in this part of the park has been recorded and no fresh carcasses have been seen during the aerial controls of 2006 and 2007. The majority of the poaching cases recorded occur in the DC. However, it is difficult to evaluate the real level of poaching in the DC because less than 5% of this area is controlled by the ICCN. Despite the problems with the FARDC, mixed patrols have been deployed in the Park. The mission noted the importance to extend, as far as means permitted, the surveillance of the DC.

i) *Strengthen efforts to improve relations with the local communities surrounding the Park*

Since 2006, the Park made efforts to initiate community conservation activities, in the framework of a UNESCO programme thanks to funding from the Italian Government. A Management Committee for Community Conservation (CGCC) has been established, grouping together the customary and administrative authorities of the three chieftaincies, and the local NGOs and associative groups. The 12 Community Conservation Committees (CCC) were reorganized into 13 groups surrounding the GNP. These CCC receive support in the preparation of proposals for the development of micro-projects and their implementation. These initiatives are beginning to bear fruit in terms of improvement in relations with the local communities. Currently, the Park focuses on the most frequently expressed concerns by the local community (health, education, access to markets). The mission considered that this corrective measure should be pursued.

j) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) World Heritage properties*

See the report on Kahuzi-Biega National Park (*WHC-10/34.COM/7A.5*)

The mission notes the importance of the DC for the integrity of the property, given that wildlife populations live there during part of the year. It felt concern regarding the issue of illegal mining in the DC and recommends that a conservation strategy be developed and implemented in the framework of the development of the zoning plan for the management plan of the Park. It considers that the very rapid evolution of this exploitation constitutes an

important potential threat to the integrity of the property. In particular, the pertinence of a co-management approach for the DC based on the enhancement of wildlife should be analysed.

The mission worked together with the managers of the property on the preparation of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and proposed eight indicators for the desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission proposed quantifying these indicators, once the information of the new inventory, foreseen for May 2010, will be available.

The mission concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the GNP had been inscribed on the World Heritage List is greatly degraded but, with the probable exception of the Northern White Rhinoceros, it could be restored if adequate management measures for the Park are set up and maintained. The mission acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the ICCN Park managers in the conservation of the property, often at great personal risk to its officials. It considers that with the departure of the LRA from the zone, and the mobilization of important technical and financial means for the period 2010-2015, and if the up-dated corrective measures are enforced, conditions which would permit the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger could be attained in 2015.

The mission formulated a series of recommendations which are integrated into the draft decision to enable the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value, by updating the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in 2006.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned about the state of the property. Despite the efforts of the managers of the property, the insecurity has made it difficult to implement the recommendations of the 2006 mission. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are also very concerned by reports of the increasing involvement of the FARDC in poaching activities, and consider that urgent measures must be taken at the highest level by the State Party to remedy this situation.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN support the conclusion of the mission to maintain Garamba National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Congratulates the officers of the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) and for the efforts undertaken to safeguard the property often at great personal risk, but regrets that persistent insecurity since the 2006 mission has continued to obstruct the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session;*
4. *Reiterates its concern with regard to the possible extinction of the Northern White Rhinoceros of which no trace could be currently found, despite intensive searches in the property and in the adjacent hunting areas, and requests the State Party to continue with the intensive searches for a further year before declaring the final extinction of the Northern White Rhinoceros;*

5. *Takes note of the conclusion of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been greatly degraded but that, with the probable exception of the Northern White Rhinoceros, could be restored if adequate management measures for the Park are established and maintained;*
6. *Expresses its great concern as regards the reports of increasing involvement of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in poaching activities in the property and the Hunting Reserves that surround it;*
7. *Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the 2009 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property:*
 - a) *Urgently undertake at the highest level measures to halt the involvement in poaching activities of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC),*
 - b) *Ensure that the equipment of the guards of the management authority (ICCN) is adequate and serviceable, in particular with appropriate weapons and ammunition,*
 - c) *Strengthen disarmament efforts within the communities living around the property and at the same time improve the security situation of the region, if possible in cooperation with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC),*
 - d) *Renew contacts with Sudan to strengthen transboundary cooperation with Lantoto National Park,*
 - e) *Ensure a team of at least 200 operational guards through the rapid retirement of older guards and by the replacement of those not attaining the required level,*
 - f) *Gradually extend the area of surveillance to include the totality of the Park area, and at least 20% of the Hunting Reserves by 2015,*
 - g) *Establish a conservation strategy for the Hunting Reserves so that they may fully play their role of buffer zone and in view of their importance in the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,*
 - h) *Strengthen the Community Conservation activities to improve relations with local communities,*
 - i) *Complete and approve the management plan of the property and ensure the means for its implementation;*
8. *Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to finalize the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value as well as the proposed desired state of conservation with a view to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
10. *Decides to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*
11. *Also decides to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

9. 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

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

- a) Depletion of the *Walia ibex* population and of other large mammals;
- b) Encroachment;
- c) Impacts of road construction.

Corrective measures identified

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

- a) Finalize the extension of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain with the interlinking corridors;
- b) Gazette the new park boundaries, including the extensions of Lemalimo, Mesarerya, the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain, as well as the realignment of the boundary to exclude certain villages;
- c) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision, to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property by introducing no grazing and limited grazing zones based on ecological criteria, and by setting up a strict management regime in zones where grazing will still be tolerated in the short to medium term, and secure funding for its implementation;
- d) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity, in order to limit in the medium term their impact on the natural resources of the property, and secure funding for its implementation.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No precise timeframe was set so far although the World Heritage Committee mentioned that the corrective measures could be implemented in the short term (1-2 years).

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.9 ; 32 COM 7A.9; 33 COM 7A.9

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 215,000 for Technical cooperation and training. Additional support of USD 27 000 was provided for technical support to review the draft management plan from the budget line for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

UNESCO extrabudgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2010: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Declining populations of *Walia ibex*, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species;
- b) Increasing human populations and livestock numbers in the park;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Road construction.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9>

Current conservation issues

On 28 April 2010, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property. This report provides an update on the implementation of the corrective measures. From 12 to 14 October 2009, a joint UNESCO/ IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property. This mission found that significant progress has been made in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The mission report is available online at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM/>.

The mission evaluated the progress achieved by the State Party in fulfilling the corrective measures set out by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006:

- a) *Finalize the extension of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain with the interlinking corridors*

The park has been extended from an area of approximately 136 km² to approximately 400 km² with the inclusion of four new sectors linked by habitat corridors. The new sectors are all free of settlement and cultivation and boundaries have been negotiated and agreed with local communities. The extension areas include some of the best habitat for Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf, and will contribute significantly to the conservation of these two highly endangered endemic species, as well as other wildlife.

A critical element of this extension has been the voluntary resettlement of approximately 165 households from the village of Arkwasiye which was located in a critical wildlife corridor linking the original park area with the Silki - Kiddis Yared mountains extension to the northeast. The relocation of these households was partly funded (approximately 15% of the total budget) through the World Heritage Fund and has created the opportunity for wildlife to disperse between these two major habitat blocks, whilst improving the livelihoods of those who were relocated.

The mission considers that this corrective measure is fully implemented.

- b) *Gazette the new park boundaries, including the extensions of Lemalimo, Mesarerya, the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain, as well as the realignment of the boundary to exclude certain villages*

The boundaries of the extended park have been aligned after exhaustive consultations with local communities in every area. Villages at the foot of the escarpment have been excluded from the park area. The precise location of points along the agreed boundary line has been recorded by Geographical Positioning System (GPS), and strategic points (e.g. where the boundary passes next to cultivated plots, homesteads etc) were marked with red paint on naturally occurring rocks. Furthermore, 300 concrete beacons have been installed all around the extended park area. However, the boundary demarcations are not clear and, in some cases, not visible. Therefore, further work on the physical demarcation of the boundary is therefore required. In addition to the physical demarcation, a draft gazette was prepared by the Amhara State Parks Development and Protection Authority (PaDPA), prior to the recent transfer of responsibility to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA).

In terms of the legal gazetting of the extended park, the mission noted that EWCA is concerned that gazetting a new boundary into national legislation may require the preparation of a completely new World Heritage nomination dossier. This concern was fuelled partly by the opinion expressed in the previous UNESCO/ IUCN monitoring mission report of 2006 which stated that "This will require a re-nomination of the property as this will

be a significant boundary change.” The mission has sought further clarification on this from the World Heritage Centre and concludes that:

- a) in terms of the *Operational Guidelines*, the proposed extension would require that a new nomination be prepared, including an evaluation mission;
- b) the documentation does not need to be anywhere near as extensive as a nomination for a new property because potentially the values for which the existing property was inscribed will remain the same. However, it would be essential to update and review the existing documentation on the property;
- c) the required ‘new nomination’ should include a detailed map of the new boundary, and focus on how the extension and boundary modification will enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property;
- d) the State Party could request International Assistance from the World Heritage Funds to obtain consultant support to prepare the necessary documentation. IUCN is also willing to provide technical advice and identify expert support to assist the State Party in addressing the requirements of a new nomination.

The mission considers that concern over World Heritage status should not be allowed to delay the necessary gazetting of the extension into national law, which is a separate issue. Moreover, the mission is of the view that unless the newly aligned boundaries of the park coincide with the World Heritage property, there would be a situation where (a) certain villages, have been excluded from the park, but remain within the inscribed property; and (b) critical parts of the range of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf are excluded from the inscribed property, although they are the flagship species providing justification for the property’s inscription under criterion (x).

In summary, the mission considers that some further work is required, both in terms of physical demarcation in the field, and the legal process, to fully satisfy the requirements of corrective measure (b).

- c) *Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision, to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property by introducing no grazing and limited grazing zones based on ecological criteria, and by setting up a strict management regime in zones where grazing will still be tolerated in the short to medium term, and secure funding for its implementation*

A ‘Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy Document’ (GPRSD) has been prepared (July 2007) by consultants under contract to PaDPA. This document identifies a series of interventions aimed at zonation of the park for different intensities of grazing, limiting grazing rights, reducing animal numbers, improving animal health and engaging local communities. The five year intervention is expected to cost approximately 110 million Birr (approximately USD 9 million).

Some interventions have already been made to reduce grazing pressure, with financial support from the existing Austrian-funded Sustainable Resource Management Programme, which are encouraging signs that progress can be made. However, it is clear that intensive grazing by domestic stock remains the most critical and intractable problem affecting the ecological integrity of the property. Under national parks law, grazing in national parks is illegal, and the authorities do not want to ‘legitimise’ it by giving it prominence in the formal management plan, preferring to develop a comprehensive grazing reduction strategy as a separate issue. The mission does not accept this rationale for excluding the grazing strategy from the management plan, when it is clearly such a crucial issue, and particularly when an entire chapter of the management plan is devoted to the ‘Settlement Management Programme’ (another illegal activity in the park). Unfortunately, the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy Document also has a number of shortcomings and lacks specific

verifiable targets for grazing reduction, as well as maps of areas that might be considered as 'no grazing' or 'limited grazing' zones. Furthermore, there is no indication that efforts have been made to introduce the 'grazing reduction strategy' to potential donors, and it is questionable (given the national focus on food security) whether any donor could be found to support such an expensive strategy in its totality as presently documented.

The mission therefore concludes that much remains to be done to satisfy the requirement of corrective measure (c).

- d) *Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity, in order to limit in the medium term their impact on the natural resources of the property, and secure funding for its implementation.*

An alternative livelihoods strategy document has been prepared by an international consultant funded by the World Heritage Centre. This identifies 29 different private businesses and cooperatives through which 586 households currently living inside the park can find alternative sustainable livelihoods and move out of the park. Implementation of the strategy would take five years at a cost of approximately US\$ 8.7 million. Funding has not yet been secured, and no significant progress has been made in finding alternative livelihoods for those who remain resident inside the park.

As with the grazing reduction strategy, the mission team has significant doubts over the viability of raising USD 8.7 million from the donor community to fund the alternative livelihoods strategy in its present form, and a more pragmatic approach may be to implement elements of it as the opportunity arises. The present proposal implies an investment of USD 15,000 per household/ job created, which may prove to be prohibitively high. The Arkwasiye relocation involved several donors (notably UNESCO, Austrian Development Cooperation and Frankfurt Zoological Society), with the majority of funds (68%) provided by the Amhara Regional government. In this case 165 households were successfully relocated at a total cost of USD 194,000, or USD 1,175 per household. A similar approach may prove to be necessary elsewhere.

The mission concludes that whilst an alternative livelihoods strategy had been prepared, there is no indication of funding to implement it, and further work is required to satisfy the requirements of corrective measure (d).

The mission concludes that despite the progress achieved, much work is still needed to reduce the threats that led to inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger. The mission was encouraged by the recent successful voluntary relocation of 165 households from the village of Arkwasiye, as this sets a precedent for similar exercises in future. Members of other park communities, including notably the village of Gich (which lies at the very core of the park) are said to be willing to voluntarily relocate if compensated in a similar way and resettled within the same district. There has been strong growth in tourism numbers and revenue, assisted by the completion of an up-market lodge in 2006 and new hotels in Debarq. Visitor numbers have almost doubled since 2006 (from 6019 to 11,648), and increased ten-fold since the property was listed as being In Danger. The direct benefits from tourism to local communities have done much to improve attitudes towards the park, and gain acceptance for necessary conservation measures.

The mission further noted that wildlife census statistics indicate that populations of the highly endangered endemic Walia Ibex and Ethiopian Wolf have continued to increase and are now approximately double what they were when the property was listed as being In Danger in 1996. A comprehensive 10-year management plan has also been completed with the financial assistance of the World Heritage Fund. The mission team also notes that a decision has been taken to align the new road to Dilyibza through Chiroleba, thus avoiding the critical 'Arkwasiye wildlife corridor', as recommended by the 2006 mission

The mission team carried out an initial review of the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value submitted by the State Party. This was followed by a more detailed review undertaken by IUCN, which was agreed by the State Party and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge the considerable efforts towards restoring the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. However, they note that two of the main threats to the values and integrity, namely the extensive grazing pressure in the property and the important part of the property encroached by agriculture, have not yet been addressed. They acknowledge the work undertaken to develop strategies to address these threats but are concerned that so far no funding has been secured to implement them. They therefore support the recommendation of the mission that the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger and that State Party should continue to implement the three existing corrective measures that have not been finalized. The mission made some specific recommendations on the work which remains to be done and discussed these with the State party.

The mission reiterated the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee that the State Party urgently organise a donor conference in order to seek the necessary funding for implementation of the grazing and alternative livelihood strategies, which are key to satisfying the conditions set out in the corrective measures. In response to this proposal, funding was provided to the State Party from the World Heritage Fund in December 2009. The donor conference was initially scheduled for February 2010, but was postponed by the State Party, in order to ensure the participation of major donors. The World Heritage Centre is still waiting for a new proposal for a date of the conference. If a donor conference is organised in 2010 and is successful, and the boundary gazetting can be included in the legislative programme for the next Parliamentary session, the mission team considers that a follow-up mission could be undertaken in advance of the 35th World Heritage Committee meeting, thus allowing the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage In Danger at that time.

To further enhance the scope for removal of the property from the Danger List at the earliest opportunity, the mission proposed specific targets for a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger that could be achieved without full donor support of the current project-based strategies for reducing threats. These are detailed in the mission report. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that these objectives should be met before the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 33rd session (Sevilla, 2009),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) but notes the assessment by the 2009 UNESCO/ IUCN mission that their implementation has not yet been completed;*

4. *Notes that the two main threats to the Outstanding Universal Value, namely the uncontrolled grazing and the agricultural encroachment in the property, have not yet been effectively addressed;*
5. *Acknowledges the strategies developed by the State Party to address these threats but expresses its concern that so far no funding has been identified for their implementation;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to organise as soon as possible the donor conference for which funding has been provided from the World Heritage Fund in order to identify potential donors, and calls upon the International Community to financially support the implementation of the grazing management and alternative livelihoods strategies;*
7. *Considers that the indicators that describe the desired state of conservation and measure the restoration of the values and ecological integrity of the property, as established by the 2009 monitoring mission, should be reached to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
8. *Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the three remaining unmet corrective measures by prioritising the following actions, as detailed in the 2009 mission report:*
 - a) *Boundary gazetting: improve the on-the-ground demarcation of the property and finalise its gazettment into national law;*
 - b) *Livestock reduction: review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy to identify priorities and partners and funding for its implementation;*
 - c) *Alternative livelihoods: identify and implement the lessons learned from the recent successful voluntary relocation of 165 households from the village of Arkwasiye, seek support from development NGO, donors and the government for the provision of alternative livelihoods;*
9. *Requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2009 mission on management planning, tourism planning and management, road and power supply alignments and climate change adaptation;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit the proposed extension of the property through the preparation of a new nomination, and considers that the documentation would not need to be as extensive as a nomination for a new property, and invites the State Party to apply for International Assistance to support this process;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress accomplished in the implementation of corrective measures and the other recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
12. ***Decides to retain Simien Mountains National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(x)

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

2007

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

- a) Poaching;
- b) Livestock grazing.

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

- a) 90% reduction in the number of signs of human activity encountered within the park;
- b) Extension of the area in which signs of large ungulates are encountered, from the present 34% to 85% of the area of the Park;
- c) Increase in counts of all species of larger ungulate for three consecutive years;
- d) Reduction in animal flight distances along selected sections of road in the Park interior.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implement urgent steps to halt poaching, using the Department of National Park's aircraft for surveillance, with ground support provided by a mobile 'strike force';
- b) Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff in the park, focussing on park security procedures and general 'orientation' to integrated management approaches;
- c) Survey and demarcate the park boundary;
- d) Explore the possibility of creating boreholes outside the Park to minimize illegal movements of livestock and local population inside the Park in search of water;
- e) Introduce a long-term moratorium on the hunting of giant eland, and also a hunting quota system in buffer areas surrounding the park based on reliable animal census statistics;
- f) Modify the park ecological monitoring programme to focus on a limited number of indicators and benchmarks which can be measured in a most efficient manner;
- g) Prioritise conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets and take proactive measures to solicit donor support for the management of the property;
- h) Develop Species Survival Plans for Giant Eland, Elephant, Hartebeest, Chimpanzee and other threatened species;
- i) Enhance trans-boundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones and ecological corridors outside the park;
- j) Update the 2000 management plan and start its implementation.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A 12 month time frame was set to implement measures a) to f) and a 3 year time frame for the other measures. If all measures could be implemented within the adopted timeframe, the mission considered that a positive trend towards the rehabilitation of the property would be notable after 5 years.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7B.1; 32 COM 7A.11; 33 COM 7A.11

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 39,580 for Technical Cooperation and the preparation of a transboundary extension to the property. Early 2008, an additional USD 25,000 was made available from the World Heritage Fund.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission; January 2007: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission; May 2010: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife;
- b) Drying up of ponds, and invasive species
- c) Illegal logging;

- d) Livestock grazing;
- e) Road construction project;
- f) Potential dam construction;
- g) Potential mining exploration and exploitation.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153>

Current conservation issues

On 12 April, 2010, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre. According to Decision **33 COM 7A.11** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, from 4 to 11 May 2010. (The report is being prepared and is available at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/34COM>).

Monitoring of corrective measures

a) Implement urgent steps to halt poaching

The State Party indicates that since 2008, surveillance activities have been strengthened by four aerial surveys of two or three days each, which, although very effective, have not been repeated for cost issues. In 2009, patrols resulted in 26 fines, the arrest of 39 poachers and the seizure of 15 hunting weapons, 27 bicycles, 3 trucks carrying timber, and a large consignment of ammunition. The mission noted that, in 2009, the establishment of a mobile anti-poaching brigade of 25 men (patrols in all the areas of the Niokolo-Koba National Park (NKNP) and at any time) was a positive step in the fight against poaching. Regular patrols were carried out for one to two days at least twice-weekly in a radius of 8 to 9 km around the posting station – for 17 operational stations. The mission also noted that the nearby communities play an important informative role in indicating the presence of poachers. The mission was also informed of a request for increasing the number of NKNP agents to 450. If they can be trained and equipped, this will likely be a decisive step in the fight against poaching.

However, the mission was informed that poaching remains one of the biggest threats to the property.

b) Provide urgent training to the newly-recruited staff

The mission was informed that newly-recruited staff receive induction training and training modules on various topics. The mission recommends that further efforts through training in conservation and integrated management for all staff be provided. The mission emphasizes that staff training must be accompanied by the provision of equipment necessary to perform the tasks.

c) Survey and demarcate the park boundary

The mission found that there are boundary markers demarcating the perimeter of the property every 5 km (every kilometre north-west of NKNP). The mission recommends that the markers be clearly visible and accompanied by a symbolic signage adapted to the socio-cultural context, that awareness-raising campaigns be organised, and that there be a more targeted interpretation in the villages.

d) Creation of boreholes outside the park, stray livestock and encroachment

The report indicates that, in 2009, meetings were held with farmers on the periphery of NKNP. Drilling around the park could cause livestock to congregate around the park and could result in strong pressure on the grazing areas and the park. The report mentions the importance of addressing the phenomenon of seasonal migration. The mission considers that, although the stray livestock are a real problem, it is still manageable and less harmful (as particularly affecting two areas on the outskirts of the property: Missirah-Gounas and Dar-Salam) than the drilling of boreholes in its periphery, taking into account the context of transhumance. Further reflection on this matter with the national and regional authorities is necessary. Agricultural encroachment still concerns 6000 ha (out of the 913,000 ha of the NKNP). Communication efforts with the nearby communities have been undertaken to raise awareness of this problem, and a programme is also planned to enable the villagers to cultivate other land.

e) Introduce a long-term moratorium on the hunting of giant eland

The State Party indicates that the giant eland is a fully-protected species under the Forestry Code, and does not appear in the quotas for each species of wildlife fixed each year by ministerial order. The mission considers that it is not useful to establish a specific moratorium on the hunting of giant eland since this species is already under maximum protection. The mission noted that the other species also benefit from a system of annual quotas. This corrective measure is thus, *de facto*, satisfactory.

f) Ecological monitoring of the park, indicators and benchmarks

The mission noted that the current reporting system for NKNP could be even more effective and useful for better monitoring if it were based on indicators that are simple, reliable and inexpensive to measure, and if it also focused on endangered species. No simple indicator has yet been identified. The mission recommends that the State Party establish a research programme with regional universities to identify such indicators. The mission noted that direct observation of the fauna did not confirm the latest inventory data from 2006, and that it showed wide margins of error of estimation. An accurate census of some key species of NKNP, following the same methodology as for the 2006 survey, for comparison, is required to track the evolution of species of large mammals. A request for International Assistance could be submitted for this purpose.

Monitoring of urgent measures

g) National priorities and measures to seek assistance from donors

The report indicates that the Triennial Priority Action Plan (PAP) established in 2007, with a global cost of 14 billion CFA francs (26 million US dollars), was submitted to some development partners in Senegal; however their contribution is slow to materialize. In addition, the report notes that the sizeable increase in the budget of the park, doubled in 2009 to 122 million (227,000 US dollars), was maintained in 2010. The mission considers that the budget increase is still very inadequate given the needs identified in the PAP, and that despite the increase in the number of staff, the distribution of field positions and the equipment of the agents does not seem suited to the challenges of surveillance. Moreover, the equipment available to the agents is insufficient for adequate management, and the poor road conditions prevent the reopening of abandoned positions.

h) Survival plan for endangered species

The State Party indicates that only chimpanzees, elephants and giant eland are the subject of special attention, but that contacts have been made with partners to monitor lions and wild dogs. The mission noted that the monitoring project for the giant eland by affixing transmitter collars has failed, and because of its high cost, it has been abandoned in the hope of finding another solution. A team of the National Parks Direction (NPD) deals with the monitoring of elephants, and a group of researchers is currently working with chimpanzees within the NKNP. The mission noted that plans for the survival of endangered species, as recommended by the 2007 mission, have not been developed. The mission found that the presence of elephants is regularly mentioned in the guest books at the entrance to the NKNP. In addition, guides and local communities encountered claimed that they frequently heard lions and that a large population of wild dogs exists in south-western NKNP. In its direct observations the mission also noted large ungulates in the presence of many young, which is an indication of population dynamics on the rise. These are encouraging signs.

i) Trans-boundary cooperation and measures to protect buffer zones

The mission was informed of the premature termination of the trans-boundary cooperation project with Badiar Park (Guinea) because of the Guinean political crisis. This has also created an axis of penetration for possible poachers towards the NKNP due to the complete absence of Badiar Park surveillance. In addition, five community-based natural reserves have been established in the outlying area of NKNP; they function as buffer zones co-managed with the local people and with their own eco-guards.

j) Management Plan developed in 2000 and its implementation

The State Party explains that as part of the evaluation / updating of the Rehabilitation and Management Plan of the NKNP and its periphery, a petition was submitted to IUCN Dakar. Without funding, this activity had to be rescheduled for 2010. The mission was informed that a draft update of the Management Plan is underway with the IUCN (the Regional Office has the agreement of the Minister for the Environment). The mission recommends that the Management Plan take into account the corrective measures and zoning of the property to allow for prioritization of control measures and participation of local communities.

Other items

k) Construction of peripheral elements (roads, dams)

The mission visited the construction site of the road linking Dakar to Sambailo (Guinea). It passes along the western edge of NKNP, along the route of a previously existing dirt track of the same width. Overall, the impact on the NKNP is negligible, and there is very good collaboration between the DNP and the company for the mitigation of potential adverse effects. The mission appreciates the existence on the site of an environmental unit to monitor impacts, and found that the work respects the integrity of the park.

The mission received a copy from the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (EISA) of the Sambangalou Dam approved by the State Party, the Regional Office of the IUCN, WWF and Wetlands International. It was also informed that an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) is being considered, and that an independent panel (chaired by the Regional Office of IUCN) will be responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of the mitigation measures. The mission remains very concerned about the potential negative impacts on NKNP, such as the reductions of the forest-gallery areas and the Ronier Palm plantations,

the river fording by wildlife, and the inadequate supply of water for the flood basins and ponds. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the State Party consider the possibility of abandoning the dam project that could have significant adverse effects on the values of the property and its conditions of integrity.

l) Drying up of ponds, and invasive species

In early 2010, aware of the problem and the urgency of the situation, the DNP established an Interdepartmental Working Group whose goal is to survey the situation of the park and propose solutions to the problem of lack of water points in the NKNP. The mission notes the creation of such a Working Group, and awaits its first conclusions. The causes of this drying up seem quite complex (climate change, human activities...) and sustainable solutions for the long term should be considered. The mission therefore believes that urgent action is needed to stop the spread of the phenomenon of invasion and to make viable the pools, which are areas of concentrated biodiversity and "drivers" of ecosystem functioning.

m) Establishment of a public / private partnership

The State Party indicates that in 2009, several meetings chaired by the Minister for the Environment were held in order to advance this process, and the findings were submitted to the highest authorities of the country. The report notes that a commitment was made by USAID to support this project. The mission was informed that a new Steering Committee was established by the Minister for the Environment to pilot this process and is currently developing specifications for an international tender.

n) Draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)

As requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **31 COM 7B.1**, the State Party has submitted a draft RSOUV to the World Heritage Centre. This project is submitted for approval of the World Heritage Committee in document *WHC-10/34.COM/8D*. A revised draft conservation status for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger will be contained in the final report of the mission which is being finalized.

Considering the conditions on the property, and despite efforts by the State Party since the 2007 mission to ensure the safeguarding of the NKNP, including anti-poaching, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that since 2007 there has been very little change on the site and that the state of conservation is still of enough concern to justify its maintenance on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Certain attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, such as the ponds and biodiversity, are deteriorated but can be restored. The park's integrity remains severely threatened by reversible human activities (poaching, wandering livestock and encroachment, ...).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the level of protection enjoyed by the giant eland at national level satisfies *de facto* the corrective measure calling for the establishment of a moratorium. They find that the trend of deterioration of the state of conservation of the property can be reversed by massive and urgent action by the State Party with the indispensable support of the local communities and the international community. Unless corrective action is taken urgently, it is likely that the continued degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property will have catastrophic and irreversible consequences on it and could lead to the deletion of the property from the World Heritage List. In this sense, a reactive monitoring mission will be necessary once the census of key species of the property is available, to take stock of the overall conservation status of the property and progress on the implementation of the reviewed corrective actions.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Notes with concern the findings of the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission of May 2010 indicating that the problems of biodiversity loss, the drying up of the ponds and the spread of invasive species continue to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property despite efforts by the State Party to improve the allocation of financial and human resources to the Niokolo-Koba National Park (NKNP);
4. Notes with satisfaction that the level of protection enjoyed by the giant eland at national level satisfies de facto the corrective measure requesting the establishment of a moratorium, as well as an increase in the national budget and the deployment of a mobile surveillance brigade for the protection of the NKNP;
5. Urges the State Party to continue the implementation of immediate corrective measures as revised during the May 2010 mission, and the recommendations made by the mission:
 - Corrective measures to be implemented by July 2011:
 - a) Strengthen and establish the anti-poaching mechanism, based on combined aerial and land means,
 - b) Increase NKNP staff and provide, as soon as possible, training for them focusing on the protection of NKNP, its integrated management, security regulations, and provide them with equipment essential to their mission,
 - c) Propose and implement real alternatives to the drilling of boreholes outside the park in order to reduce the straying of cattle in the overall context of seasonal migration in Senegal (for example, sub-regional workshop),
 - Corrective measures to be implemented by July 2012:
 - d) Update the park's ecological monitoring program based on indicators that are simple, reliable and inexpensive to measure, and on statistics from reliable censuses of populations of threatened species (lions, giant eland, elephants, chimpanzees, wild dogs,...) and key species, and integrate it into the NKNP Management Plan,
 - e) Improve boundary marking of the property and ensure better communication on this subject through signage adapted to the specificities of each community in the vicinity of the NKNP,
 - Corrective measures to be implemented by July 2013:
 - f) Set up an emergency programme to restore the ponds in the property and its periphery and make concrete proposals for alternatives to ponds as watering points in the NKNP,
 - g) Rehabilitation of unusable tracks of the NKNP, concentrating on the southern half of the park;

6. *Requests the State Party to undertake as soon as possible an enumeration of key wildlife species of the property with the technical support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, which will serve as a basis for monitoring the recovery of species and the ecological monitoring, and invites the State Party to submit an International Assistance Request to help finance it;*
7. *Appeals to the international community to provide support for the urgent implementation of the revised corrective measures;*
8. *Remains very concerned by the proposed Sambangalou dam and urges the State Party to submit a specific study of the impacts of the dam on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the possible reduction of areas of forest-galleries and Ronier Palm plantations within the KNKP, on the fording of the river by large animals and on the alimentation of water to the flood basins and ponds in the KNKP, before making a decision on its construction, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation and progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 35 session in 2011;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to invite, as soon as the identification of key species of wildlife on the property will be available, a reactive monitoring mission to take stock of the overall conservation status of the property and progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures;*
11. ***Decides to maintain the Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ASIA-PACIFIC

12. 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

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

- a) Insurgency resulting in destruction of Park infrastructure;
- b) Depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

A series of corrective measures was adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005). Following the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission, the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) updated the corrective measures as follows:

- a) Urgently conduct a baseline survey on recovery of wildlife populations and set up a full monitoring system which will allow monitoring and documenting the recovery of flagship species;
- b) Resolve the problem of fund release which did not progress significantly since the last mission;
- c) Complete the work for the reconstruction and improvement of park infrastructure;
- d) Fill the remaining vacant positions in the park by recruiting the best elements of the volunteers, and/or others, into permanent positions;
- e) Strengthen and consolidate park management operations, in particular the efforts for reducing illegal logging and wildlife poaching in the Panbari Range;
- f) Continue efforts for the reintroduction of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.11; 32 COM 7A.12; 33 COM 7A.12

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: As of 2008, the property is benefiting from the UNF funded World Heritage India programme. Project interventions include: enhancing management effectiveness and building staff capacity; increasing the involvement of local communities in the management of the property and promoting their sustainable development; and raising awareness through communication and advocacy.

Previous monitoring missions

1992: IUCN mission; 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; April 2005: UNESCO/ IUCN monitoring mission; February 2008: World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Current conservation issues

At the time of preparation of this report, the State Party had not submitted a state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, Spain). Therefore, progress on the implementation of the corrective measures is difficult to assess. However, IUCN has received reports and data from its network of scientists and members on certain aspects of the state of conservation of the property.

With respect to wildlife monitoring and the establishment of an effective monitoring system (corrective measure a), IUCN has received reports that the park authority, in collaboration with conservation NGOs, has recently developed wildlife monitoring forms to serve as the basis for a monitoring database. A number of conservation NGOs, including ATREE (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment), Aaranyak, and WWF-India, among others, will soon begin surveying the property's tiger population, and are currently monitoring populations of swamp deer, hispid hare, Bengal florican, Pygmy hog and the relocated one-horned rhinoceros.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the reports received by IUCN on efforts to monitor wildlife population, since these will be essential to demonstrate a clear upward trend in wildlife populations to allow a future decision on a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. They note that information on the results from these monitoring activities and on the implementation of the 5 other corrective measures was not provided by the State Party.

IUCN also received reports that invasive species are increasingly a major threat to the property's habitats. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the recommendation of the 2008 reactive monitoring mission to assess the status of invasive species within the property, and to develop and implement effective control measures.

IUCN has received reports that several local ecotourism groups within the property have begun building roads and other infrastructure without informing the park authorities. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the State Party monitor the activities of these groups, ensure they are undertaken in close collaboration with the park authorities, and increase control of vehicle movement. They recall the recommendation of the 2008 reactive monitoring mission to build a regional vision on tourism taking into account the limited carrying capacity of the property ensuring that any tourism developments are consistent with the values of the property.

IUCN has also received reports that a paramilitary group on the Indo-Bhutan border, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), is attempting to set up base camps within the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that instability and the presence of groups of insurgents in the past had been at the origin of increased poaching which led to the declines in wildlife populations and the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in danger and recommend that the State Party continue its reported efforts to ban these camps.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that without a report by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures and on the status of wildlife populations, it is impossible to evaluate the progress made towards a removal from the List of World Heritage in danger. They reiterate that a clear upward trend in the populations of key wildlife species needs to be demonstrated in order to consider this removal, as decided by the Committee at previous sessions. In light of the above, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property should be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Noting as well that a management plan for the property has not been finalized and approved, they encourage the

State Party to continue its efforts in implementing the corrective measures, finalizing the draft management plan, and developing an effective monitoring system and database.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 33rd session (Sevilla, 2009),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report as requested by Decision **33 COM 7A.12** on the implementation of the corrective measures and on the status of wildlife populations, thus making it impossible to evaluate the progress made towards a possible removal from the List of World Heritage in danger;
4. Reiterates its position that a clear upward trend in the populations of key wildlife species needs to be demonstrated in order to enable removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session, as well as the other recommendations of the 2008 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures, as well as on the progress made in the finalization and approval of the management plan for the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
8. Decides to retain the **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary on the World Heritage List in Danger** .

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

14. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1994

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2009

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

Illegal logging, unauthorized settlements, fishing and hunting, threats from major infrastructure projects.

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

N/A

Corrective measures identified

So far no corrective measures were adopted by the Committee, as the site was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger at the request of the State Party and without a reactive monitoring mission.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

32 COM 7B.34; 33 COM 7B.34; 33 COM 8C.1;

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 73,000 for technical cooperation and conservation (2002, 2010).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict;
- b) Illegal extraction of natural resources;
- c) Lack of control of management agency.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023>

Current conservation issues

The State Party report on the state of conservation of the property was received by the World Heritage Centre on 15 February 2010, along with a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre /IUCN mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) could not take place due to security issues raised by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. For this reason, the review of the aforementioned documents is still underway. The report that follows is based on the information provided by the State Party. An interim set of corrective measures and an interim time frame for the

implementation of said measures is proposed and will be finalized pending the results of an eventual mission to the property.

The property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger without the Committee adopting corrective measures, as no reactive monitoring mission took place before this inscription. The mission which was requested to develop a proposal for corrective measures had to be postponed as mentioned above. The State Party report proceeds through an itemized list of what it considers corrective measures in response to the concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee. These corrective measures consist of the following:

- a) *Control and monitoring of illegal activities:* The 2008 action plan for reducing illegal hunting, fishing and timber extraction continued to be implemented in 2009. Approval was granted for a floating control cabin to be erected in a critical part of the property, with financial support from the World Heritage Fund and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Financing for the repair and equipping of two other cabins was approved by USAID. Signposts were to be placed in strategic points and park personnel increased to 21.
- b) *Preventing illegal logging:* The State Party carried out a workshop to train local law enforcement personnel on legal tools and procedures facilitating the confiscation of illegal forest products and on the prosecution of those involved in the trade. More such workshops are planned. The National Parks authority is coordinating with the Regional Environmental Authority responsible for emitting timber extraction permits so that more effective monitoring of activities around the property can take place. There is a concern that as local communities deplete forest resources within their jurisdictions, these are turning to the forests within the property to maintain the flow of timber.
- c) *Promoting sustainable livelihoods:* Communities previously displaced by armed groups from the lands adjacent to the property have returned, but as the community fabric has weakened, they face very difficult conditions and turn to illegal logging within the property as a means of generating income. The State Party underlines the importance of implementing alternative and sustainable livelihoods initiatives here, and indicate that initial support has been received from USAID in this regard.
- d) *Resettlement of recently arrived people:* The State Party indicates that 270 members of the Wounaan people have moved into the park since 2004 and are clearing forests for agriculture. This group had moved to the park area in the 1960's as part of forestry operations, but were relocated in the years following the creation of the park in 1974 via legal procedures involving the purchasing of their lands. A dialogue with this group, involving the Ministry of Domestic Affairs and Justice, is underway to resolve this issue.
- e) *Avoiding effects of major infrastructure projects:* Two major infrastructure projects propose to cross the park. One is an electricity corridor affecting the northern edge of the property, and the other is the construction of the Pan American highway through its middle, and into the Darien National Park World Heritage property in Panama, which abuts Los Katios National Park. As the property is already relatively small (72,000 ha), such projects would be likely to have a major negative effect on its Outstanding Universal Value.

The State Party indicates that it considers it is reasonable to anticipate a timeframe of six years for achievement of the corrective measures, assuming that sufficient financial support is forthcoming. The State Party reports that it is carrying out a management effectiveness assessment for the property in 2010, allowing for a quantitative evaluation of progress in addressing the factors affecting it. The State Party notes that it has been able to raise significant funds internationally to help implement the corrective measures, but that additional

funding will be needed. It points out that challenges in implementing legal procedures against illegal logging remain, given the remoteness of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the initiative of the State Party to develop a set of interim corrective measures to address the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. However they remain concerned over the significant challenges facing this property, particularly as they involve entrenched interests in a remote region. Compounding these challenges are the major infrastructure projects being actively promoted by both the States Parties of Colombia and Panama, which would severely affect not only Los Katios National Park, but also Darien National Park, also a World Heritage Property, in Panama.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Regrets that the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission had to be postponed because of security concerns and requests the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to organise this mission as soon as the security situation permits, in order to assess the threats to the property and identify the corrective measures to address them;*
4. *Notes that the State Party has submitted the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, but that these remain to be finalized due to the postponement of the mission to the property;*
5. *Expresses its utmost concern about proposed major infrastructure projects to cross the property, namely an electricity corridor affecting the northern edge of the property and the construction of the Pan American highway through its middle, which are likely have a major negative effect on its Outstanding Universal Value, and urges the State Party, along with the State Party of Panama, to jointly re-affirm their commitment to the conservation of Los Katios and Darien National Parks, which effectively form a transboundary protected area;*
6. *Welcomes the interim corrective measures proposed by the State Party and its efforts to implement them, and notes the proposed six year time frame to implement the interim corrective measures;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to continue to implement these interim corrective measures, taking account of any amendment following an eventual World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property:*
 - a) *Complete and implement the control and monitoring Action Plan, including the construction of ranger stations, the provision of equipment and the maintenance of adequate numbers of park personnel,*
 - b) *Prevent illegal logging within the property by establishing the capacity at the site level to apprehend and bring to justice the instigators of such activities, and by carrying out communications campaigns with the local communities;*

- c) *Implement alternative and sustainable livelihoods programmes for affected communities surrounding the property in an effort to reduce the incentive for illegal logging,*
 - d) *Complete the resettlement process for those people who have recently established themselves within the park boundaries,*
 - e) *Resolve the incompatibility between the State Party's obligation under the World Heritage Convention to conserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and the proposed large infrastructure projects currently under consideration;*
8. ***Further requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, with particular emphasis on the interim corrective measures identified above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
9. ***Requests moreover*** the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to finalize the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
10. ***Decides to retain Los Katios National Park (Colombia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

15. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1978, extension in 2001

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2007 to present

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

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

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

The Desired state of conservation was sent to the World Heritage Centre in February 2010 and is currently under review.

Corrective measures identified

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

- a) Reducing the number of access points to the Galápagos Islands, by sea and by air, to decrease the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced;

- b) Optimizing of resources allocated to the Galápagos conservation agencies, particularly in relation to GNP (Galápagos National Park), INGALA (Instituto Nacional Galápagos/ National Institute for Galápagos) and Agrocalidad (Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Inspection Service);
- c) Strengthening of the selection process for the highest ranking posts in INGALA and SESA;
- d) Reducing significantly the number of illegal immigrants in the Galápagos Islands, and the resulting impacts of unregulated population growth;
- e) Regulating recreational fishing activities;
- f) Controlling the number of tourists coming to the Galápagos Islands;
- g) Applying regulations on inspecting and fumigating aircrafts;
- h) Applying quarantine measures and the phytosanitary practices in cruisers and freighters both between the islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- i) Counteracting the overexploitation of fish resources and providing opportunities for alternative employment for the small-scale fishing sector;
- j) Counteracting opportunities for the dispersal of invasive species through movement of people and freight between islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- k) Increasing staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galápagos for effective inspections;
- l) Ensuring that cabotage boats meet the basic conditions for cargo and food transportation, decreasing the risk of introduction of invasive species;
- m) Planning and implementing a capacity-building strategy among local residents to enable them to be better prepared to undertake technical or professional work traditionally done by foreigners;
- n) Implementing the Integral Educational Reform which had been in the LOREG (Organic Law for the Species Regimen for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Galápagos) since 1998 yet without realisation;
- o) Building capacity for early detection and eradication of invasive species arriving from the mainland or other islands.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

32 COM 7A.13; 33 COM 7A.13; 33 COM 8C.2

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 506,250 for Emergency, Training and Technical support.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million 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: UNESCO / IUCN mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: Joint WHC/ / IUCN mission; April 2007: Joint WHC / IUCN mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit; April/May 2010: Joint WHC/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galapagos;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- d) Illegal fishing;
- e) Instability of Park Director's position;
- f) High immigration rate;
- g) Unsustainable tourism development;
- h) Educational reform not implemented.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1>

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2010 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. The report included a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Both are currently under review.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN reactive monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) took place from 28 April to 6 May 2010. The principal factor leading to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger arises from the breakdown of its ecological isolation due to the increasing movement, mainly driven by growth in visitation, of people and goods between the islands and the continent, facilitating the introduction of alien species, which threaten native and endemic Galapagos species. Additional issues include illegal fishing pressures in the Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR), and institutional instability. A full discussion on the 15 corrective measures is included in the mission report. The corrective measures addressed below are those for which further action is particularly required. Those corrective measures not appearing below are considered by the mission to be either being fully or largely implemented.

a) Reducing the number of access points to the Galápagos Islands, by sea and by air, to decrease the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced

The number of continental air and maritime ports serving Galapagos has been reduced to three. At least basic biosecurity inspection services are available in all of these ports. In Galapagos, two commercial airports and four maritime ports receive commercial traffic directly from the continent. However, the mission noted that the multiple entry points disperse the limited biosecurity inspection capacity in the islands. Baltra, a small, dry island, is an ideal setting for the establishment of a single maritime entry point where biosecurity inspection and control infrastructure should be concentrated. In 2007, a large airport terminal was constructed at Villamil. The mission noted that it was clearly built to accommodate hundreds of passengers. Though the terminal is unused, the mission noted a strong sense of expectation among various stakeholders on the eventual approval of commercial air service, presenting a risk for the opening of a new access point in the future and increasing the level of threat to the property. The mission concludes that there are still too many access point and that this unnecessarily increases the risk of introduction and dispersal of invasive species.

b) Strengthening of the selection process for the highest ranking posts in INGALA (Instituto Nacional Galápagos) and SESA (Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad agropecuaria) ;

The mission notes that the new constitution for Ecuador, adopted on 20 October 2008, resulted in the amalgamation of the National Institute for Galapagos (INGALA) and the Provincial Government, now directed by a governing council comprised of three ministers and the elected mayors of Galapagos. Though formally in existence, the council has not yet hired its director of operations – a post with significant responsibilities towards the property. The mission was assured that the position would be filled based on technical specifications, and by transparent means. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the recruitment process for the director of operations should be as fully transparent and competence-based as that of other key positions including the Director of GNPS and Agrocalidad, and that a clear line of communication between the Governing Council and the Director of GNPS should be assured.

c) Regulating recreational fishing activities

An international sport fishing tournament (focusing exclusively on bill-fish such as marlin and swordfish) was organized for December 2009 independent of the Galapagos National Park Service, which is responsible for all activities within the marine reserve. The activity was deemed illegal by the Park and was not allowed to proceed. The organizers re-packaged the tournament as “*artisanal subsistence fishing*”, an allowable fishing modality in the marine reserve. Under this modality, the same activity was subsequently authorized by the Park.

The tournament focused on catching and releasing as many bill-fish as possible within the time frame of the tournament. Mortality of bill-fish is understood to be significant despite this practice. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned by the Park's de facto authorization of sport fishing within the Galapagos Marine Reserve, without a clear understanding of its likely impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. They note that there is a lack of information on the targeted bill-fish populations, which are under very high pressure from commercial and sports fishing activities throughout the eastern Pacific. They also consider authorization of this activity can be taken as one indicator of reduced effectiveness of the management of the Galapagos National Park Service.

d) Controlling the number of tourists coming to the Galápagos Islands

Ship based capacity is strictly limited by government authorities and reached a steady state approximately 10 years ago. Land based capacity is limited only by the capacity of commercial aircraft delivering visitors. Land based visitation in Villamil is reported as having increased from 5,000 in 2003, to 25,000 in 2009. The mission noted that hotel construction and the opening of informal guest houses continue at a rapid pace often without the requisite municipal or Tourism Ministry approvals. One hotel, the Iguana Crossing in Villamil, is currently undergoing a judicial process for having built on Galapagos National Park land. The National Park Service is struggling to implement its concession based model of new tourism services in the park and marine areas (scuba diving, inter-island transport, artisanal fishing, day tours by boat). It faces a growing number of non-licensed operators, judicial challenges to its decisions made and active and increasing pursuit of non-authorized activities within the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that there is a need to develop and implement a clear tourism vision and strategy for Galapagos, with a focus on establishing mechanisms to discourage rapid and uncontrolled growth visitation.

e) Quarantine measures and the biosecurity practices in cruisers and freighters both between the islands and between the mainland and Galápagos

The mission found that the weakest link in the biosecurity control chain continues to be the shipping of goods from the continent to the islands. Seven small ships ranging in age from 28 to 56 years are involved, using three different loading facilities in Guayaquil. Though minimum biosecurity standards have been imposed, experts indicate that the very design of these ships render effective controls very difficult. Efforts are underway, with the support of WildAid, to equip one private dockyard (of the three currently being used by Galapagos bound cargo ships) with the necessary biosecurity inspection infrastructure. Only ships using such facilities should be licensed to serve Galapagos – and these should be audited regularly by certified third parties. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly recommend policies leading to the replacement of the existing ships with fewer, larger modern vessels designed to facilitate biosecurity control. In Galapagos, goods are offloaded in a time consuming and disorganised fashion at each of the three main settlements. The main towns have no deep water docks, notwithstanding the fact that establishing cargo handling facilities there would also seriously conflict with these towns' vocation as ecotourism centres. The best option remains the use of Baltra Island, with its pre-existing deep water facility, as the only receiving terminal in the islands.

f) Increasing staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galápagos for effective inspections

Agrocalidad, the biosecurity agency, informed the mission that it was in the process of hiring 25 new technicians. Sniffer dogs (for drugs and shark fins) are now working in the three main ports of the islands. However, the mission noted that these dogs are not trained to detect plant and other animal matter, which are the primary imports of concern in terms of invasive species. The National Park is also reported to be installing x-ray equipment at the

Baltra airport to improve the detection of banned products. It remains critical to concentrate all resources in fewer access points, such as Baltra Island.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN take note of significant progress in the consolidation of Agrocalidad. However, its effectiveness is compromised due to the dispersal of its efforts amongst several entry points. Similarly, in the absence of a modern approach to handling cargo loading in Guayaquil, and as long as the ships transporting the cargo to the islands do not meet adequate standards, investment by Agrocalidad will be significantly undermined. Until this chain is effectively completed, this property will continue to remain vulnerable to the arrival of new invasive species.

Though the Galapagos National Park Service appears to be implementing its day to day activities efficiently, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned about its ability to deal with long term strategic issues. The recent forced ceding of 70 hectares of park lands to the town of Puerto Ayora is also an indicator of reduced effectiveness of the Park's management. This was also the case in the Park's reversal regarding sport fishing tournament brought on by pressure from a small group of foreign and local stakeholders. These incidents point to a renewed weakening of institutional governance in the islands, whereby outside agents, and not the national authorities, take the initiative in determining how park lands and the marine reserve are to be used.

Overall, though measurable progress has been achieved on the fifteen correctives measures defined for the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that significant progress should be attained on the points below (in relation to the relevant corrective measures):

1. Complete and secure the biosecurity chain of inspection and control. Particular emphasis on (corrective measures a, h and k):

- Establishing a single cargo loading port in Guayaquil, with the necessary infrastructure in place.
- Commit to replacing the current aging and mal-adapted cargo ships with new ships designed to facilitate the application of biosecurity measures.
- Application of established bio-security practices, with regular compliance audits, at cargo loading and off-loading points, and on cargo ships.
- Carrying out the feasibility of selecting Baltra as the only Galapagos port authorized to receive cargo directly from the continent.
- Ensure that the Villamil air terminal is not put in service and consider its dismantling to discourage speculation.

2. Demonstrate that the national authorities are leading tourism policy development and implementation for Galapagos so that the property's OUV is not compromised by unregulated growth and development (corrective measures e and f);

- The State Party develop and implement a clear tourism strategy for Galapagos, with a focus on establishing mechanisms to discourage rapid and uncontrolled growth in visitation. A moratorium on sport fishing until a) a government run risk assessment on the potential impact of sports fishing on the Galapagos nature tourism brand be done, and if a decision to proceed is taken, b) sufficient scientific evidence is obtained allowing for the development of clear regulations set by the Galapagos National Park Service (e.g. intensity, seasonality, zonation, licensing).

- The State Party consider implementing a mechanism, such as imposing an upper limit to the number of Park entrance permits awarded annually, which would give it the time to develop and implement effective tourism management mechanisms.
3. Ensure that that the decisions taken by the new Governing Council of the Galapagos prioritise consideration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (corrective measure c).
- Ensure that the recruitment process for the director of operations of the Governing Council is as fully transparent and competence-based as that of other key positions including the Director of GNPS and Agrocalidad.
 - Ensure a clear line of communication between the Governing Council and the Director of GNPS with regard to the management of the National Park and Marine Reserve, as well as on all policies affecting the Park.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that until these remaining corrective measures are achieved, the property should remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Acknowledges and commends the progress made by the State Party on the implementation of several of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and included in the Action Plan produced in response to the Presidential Decree No. 270;*
4. *Also acknowledges the reception of the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the proposal for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also requests IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to work with the State Party to finalise these, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
5. *Notes with concern the continued threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, arising primarily from the uncompleted work in terms of securing of the biosecurity chain of inspection and control, the continued lack of effective response to rapid and uncontrolled tourism related development and renewed evidence that the management authority cannot effectively deal with important challenges to the integrity of the national park and marine reserve;*
6. *Urges the State Party to continue to strengthen its efforts on the implementation of all of the corrective measures established for the property, in particular:*
 - a) *Completing the biosecurity chain of inspection and control by establishing the latest facilities at a single Guayaquil cargo loading docks, by committing to replacing the current aging and mal-adapted cargo ships with new ships designed to facilitate the application of biosecurity measures, and by considering Baltra as the only point authorized to receive cargo from the continent,*

- b) *Developing and implementing a clear tourism strategy for Galapagos, with a focus on establishing mechanisms to discourage rapid and uncontrolled growth in visitation and with a careful assessment of the desirability / feasibility of authorizing sports fishing in the islands; the State Party is encouraged to consider the feasibility of temporarily limiting the number of visitors to the islands while such policies are developed and implemented,*
 - c) *Strengthening the Galapagos National Park Service's capacity to deal effectively with challenges to its mandate;*
7. ***Further requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, with emphasis on the identified corrective measures in its 15-point Action Plan, including a focus on items described in paragraph 6 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011. The report should also address how corrective measures are contributing to addressing the requirements associated to the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
8. ***Decides to retain the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

17. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(iv)

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

2001 to present

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

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

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.16 ; 32 COM 7A. 15 ; 33 COM 7A.15

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 14,000 for Technical cooperation

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; December 2009: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Rise in the water table;
- b) Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- c) Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);

- d) Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation on 17 March 2010 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). In addition, the State Party submitted a Power Point presentation to underscore the work implemented at the property.

From 12 to 15 December 2009, a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out at the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) to consider progress with the implementation of the corrective measures.

The State Party reports that work continues through the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) and the Alexandria Governorate. The report states that conservation and preservation programmes have been applied to the core site of Abu Mena to maintain the integrity of the site. The State Party reported progress with the following corrective measures:

- a) *Implementation of a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures against earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment*

The State Party report mentions that a multidisciplinary team has been formed to carry out necessary studies and research for the protection and conservation of the property, so as to protect and conserve the site before any further excavations occur.

The mission noted that the dilapidated physical conditions of the property are largely related to the increase of water table levels, an issue that will be discussed next. Although progress has been made in addressing some of the concerns identified during the reactive monitoring mission of 2005, limited systematic work has been implemented to address all the recommendations made at that time. Actions have included geophysical surveys and archaeological excavations at places that could be impacted by earth moving operations, which led to changes in lines of channels where concentrations of objects were found. Limited work has been implemented with regard to a systematic conditions survey. Emergency consolidation and conservation work was undertaken to protect structures likely to be damaged from heavy earth-moving equipment.

- b) *Lowering of the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area*

The State Party reports that efforts to control rising groundwater levels, resulting from the intensive irrigation at nearby areas and supplied by canals coming from the Nile, have been effectively implemented and that they no longer pose a threat.

The mission noted that the technical report on underground water had been finalised in 2006 and its recommendations were taken into account for the design of a drainage system that would be suitable to the specific conditions present at the property. This project has been developed and has been put in operation with fieldwork started in February 2006 and completion expected in June 2010. The projects are well designed and promise to be effective. However operation conditions need to consider other aspects of water management and economic and financial resources required for the implementation and operation phase. Moreover, the projects will succeed only if the farmers involved ensure their

active participation, while all the state and regional authorities responsible for water management and irrigation also confirm their cooperation.

c) *Establishment of an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones*

The mission highlighted that an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones is essential, as its level will remain the most significant variable for assessing the effectiveness of the solution of the problem.

d) *Preparation of a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc)*

The State Party report indicates that a team of experts is working on drafting a final management and conservation plan and the preparation of educational and training programmes to increase capacities and encourage broader community involvement. The proposed plan of action by the State Party (included in the PowerPoint presentation) entails collection of data, documentation and studies, determination of goals and objectives and development of a master and site management plan, protection and monitoring of monuments during dewatering, treatment, restoration and conservation, historic and architectural research studies for restoration and anastylosis possibilities. The presentation considers different scenarios with variables that include no reconstruction, just conservation, and the potential erection of protective shelters, among others. The presentation included projections for the potential erection of marble columns in the Great Basilica and at the Martyr Church and the reconstruction of the baptistery. In addition to these, parallel activities will include monitoring, consolidation and protection, construction of the fence, development of signage and brochures and fundraising.

The mission noted that the SCA and the Mar Mena Community have set up working groups using national expert individuals and institutions. However, there are certain areas where international expertise is needed, and these have been identified. The State Party should explore these aspects of technological, scientific, and management expertise in association with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as individual national funding agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The mission verified that the proposals for the formulation of conservation and management plans have progressed and the preliminary drafts are acceptable in general terms.

e) *Other issues*

(i) *Buffer zone*

The State Party indicated that boundaries for the World Heritage property have been established; however there are still no definite boundaries for the buffer zone.

The mission report mentions the difficulties expressed by the State Party in establishing boundaries, considering the specific characteristics of the aquifer and that there might be reluctance from farmers to accept restrictions on irrigation practices. The mission noted that the new fence under construction would include an area where the effect of water table lowering will be evident, as no irrigation will be permitted there.

(ii) *Desired state of conservation and Statement of Outstanding Universal Value*

The State Party has not prepared a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The time frame also needs to be revised as, originally, the State Party had announced that the corrective measures would be completed by 2010.

The mission report states that the State Party is currently drafting the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value within the framework of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing some of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Although there are achievements in mitigating the threat posed by increasing water table levels and in addressing emergency conditions that threatened the property, they remain concerned about the lack of implementation of systematic and comprehensive actions at the property that would ensure sustaining the Outstanding Universal Value of Abu Mena.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the progress made in achieving some of the corrective measures and urges the State Party to continue its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Notes the results of the December 2009 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and also urges to State Party to:
 - a) Carry out a complete condition survey of the inscribed property to substantiate provisions for the conservation plan, including actions for interventions, monitoring and maintenance,
 - b) *Finalise the preparation of the management plan and set forth conditions for the effective operation of the prescribed management arrangements,*
 - c) *Finalise the definition of the buffer zone and establish the legislative arrangements and regulatory measures so that it effectively protects the inscribed property;*
5. Requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, new designs and technical specifications considered for the intervention on archaeological remains for consideration and review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to approval and implementation;
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation, with a revised timeframe, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
7. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to the World Heritage fund to support the preparation of the requested conservation and management plans, and to provide a basis for shaping and articulating priority needs;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;

9. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (vi)

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

1982

Application of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.18)

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

(cf. Document CLT 82/CH/CONF.015/8)

"[...] they considered that the situation of this property corresponds to the criteria mentioned in the ICOMOS note and, in particular, to criteria (e) (significant loss of historical authenticity) and (f) (important loss of cultural significance) as far as "ascertained danger" is concerned, and to criteria (a) (modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection), (b) (lack of conservation policy) and (d) (threatening effects of town planning) as far as "potential danger" is concerned. [...]"

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

The political context does not allow the definition of a Desired state of conservation at this stage.

Corrective measures identified

Within the present context, only specific activities are possible, such as the implementation of those foreseen within the UNESCO Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The timeframe is linked to the evolution of the overall situation on the ground. More specifically, the implementation of the Action Plan is subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.18; 32 COM 7A. 18; 33 COM 7A.18

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: approximately USD 4,000,000 (since 1988)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2004: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; from September 2005 to May 2008: 6 experts missions within the framework of the elaboration of the Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem; February-March 2007: special World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission sent by the Director-General of UNESCO for the issue of the Mughrabi ascent; August 2007, January and February 2008: missions for the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism; March and December 2009: World Heritage Centre missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Natural risk factors;
- b) Lack of planning, governance and management processes;
- c) Alteration of the urban and social fabric;
- d) Impact of archaeological excavations;
- e) Deterioration of monuments;
- f) Urban environment and visual integrity;

- g) Traffic, access and circulation.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/148>

Current conservation issues

A report was transmitted by the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO to the World Heritage Centre on 28 January 2010 and by the Ministry of Awqaf of Jordan through the Jordanian Permanent Delegation on 30 March 2010.

It is to be noted that since 1967, the Old City of Jerusalem is *de facto* administered by the Israeli authorities. Therefore, all new constructions and conservation projects are in principle subject to the administrative jurisdiction of the Israeli Municipality and usually supervised by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA).

I. Report from the Israeli authorities

The report of the Israeli authorities presents a whole range of activities. The main ones are summarized hereunder:

a) Planning:

(i) Revitalisation Plan

The work has proceeded on two levels: the plan for the public realm (streets, alleys, souqs) and detailed plans for specific areas.

(ii) Plan for guidelines for conservation and building

Until the Revitalisation Plan is approved, an interim statutory plan proposes to present guidelines for conservation and monitoring for the purpose of obtaining licenses and building permits.

(iii) Upgrading of the public realm, infrastructure and facades

A manual is being prepared to include guidelines for the design of pavings and furnishing, to be integrated in plans for upgrading streets, including infrastructure improvements and facades restorations. Works to improve the infrastructure around Jaffa Gate/Bab al-Khalil have started. They will include new traffic management for vehicles and pedestrians, new street paving, lighting. The upgrading of facades is to take place jointly.

(iv) Accessibility, cleaning and maintenance

Further to a survey of the public realm in 2009, a Master Plan for accessibility in the Old City will include accessible tourist information and street signage, tourist routes, elevators, etc. Cleaning and maintenance have been outsourced by the Municipality to a company hired to implement a new action plan for discarding refuse.

b) Conservation projects:

(i) *Rehabilitation and preservation of monuments within the Old City*

Work was completed at the so called Ottoman Tombs inside the Jaffa Gate of the Old City, and conservation projects were carried out at St Mary of the Teutons, St Mary's Gate at the Holy Sepulchre and Messiah Church.

(ii) *Rehabilitation and management of the Old City walls and gates*

Conservation work continues at the north-western corner of the Old City towards the south-western corner and work has begun on the southern wall from Zion Gate to Dung Gate.

c) *Archaeological works:*

(i) *Western Wall tunnels and Plaza*

The archaeological works in the Western Wall tunnels continue, notably: finalisation of the two year conservation project to consolidate the vaults of the Baladiyya Madrasa, stabilisation of the ceiling of the Hasmonean tunnel, addition of access routes for the public around the Struthion pool.

(ii) *Salvage excavations*

A number of excavations in and around the Old City are carried out, connected to building projects: Western Wall Plaza, Western Wall tunnels, Gloria Hotel in the Christian quarter, Al Ward street, Hosh Saqsaq, St Mary of the Teutons, Omer Street, Misgav Ladakh Street (in order to build an elevator between the Jewish quarter and the Western Wall Plaza).

d) *Construction works:*

(i) *Western Wall Plaza*

At the Strauss building, the plan for additional office space, restrooms and a police station was approved in December 2009. The building will also provide a new entrance to the Western Wall tunnels and its visitors centre. On the Western side of the Plaza, the Western Wall Heritage Foundation intends to open an educational institute including offices, an information centre, an auditorium, above antiquities unearthed by the excavations. The plan has yet to be deposited. Another plan for upgrading the Davidson Centre has been initiated as well as a plan for the elevator connecting the Jewish quarter to the Plaza to include more functions.

(ii) *Zion Gate underground parking*

The revised plan for the underground parking is to be submitted, as well as for new residential buildings above.

e) *Plans and activities outside the Old City walls*

The report mentions several projects located outside the Old City walls, notably at Mount Zion: excavations, improvement of the public realm, conservation efforts at the complex of the Tomb of David and at the Cenacle. It also mentions the development of East Jerusalem, at Sheikh Jarrah and Wadi Joz, Damascus Gate, and a number of excavations, notably at New Gate, Lions Gate, Wadi Hilwa (City of David). It also mentions the Jerusalem Outline Plan (1968) and the Outline Town Planning Scheme (2000). The latter, approved for

deposition in the District Planning Commission, includes a definition of three zones of conservation: the Old City, the visual basin of the Old City and the Historic City.

The report received from the Israeli authorities also mentions works carried out by the Jerusalem Waqf within the Haram ash-Sharif (see below, report from the Jordanian authorities) and work undertaken at the Holy Sepulchre, both by the Franciscans and the Greek-Orthodox Patriarchate, in particular the conservation of the belfry architectural elements by the Israel Antiquities Authority.

II. Report from the Jordanian authorities

The report received from the Permanent Delegation of Jordan provides information on the works carried out by the Ministry of Awqaf in the Haram ash-Sharif, among others:

- a) Maintenance work on the stucco and mosaics inside the Dome of the Rock;
- b) Restoration of the internal marble walls of the Dome of the Rock;
- c) Several restoration and maintenance work inside Al-Aqsa Mosque: stucco, stone, marble decoration and wood panels;
- d) Restoration of the eastern porch and courtyard of Al-Aqsa Mosque;
- e) Restoration of the tiles of the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque;
- f) Restoration of the walls of Al-Khanthania School;
- g) Restoration of walls and ceilings of the fifth porch of Al-Marwani and study for the restoration of its columns;
- h) Work on the roofs of Al-Aqsa library and Islamic Museum;
- i) Studies to establish a fire extinguisher system on the Haram ash-Sharif.

The report stresses the difficulties of bringing restoration materials within the compound of the Haram ash-Sharif and the fact notably that the Waqf was not allowed by the Israeli authorities to install the crescent on the Dome of the Rock, to introduce tiles for restoration of the Dome and to install lighting equipment at the site.

The largest part of the report however focuses on the excavations carried out by the Israeli authorities in various places surrounding Al Aqsa Mosque and Al Buraq Plaza, and under Al Ward street ¹. The report notably states that *“the fact that foreign observers and Muslim Awqaf experts were prevented from inspecting the Israeli archaeological excavation sites [...]*

¹ The issue of the archaeological excavations carried out since 1967 by the Israeli authorities in the Old City of Jerusalem has been the object of several discussions at the sessions of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO. These archaeological campaigns are in contradiction with article VI. 32 of the 1956 New Delhi *Recommendation on International Principles Applicable to Archaeological Excavations*, related to excavations in occupied territory.

places many questions regarding Israeli intentions specific to these archaeological projects". Other excavations are mentioned at the Omayyad Palaces area, at Al-Khanqah Al-Salahiya in the north-east part of the Old City, as well as works outside the western wall of the Church of the Holy Sepulche. The report deplores the building of a synagogue using cast concrete walls and columns on Al-Ward street, for which Waqf land was seized near Hammam Al-Ain and Hammam Al-Shifa.

In their report, the Jordanian authorities also express their concern at archaeological excavations undertaken by the Israeli authorities outside the Old City walls, in the area of Silwan, and the digging of tunnels towards Al Aqsa Mosque, that caused collapse of buildings in Silwan and could affect the structure of the walls of the Old City and of the Haram ash-Sharif. They mention several other activities undertaken by the Israeli authorities outside the Old city, such as the construction of the light rail, the movement restrictions and the changes in the demographic balance of the Old City.

III. Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem

With the remaining funds available under the Action Plan funded by the Government of Italy, in the second half of 2009, the "Young People Cultural activities" workshops, held by local experts, were successfully carried out by the Burj Luq Luq Social Centre.

The educators (48) and children (50) who participated in the workshops were enthusiastic of the experience on the cultural heritage of the Old City; and the educators are ready to repeat it with their pupils in the coming years. The *World Heritage in Young Hands* kit has been reproduced in many copies and it will be available for future training courses. In addition, 65 trainees among youth and children passionately participated on the photography/video course and an exhibition of their work was organised at the Social Centre.

The World Heritage Centre is waiting for the approval of a request submitted to the Italian authorities to allocate the remaining funds in order to complete the restoration of some residential buildings in the Christian quarter. The objective is to improve the quality of life of the residents, among the poorest families of the Old City, in the same time preserving the historic building stock, belonging to the Custody of the Holy Land. A training component, fundamental to improve the skills in conservation of the local workers, would be definitely included in the project by testing the Rehabilitation manual produced in the framework of the Action Plan.

Concerning the restoration of the church of St. John Prodromos, funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, the activities of the first phase are focusing on preliminary studies and the architectural design in order to define the detailed restoration interventions that will be carried out in the following years. The detailed architectural survey of the church and the evaluation of its state of conservation were carried out by the chosen expert in collaboration with an archaeologist specialised in the interpretation of late Antiquity/medieval constructions. Before preparing the final project, the need to remove the modern cemented crypt's paving to allow the humidity to evaporate and in the same time to conduct complementary archaeological research under the paving was recognised. The archaeological studies will be conducted by the Ecole biblique of the Dominicans Convent in Jerusalem in the second half of 2010.

IV. Other projects

The development of an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute, in partnership with the Welfare Association and thanks to funding from the European Commission (€700,000), initiated in 2007, is reaching its last phase. Based on the curriculum developed by ICCROM, one pilot and three long core courses have taken place as well as two seminars and three short intensive training sessions (approximately 150 trainees). Training of trainers has also taken place and a documentation centre including a specialised library, database, website, and publications was established, setting the basis for the future Institute.

As a follow-up to the project for the establishment of a Centre for Restoration of Islamic Manuscripts, located in the Madrasa Al Ashrayfiyyah within the Haram ash-Sharif, a new capacity-building project has been developed, with funding from the UNESCO's Regular Programme (USD 190,000). This new project aims to build the capacity of the staff in paper restoration and electronic inventorying to ensure the long-term conservation of this invaluable collection of manuscripts and other historic documents, which are in advanced state of deterioration.

The project for the "Safeguarding, Refurbishment and Revitalization of the Islamic Museum of al-Haram ash-Sharif and its Collection", funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has started in 2009. It will mainly consist in the following: make an assessment and an inventory the collections, improve conservation measures, upgrade storage and exhibition spaces and develop the conservation, management and administrative capacities.

V. The Mughrabi Ascent

At its 31st session (Christchurch, New Zealand, July 2007), the World Heritage Committee adopted Decision 31 COM 7A.18, by which it requested *"the World Heritage Centre to facilitate the professional encounter at the technical level between Israeli, Jordanian and Waqf experts to discuss the detailed proposals for the proposed final design of the Mughrabi ascent, prior to any final decision"*. Accordingly, two professional meetings took place in Jerusalem on 13 January and 24 February 2008 between Israeli and Jordanian (including Waqf) experts. Unfortunately, no other meeting took place since that date, although repeatedly requested by the World Heritage Committee and the Executive Board of UNESCO. Indeed, the last meeting scheduled on 12 November 2008, was postponed at the request of the Jordanian authorities, *"until a date when it can get its own experts and equipment on the site in order to take the appropriate measurements, necessary to finalise the design of the project"*. Bilateral consultation between Jordan and Israel did not make this visit possible.

In their report of January 2010, the Israeli authorities indicate that: *"Following the decision of the National Council for Planning and Construction, an alternative plan for the Mughrabi Ascent was made in order to maintain the authenticity and integrity of the site reflected in the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory bodies. The process of the approval of this plan should end only after a formal publication of the approved planning principles."*

UNESCO has acknowledged receipt of this information and reiterated in its letter to the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO its support for the organization of a meeting of the concerned parties to evaluate the alternative plan before its final approval.

The report from the Jordanian authorities recalls previous decisions by the World Heritage Committee and the Executive Board of UNESCO in this respect, as well as their attempt of 29 July 2009 to access the site of the Mughrabi Ascent to take their own measurements,

referring to the provisions of both the Hague and the 1972 Conventions as well as to the *Status quo* arrangement (foreseen within the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of 1994).

The “Reinforced monitoring mechanism”, requested by the Executive Board at its 176th session (176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting decision) and by the World Heritage Committee since its 31st session (Decisions 31 COM 5.2., 31 COM 7A.18), was applied for Jerusalem with regard to the Mughrabi ascent. Six monitoring reports were prepared by the World Heritage Centre in this respect and forwarded to the concerned parties and the members of the World Heritage Committee. The seventh report was kept pending upon decision by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.

VI. 182nd and 184th sessions of the Executive Board and 35th session of the General Conference of UNESCO

At its 182nd session in September 2009, the Executive Board adopted Decision 182 EX/5(II) in which it recalled previous decisions and regretted *“in this regard the postponement of the follow-up meeting of experts which was scheduled on 12 November 2008 [...] as well as of the planned visit of Jordanian technical experts to the Mughrabi Ascent site on 29 July 2009, due to circumstances that have impeded Jordanian experts from having access in order to take measurements”*. It recognized *“the existence of deep concerns regarding the decision taken by the Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Commission on the town planning scheme for the Mughrabi ascent”* and requested that despite that decision, *“the process for the design of the Mughrabi ascent be inclusive of all parties concerned, in accordance with the spirit and content of previous World Heritage Committee decisions”*.

At its 35th session, the General Conference adopted Resolution 35C/49 by which it *“reiterates its concern as to the obstacles and practices, unilateral or otherwise, affecting the preservation of the distinctive character of the Old City of Jerusalem”* and *“invites the Director-General to pursue his efforts with the concerned parties for the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the Old City of Jerusalem”*.

During the 184th session of the Executive Board, document 184 EX/5 (IV) related to the Mughrabi Ascent and document 184 EX/12 concerning the Old City of Jerusalem were presented to the members of the Board. Two draft decisions (184 EX/PX/DR.1 and 184 EX/PX/DR.2) were submitted by Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tunisia and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. After considerable effort to reach a consensus, a decision was adopted, to which the original draft decisions were attached, by which the examination of these agenda items was postponed to the 185th session of the Executive Board.

VII. Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.20

The Draft Decision will be presented to the World Heritage Committee in the form of an Addendum.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

2000 to present

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

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

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

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

In its Decision **31 COM 7A.19** (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee defined the measures to be taken urgently to reverse the decline :

- a) Adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year:
 - (i) Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 - 2006;
 - (ii) Government provision to GOPHCY in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilize the degradation of the World Heritage property;
 - (iii) Completion of heritage protection laws;
 - (iv) Completion of the draft Conservation Plan, with translation into Arabic. Provision of short version for wide dissemination;
- b) Physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years:
 - (i) Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets,
 - (ii) Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works,
 - (iii) Appropriate house improvement design - bathrooms and kitchens, infrastructure and air conditioning,
 - (iv) Good designs for new houses within Zabid;
 - (v) Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls,
 - (vi) Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions,
 - (vii) Prescription rules and regulations to be followed by inhabitants and owners;
 - (viii) Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.19; 32 COM 7A.19; 33 COM 7A.19

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 127,918 for 2001-2007 (Emergency and Technical Assistance)

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 10,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 4,000 from the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement.

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; January 2009: World Heritage Centre mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Serious degradation of the city's heritage (many houses and the ancient souq are in an alarming deterioration state);

- b) Large percentage of the city's houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings;
- c) Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up;
- d) Lack of conservation measures and supportive developments.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/611>

Current conservation issues

At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee agreed to defer consideration of removing the property from the World Heritage List if specific and agreed measures were taken to reverse the severe decline in the conservation and economy of the city through a legal and institutional framework being set up in one year (2008) and the physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years (2009). The State Party report for 2009 requested a further three years to demonstrate progress with reversing decline.

The State Party submitted a progress report on 8 March 2010 responding to the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) and reported on overall progress with reversing decline, notably the conservation of houses, souq and streets and on associated economic and social development.

Overall the State Party maintains that progress continues to be made and it reiterates that since June 2007, and the launching of the SFD (Social Fund for Development)/GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) project, the momentum in Zabid has drastically changed thanks to the project's efficient activities, a better coordination between the stakeholders, the continuous financial efforts of the Government and investment by the SFD. Furthermore, the office of General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) in Zabid has been restructured and supported by new staff. (It now has some 33 staff members (professionals, engineers, architects, lawyer, craftsmen, etc.). The housing rehabilitation programme has reached more than 200 complete interventions spread all over the city and the souq rehabilitation and revitalisation project has succeeded in rehabilitating and revitalising over 320 shops in total. The business promotion and community development measures that were launched last year in parallel to the revitalization program of the old souq and the housing rehabilitation program are now said to be impacting on the situation in a very positive way.

The report of the State Party provides information on the progress in implementing the corrective measures, as follows:

a) Adequate legal and institutional framework:

- i) *Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 – 2006:* This was issued in November 2007;
- ii) *Government provision to General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY):* GOPHCY Zabid branch is now having a regular budget and the Minister of Culture is continuing to give an important additional annual allocation from the Fund for Cultural Development, while the GTZ/SFD project is pursuing its support to the GOPHCY office through budgets to finance staff overtimes, capacity building support and financial contributions for the removal of certain violations.
- iii) *Completion of heritage protection laws:* This is said to have been delayed due to funding problems. However, the Government has agreed to create a Ministerial Committee to pursue the matter.
- iv) *Completion of the Conservation Plan* The conservation plan is still being finalised. The State Party reports that a spatial strategy and a housing rehabilitation strategy, based on subsidies to the private households, are also being developed. A draft management plan has also been formulated which would be finalised in the second half of 2010 once the urban conservation plan has been adopted.

b) *Physical degradation to be stopped immediately and reversed within two years (five years):*

The control of building activities is much more effective and people are now almost systematically applying for building or rehabilitation permissions (thanks to the positive effect of the housing rehabilitation programme and to the improvement of the functioning of the GOPHCY office in Zabid).

- i) *Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets:* The State Party reports that illegal constructions are no longer tolerated and measures are regularly taken to mitigate them. Even so, more efforts are still needed to convince mainly the court and the police departments to cooperate in the removal of violations. The State Party reports that GTZ and GOPHCY are discussing a strategy for handling the violations and/or mitigating them. The final approved regulations which are being prepared together with the Conservation Plan are due to be finalised at the end of June 2010.
- ii) *Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works, and appropriate house improvement design:* The State Party reports that the Housing rehabilitation programme has trained teams of specialists restorers comprising architects, master builders and young professionals under the supervision of GOPHCY and Old Master builders have been hired by the GTZ/SFD project. This is a learning by doing process and has involved more than 350 interventions on properties randomly spread in the city.
- iii) *Good designs for new houses within Zabid:* No information is provided.
- iv) *Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls:* No information is provided.
- v) *Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions:* The State Party states that it has started to develop baseline surveys and documentation of significant monuments and ruins.
- vi) *Prescription rules and regulations to be followed by inhabitants and owners:* No information is provided.
- vii) *Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan:* It is reported that a task force has been created under the leadership of the GTZ project, with staff from GOPHCY and GALSUP (planning authority), who will have to finalise an Urban Conservation Plan before end of April 2010, then send it to the stakeholders and authorities for discussion and approval.

In addition, within the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the State Party has submitted a draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value.

Unfortunately, due to security constraints, the reactive monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session could not take place and therefore the Desired state of conservation has not been drafted,

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies acknowledge the momentum that has now been established to reverse the decline and degradation that faced Zabid, the increased resources now allocated to GOPHCY, and the progress with specialised contractors. The State Party report was helpful in setting out areas of progress and the substantial help of the GTZ/SFD project in linking heritage renewal to social and economic development, through capacity building and education.

Some progress has been made towards implementing the corrective measures and the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies urge the State Party to continue this progress by giving priority to the development of clear rules and regulations defining what is permitted and what constitutes a violation, by finalising and implementing the Conservation Plan, by approving and implementing the Urban Conservation Plan, by drafting and

approving a Management Plan and by providing adequate resources to allow the Heritage Protection Bill to be finalised and approved. This would provide the much needed framework for the overall restoration, regeneration and building control programmes.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Notes the progress that has been made in generating political support and commitment to the conservation of Zabid and the increase in resources for the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), supplemented by the German Technical Assistance (GTZ), the Yemeni Government and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) socio-economic development project;*
4. *Notes however that more progress is needed to meet the corrective measures in terms of defining clear regulations for what is permitted and what constitutes a violation, finalising and implementing the Conservation Plan, approving and implementing the Urban Conservation Plan, drafting and approving a Management Plan and providing adequate resources to allow the Heritage Protection Bill to be finalised, as well as defining a clear costed strategy, and setting out rules for house owners and inhabitants;*
5. *Urges the State Party to continue to give the optimum support to the regeneration and conservation of Zabid in order to make progress with these measures;*
6. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess progress on the 2007 action plan for the implementation of the corrective measures, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and revise the timeframe;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011** a progress report on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger***

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2002

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2002 to present

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

- a) Development of adequate capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture by developing and implementing an adequate training programme in conservation and management;
- b) Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:
 - (i) Undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys and re-defining the property and buffer zones, as well as identifying zones affected by illicit excavations;
 - (ii) Marking of the property as "World Heritage protected area";
 - (iii) Officially revising the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys in order to complement the already identified Outstanding Universal Value;
- c) Long-term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret and the archaeological remains by:
 - (i) Completing the documentation and recording of the Minaret and the archaeological remains;
 - (ii) Undertaking soil investigation in the vicinity of the monument in order to obtain information on the cause of the inclination of the Minaret and to define the long-term consolidation measures;
 - (iii) Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination;
 - (iv) Establishing a full inventory of decoration including digitalization and reference system for all eight sides of the base of the Minaret;
 - (v) Implementing emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.
- d) Ensuring site security by:
 - (i) Exerting strict control of illicit excavations and protecting the site against looting, notably through hiring of an adequate number of trained site guards;
 - (ii) Implementing measures for enforcing the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments.
- e) Development and implementation of a management system by undertaking appropriate training for the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.20; 32 COM 7A.20; 33COM 7A.20

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 1995-2003: USD 117,200 for Emergency assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

Although there has been no reactive monitoring mission as such, several UNESCO expert missions were sent every year from 2002 to 2006 in order to implement the operational project for the property. However, since 2007 no UNESCO expert mission has been carried out to the property, due to the deteriorated situation and UN Security restrictions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability;
- b) Inclination of the Minaret;
- c) Lack of management plan;
- d) Illicit excavations and looting.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/211>

Current conservation issues

By 26 April 2010, the State Party had not submitted a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, nor a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Decision **33 COM 7A.20**).

No World Heritage Centre mission could be dispatched to the property during 2009 to further the UNESCO/Italy FIT Project for emergency consolidation of the monuments in Herat and Jam. The World Heritage Centre also understands that no in-situ conservation work was undertaken during 2009. This was due to the deteriorating security situation.

Nevertheless, some information on the state of conservation of the property has been provided to the World Heritage Centre by the UNESCO Kabul Office, and by Afghan Ministry of Culture officials, during the Expert Working Group meeting on Bamiyan, held on 25 and 26 March 2010 in Munich, Germany.

With regard to some corrective measures previously identified by the World Heritage Committee, the following progress has been noted:

a) Identification of the property's boundaries and buffer zone

Due to security restrictions, no international expert could visit the property. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre identified a local NGO, the Afghan Land Consulting Organization (ALCO) based in Kabul, which would be able to carry out activities in Jam. Accompanied by two Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC) officials, ALCO will undertake a mission to the site in order to carry out a topographic and archaeological survey. Financed through a UNESCO/Swiss Funds-in-Trust arrangement, this mission aims to clearly determine the boundaries of the property, and create full 3-dimensional documentation of the Minaret.

b) Long term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret, site security and increased capacity of the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture staff

According to the UNESCO Kabul Office, the Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan has provided guards to protect the site from looting.

Discussions in Munich with the Deputy Minister of Culture and senior Afghan officials led to the elaboration of a revised work-plan under the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust arrangement. Following approval of this revised plan by the Italian government on 16 April 2010, the World Heritage Centre is planning to carry out the following activities during 2010:

- i) geophysical investigation of the Minaret foundations;

- ii) completion of the river defence wall by constructing a diaphragm under the retaining wall along the two rivers in order to prevent erosion and underwater currents from undermining the Minaret;
- iii) Some conservation work on the Minaret, including replacement of internal wooden elements;
- iv) Training MoIC site guards and staff to reinforce on-site security;
- v) Training of Afghan MoIC experts/officials on the use of measuring equipment so that they can independently carry out future inclination monitoring on the Minaret.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the measures taken by the State Party to provide site guards to prevent looting, in addition to the continued technical and financial support, and commitment of the international community, to achieve the desired state of conservation of Jam. They regret that no state of conservation report, nor Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, has been submitted; the absence of a proper site management system; and the lack of capacity within the Ministry of Culture and Information of Afghanistan. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies consider that the completion of a topographic and archaeological survey is essential to properly plan for, and implement, an effective conservation strategy for the property. This should not be limited to the Minaret. The survey should also include the important ancient settlement, the precise extent and remains of which has yet to be defined. The implementation of the proposed activities, together with planned training initiatives in the ongoing project programme for Bamiyan, will contribute considerably to building staff capacity in the Ministry of Culture and Information. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies will provide assistance to the State Party in the preparation of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value within the framework of the upcoming Periodic Reporting for the Asia Pacific region.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7A.20** and **33 COM 7A.20** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), and 33rd session (Seville, 2009) respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session;*
4. *Notes the State Party's efforts to safeguard the property in extremely difficult circumstances by placing guards at the site, in addition to the commitment of the international community towards reaching the Desired state of conservation for the property;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal*

Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

7. *Calls upon the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support with the aim of implementing the agreed corrective measures and, particularly, the priorities identified in the recommendations of the June 2008 Expert Group Rome meeting, including national capacity building;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
2003

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2003 to present

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The authorities of Afghanistan proposed the desired state of conservation should be attained by 2013, if security conditions allow, during the 8th Expert Working Group for the Preservation of the Bamiyan site, Munich, Germany, 25 - 26 March 2010.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.21; 32 COM 7A.21; 33 COM 7A.21

International Assistance

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 4,781,737 (2003-2010) through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring missions have been carried out, but UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2002 in the context of the implementation of specific projects.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/208>

Recommendations of the Eighth Bamiyan Expert Group Meeting, 25-26 March 2010, Munich (Germany):

<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-563-1.pdf>

Current conservation issues

At the time of drafting the present document (10 May 2010), the State Party had not submitted to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, nor a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). However, information on the current state of conservation of the property can be obtained from a UNESCO report prepared in consequence of an ongoing Japanese funded project to safeguard Bamiyan, in addition to presentations made, and discussions held, during the Eighth Bamiyan Expert Group Meeting on 25-26 March 2010 in Munich, Germany.

Within the framework of the project, six expert missions visited Bamiyan between June and October 2009, to carry out a number of activities (see below). The World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Kabul office, in close cooperation with the Afghan Ministry of Culture and Information, the Ministry of Urban Development, and the Bamiyan provincial authorities, implemented these activities.

The emerging report, and presentations by Afghan and international experts at the Eighth Bamiyan Expert Group Meeting, indicated progress in implementing corrective measures as follows:

a) Ensuring site security

One of the most important developments in 2009 was the complete de-mining of the Bamiyan Valley. This was achieved through cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), the Afghan authorities, and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Archaeological parts of the property that were heavily mined, included Shar-i-Zohak, Shar-i-Ghulghulah and the top of the Buddha Cliffs, and these areas are now cleared and accessible to specialists and visitors.

In order to ensure overall protection for the sensitive archaeological areas, prevent illicit excavations, and to safeguard the on-site expensive equipment required for conservation activities, UNESCO has continued to provide financial support for the provision of site security and surveillance.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies greatly welcome the completion of the de-mining operations as this will make it possible to initiate surveys, and implement priority conservation measures, in previously inaccessible areas. A sustainable solution must be found regarding site security and surveillance where Afghan authorities should provide for the guards' salaries. UNESCO cannot continue to subsidise this cost over the long term.

b) Ensuring the structural stability of the two standing Giant Buddha niches

In 2009, consolidation of the back wall of the Small Buddha niche was almost completed by means of inserting fibre-glass and stainless steel dowels, and drilled wall anchors. Work also commenced to ensure the safety of access paths and stairs on the Eastern Buddha niche, in addition to the upper crossing behind the Buddha statue. This work, together with the installation of a hoist/crane inside the Eastern Buddha niche to allow for future maintenance and conservation, should be completed in 2010.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the significant progress made to ensure the structural stability of the Eastern Buddha niche, and requests that the design proposals for the installation of a crane in the niche be shared with them before its construction begins. They also request that, resources permitting, as soon as stabilization of the Eastern Buddha niche is completed, work should start on the Western Buddha niche.

c) Adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (MoIC) the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRICPT), Tokyo, conducted a mission for the conservation of the Bamiyan mural paintings from 26 June - 9 July 2009. The mission enabled post-conservation monitoring of the condition of mural paintings located inside caves in addition to re-arranging the movable cultural property pieces stored in the Bamiyan Cultural Heritage Training Centre. NRICPT also provided a four-month training programme in Japan for two Afghan archaeologists from the Institute of Archaeology in archaeological, conservation and documentation techniques (from late July to end November 2009).

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the progress made in the conservation of selected caves in the vicinity of the Buddha niches, and welcomes the training of two Afghan archaeologists. With the eight component sites of the World Heritage property having been de-mined, urgent condition assessments should be carried out to plan for, and implement, emergency conservation measures.

d) Implementation of the Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan)

A UNESCO technical advisory mission was carried out in June 2009, to assist the Afghan authorities in the development and implementation of the Management Plan for the property, and of the so-called Cultural Master Plan for Bamiyan (a zoning plan for the entire valley). Discussions included opportunities for developing synergies with a New Zealand funded Bamiyan Eco-tourism Programme being carried out by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). Subsequently, in September 2009, a training workshop on World Heritage management planning was held in Bamiyan. This was co-organised by UNESCO and the AKTC Bamiyan office and involved 50 Afghan cultural heritage professionals, the Governor of Bamiyan and the deputy Minister for Culture, in addition to representatives from the University of Bamiyan, the local community, and the Bamiyan Council leaders (Shura).

The World Heritage and Advisory Bodies welcome the progress being made in building capacity on heritage management planning by Afghan officials. Now that all components of the World Heritage property are accessible, it is hoped that progress on the development of a management plan will be possible. The World Heritage and Advisory Bodies consider that

the Cultural Master Plan provisions, including development controls on the cultural landscape, should be urgently and officially adopted and enforced.

Other important developments emerging from the Eighth Meeting of the Expert Group, enabled the coordination and harmonization of ongoing activities by various international teams working at the site; a review of the main conservation issues; and the formulation of specific recommendations, accessible online (see above in "Illustrative material"). Based on the outcomes of this meeting, and with regard to the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee, the Afghan authorities consider that the desired state of conservation for the property in view of its possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger could be achieved by 2013.

Another important outcome of the Munich meeting was the preliminary discussion on possible long-term solutions for the conservation, presentation and interpretation of the Buddha niches that could follow their structural stabilization. In order to gain the support of the local community, there was a general meeting consensus that it was necessary to move from the present phase of studies and consolidation to more visible activities. Different options were discussed, ranging from the anastylis of the fragments, where possible, to alternative solutions that would restore the 'image' of the two statues, without physically reconstructing them. However, any proposal for the conservation and presentation of the two Buddha niches would have to be discussed and based on complete studies and scientific analyses, illustrated by appropriate graphic means, and shared amongst specialists in the Expert Group, in addition to the World Heritage Centre and Afghan authorities. The World Heritage Committee should also be informed of any major restoration plan affecting the property. With a view to discussing further possible options, and if security conditions allow, the Afghan authorities expressed a wish to receive an advisory mission by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM during Autumn 2010.

Finally, the Expert Group Meeting recommended the creation of a site interpretation area, where some restored fragments could be exposed, and a larger Museum for the Bamiyan Valley, to present the property in its broader geo-cultural context. UNESCO will take all of the suggestions emerging from the Meeting into account in planning a possible fourth phase of the project, to start in 2011, with funding from Japan.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the significant progress made throughout 2009 – 2010 towards achieving the 'Desired state of conservation'. However, they regret that the State Party did not submit the requested report and draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. With regard to the latter, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies will provide assistance to the State Party in the framework of the upcoming Periodic Reporting exercise for the Asia Pacific region.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies welcome the recommendations made by the Expert Group. In particular, they consider that - if security conditions allow - the suggested joint mission to provide technical advice on long-term directions for the conservation and presentation of the property, notably of the two Buddha niches, would be very helpful. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, requiring that information on any major restoration project or activity affecting the property be provided to the World Heritage Committee, via the World Heritage Centre, "before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse".

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report and a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
4. Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party, and the international community, for safeguarding the property, notably by completing the de-mining of the eight component sites, consolidating the eastern Buddha niche, and conserving mural paintings;
5. Urges the State party to continue its work on the corrective measures, particularly with the completion of the management plan for the property; the urgent official adoption and enforcement of the Cultural Master Plan, and identifying appropriate resources for maintaining guardianship at the site;
6. Also notes that the State Party proposes 2013 as the timeframe for reaching the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the Desired state of conservation;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party, in line with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed restoration or new construction within the property, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and requests that the design proposals for the installation of a crane in the Eastern Buddha niche be shared with the World Heritage Centre before its construction begins;
10. Welcomes the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS /ICCROM advisory mission to the property in 2010 to assist the State Party to identify long-term solutions for the Buddha niches, if security conditions allow;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011** a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
12. **Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

2000 to present

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A definite timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures was not agreed with the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.24; 32 COM 7A.23 ; 33 COM 7A.23;

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for Emergency Assistance; USD 69,729 for Technical cooperation; USD 18,000 for Training assistance

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000, Norwegian Funds in Trust, Japanese Funds-in-Trust, Getty Foundation, United States Embassy in Pakistan

Previous monitoring missions

October 2000: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; April 2001 and June 2003: UNESCO experts advisory missions; November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; February 2009: UNESCO Tehran Office/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 15 April 2010. With regard to the above-mentioned corrective measures, the report presented by the State Party outlines progress as follows:

a) Implementation of Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The report states that further progress has been made in the implementation of the Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens, according to a 5 year programme. The workplans for 2009-2010 have been approved by a Steering Committee and the planned restoration and preservation activities are progressing for which an amount of RS 50.00 million have been allocated.

b) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks

Following the consolidation and restoration of the remaining hydraulic structures, a permanent boundary wall with fence has been built around the area. All the debris and encroachments around the area have been removed.

c) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens

The State Party report lists the extensive actions carried out to repair and strengthen the badly deteriorated external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens. Other activities include the creation of walkways in the Moat area, partial conservation of the Ath Dara Pavillion and of a water tank in Jahangir's Quadrangle, of the Diwan-e-Aam, Akbari Mahal, and Kharak Singh Haveli, of the Shish Mahal surroundings and the Shah Burj area, of Sha Jahan's Quadrangle, of the 2nd storey roof of the Shish Mahal, and of the Moti Masjid, restoration of the walkways of the summer pavilion, of the Khwabgah Building, of the Moor-Craft Building of the Aramgah Shahjahani (Royal Rest House), of the Corner Towers. Thanks to internationally funded projects the authorities have been able to import red sandstone from India for the conservation works.

d) Redefinition of the boundaries

The State Party reports that the boundaries of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens have been defined and that notifications in this respect have been issued by the Government of Punjab.

e) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressure

The State Party has acquired land for parking and a public facilities at the south-east corner of Shalamar Gardens. Efforts on the Government side are being made to control the urban pressure and encroachments inside the buffer zone.

f) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources

Information on the amount of funding for conservation works as foreseen in the Master Plans for Lahore and Shalamar Gardens has been provided, although no further information is given concerning the prioritisation for the use of these and other resources.

The State Party report does not provide any further information concerning progress made with the preparation of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), nor have the redefined boundaries been submitted for formal approval to the World Heritage Committee according to the procedures set out in the *Operational Guidelines*.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the considerable progress made in the implementation of the Master Plans for the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens, notably as concerns the conservation of individual buildings and structures within the property and the measures taken to protect the remains of the demolished water tanks. They further note that work remains to be done to ensure an effective control of encroachments around the Shalamar Gardens. This is a delicate issue that requires careful consultations with the local community and appropriate solutions that balance conservation needs and sustainable development.

As regards the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that this be addressed in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Asia and Pacific, when the State Party will receive training and technical assistance. Once the State Party has submitted a proposal for the extension of the property, as recommended by the World Heritage Committee at previous sessions, and based on the progress made on controlling urban pressure on the two component sites of the property, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that a monitoring mission could be dispatched to assess the possibility of removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the continuing progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and restoration of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
4. *Also notes, however, that work remains to be done to ensure an effective control of encroachments around the Shalamar Gardens, and considers that this is a delicate issue that requires careful consultations with the local community and appropriate solutions that balance conservation needs and sustainable development;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party:*
 - a) *to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2011**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee,*
 - b) *to submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property, according to the provision of Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - c) *to identify an appropriate solution to control urban pressure and encroachments around the Shalamar Gardens;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, particularly on the above mentioned points for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*

7. **Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

27. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1994

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

2009

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

- a) Lack of a management mechanism;
- b) Privatisation of surrounding land;
- c) Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted with unacceptable methods

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

Defined in mission report (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>)

Corrective measures identified

Defined in mission report (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>)

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Defined in mission report (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>)

Previous Committee Decisions

32 COM 7B.90; 33 COM 7B.102; 33 COM 8C.1

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 19,000 for the preparation of a heritage and tourism master plan for Mtskheta.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2003 and June 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of a management mechanism;
- b) Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities;
- c) Lack of definition of property and buffer zones;
- d) Privatisation of surrounding land
- e) Natural erosion of stone
- f) Loss of authenticity in recent works carried out by the Church.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session expressed its serious concern about the state of conservation of the different components of the property and “noted with regret that some components have lost their authenticity due to restoration works conducted with unacceptable methods”. The Committee further regretted that the State Party report did not adequately address the preparation of legal and technical provisions to address the various threats, the aspect of land privatization, the development of an integrated management plan and the development of a special programme on the protection of all archaeological components, as well as documents clarifying the exact boundaries of the protected area of

the property and its buffer zone. The Committee decided to inscribe the Historic Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger and urged the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and a proposed desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of the World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session in 2010.

On 29 January 2010, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which addresses point by point the requests made by the Committee during its 32nd session, but does not address the additional requests made by the Committee during its 33rd session. The report contains supplementary observations on progress towards removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, success factors and difficulties in implementing necessary corrective measures and observations on other conservation issues, including celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, progress in rehabilitating the Mtskheta Museum, and organisation of a Donor's Conference.

The State Party reports that it is studying the issue concerning the land privatization in order to reach consensus, that the development of an integrated management plan is in process, that it has been working on the project of boundary clarification, as well as that a Special State Commission on World Heritage has been established by decree on 14 July 2009. The State Party also reports on projects for roofing some excavated archaeological areas, on further excavations in the Samtavro necropolis, and efforts to fundraise for further archaeological conservation. Concerning the Committee's request to implement a multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation of Jvari Church, the State Party reports technical progress on a proposed wooden roof to prevent further damage to the interior of this church and ongoing research to identify methodologies which will prevent further decay.

The State Party acknowledges the importance of "corrective measures" and notes that it would use the budget allocated to the property in 2010 to attempt to carry out necessary corrective measures.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS / ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property was undertaken from 11 to 17 March 2010, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session.

The mission expressed its serious concern about the state of conservation of the components of the World Heritage property monuments. Although partial positive measures have been taken by the State Party, the main threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property that resulted in the property being placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger continue to exist. The mission noted with concern structural problems, lack of conservation, lack of consolidation of excavated remains, uncontrolled development, and lack of collaboration with the monastic community.

The mission noted that the land privatization process has been stopped. However, the mission expressed its concern about the projects which the Municipality plans to develop on the river bank in the vicinity of the World Heritage property. The mission recommends stopping any development before the boundary clarification is completed, as well as before the preparation and legal approval of the "Special Statement on protection of World Heritage properties in Georgia" defining the World Heritage property's status, the World Heritage property's strict protected areas and its buffer zones with all necessary restrictive regulations. The mission recommended that any development projects (including a project for the recreation area) should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment has been made.

The mission recommended that a constant collaboration be established between the Patriarchate Technical office and the monastic communities in the functioning monasteries. In parallel, a constant collaboration should be established between the Patriarchate

Technical office and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Protection. The mission noted that it was essential that the appropriate functions, in the context of the various liturgical and non-liturgical possibilities for the continuing use of buildings of religious significance, inside the monumental religious buildings and ensembles of the World Heritage property should be clarified by the "*Special Statement on protection of the World Heritage properties in Georgia*" and reflected in the Integrated management plan

The mission noted that many of the conservation issues cited in the mission report could be addressed through the implementation of a long term regional training programme which would be aimed at a broad spectrum of target groups and would cover an equally broad range of conservation issues. It recommended, therefore, that any training activities initiated in the field of Cultural Heritage Conservation should from now on always include members of the Clergy, in order that they develop an understanding as to how to approach the conservation of ancient religious buildings.

The mission report also included specific recommendations for the three component parts of the property and also for key monuments and sites in its buffer zone.

Following numerous consultations with the national and local authorities and site visits, the mission prepared a draft desired state of conservation for the property, for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the necessary corrective measures and the timeframe for their implementation.

One of the corrective measures recommended is the "Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones" to be effected within one year. The mission recommended that the State Party consider possible options for boundary clarification/ modification of the component parts of the property:

- to clarify the existing boundaries of the three components of the serial property, that is the Sveti Tskhoveli Church, the Samtavro Church and Monastery, and the Mtskheta Jvari (The Church of the Holy Cross-Mtskheta), as well as the overall buffer zone which corresponds to the limits of the City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta and the protected area of Great Mtskheta, as inscribed in 1994. This option would not need a re-nomination;
- to consider extending the serial property, in the light of the development of a Statement of Outstanding Universal value for the property, in order to include an area as defined by a triangle of the churches of Jvari, Samtavro and Armatsikhe, as recommended in previous missions (this option would be a minor modification);
- or to extend the property in order to include additional components situated in the City of Mtskheta, and perhaps in Great Mtskheta and its surroundings that relate to the existing components and their setting and context.(this would be a major modification and need a re-nomination).

The mission also recommended that the buffer zones be established to include the landscape surrounding all components, in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting. The mission recommended that all relevant documents (legal instruments, management plan, Master Plan, Conservation Master Plan) should be developed and approved.

The mission assessed the state of conservation of property and proposed a large number of recommendations, related to conservation, management and presentation of the property and its buffer zone.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies acknowledge the positive response of the State Party to the Committee's requests to take greater responsibility for this World Heritage property.

However, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies do not consider that enough is yet being done on an urgent basis to address critical issues. The archaeological areas need

an intensive conservation effort, not additional excavation. Many of the buildings need conservation and maintenance; there is a need to control development. The management regime must allow the authorities to intervene to address the threats to Outstanding Universal Value as a matter of urgency, and to co-ordinate action in all sectors in this respect without the need for further prolonged discussion or study.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the State Party should implement the defined corrective measures as a matter of urgency.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Notes the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Commission to ensure co-ordination of all World Heritage matters;*
4. *Also notes the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property of March 2010;*
5. *Reiterates its serious concern about the state of conservation of the different components of the property, and the slow rate of progress made by the State Party in addressing urgent issues;*
6. *Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the property, for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger:*
 - a) *The World Heritage property with a clearly marked boundaries and buffer zone precisely identified,*
 - b) *The Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including land-use regulations and conservation master plan approved,*
 - c) *A comprehensive management system including an Integrated Management Plan of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone approved,*
 - d) *Long-term consolidation and conservation of the historical monuments in Mtskheta ensured;*
7. *Adopts the following corrective measures and the timeframe for their implementation:*
 - a) *Changes to be effected within one year - Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:*
 - *Prepare adequate maps showing clear limits to all components of the property,*
 - *Undertake topographic and archaeological surface surveys including the archaeological remains, important historical monuments and landscapes,*
 - *Define the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys,*
 - *Develop a 5 year training programme for the conservation and management of the site (possibly with participation at sub-regional/regional level),*

- *Develop of monitoring regimes for the physical conservation of the buildings and archaeological sites,*
 - *Define and prioritize the long-term conservation and consolidation measures within the World heritage property;*
- b) *Changes to be effected within one-two years - Implementation of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including operating regimes and conservation master plan by:*
- *Establish complete cadastral information (land ownership), in publicly available and easily accessible format, for all land within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone,*
 - *Establish clear operating regimes and strict limits to development rights and management regulations within the property and its buffer zone, to ensure the long term protection and conservation of the World Heritage property,*
 - *Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands within the property are clearly defined and strictly controlled,*
 - *Adopt and implement the Urban Land-Use Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta, including all aspects of infrastructure rehabilitation, zoning regulations with particular emphasis on establishing of no-constructible zones, institutional reform and capacity building, community relations, tourism development, etc,*
 - *Make publicly available the information on land-use for all lands within the property, and its buffer zone, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land use and allocations;*
- c) *Changes to be effected within two-three years - Ensured site management by:*
- *Adopt legislation that assures the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the whole of the World Heritage property, and its component parts,*
 - *Adopt the necessary priority for the conservation of the property in national policy, planning and budgets, and take pro-active measures to solicit donor support for property management and conservation,*
 - *Develop and implement an Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, including:*
 - *tourism strategy,*
 - *strategic guidelines for the integrated multi-stakeholder approach to the conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings,*
 - *design guidelines for new constructions and the street furniture,*
 - *clear guidelines for what management, religious or visitor infrastructure can be built within the World Heritage property,*
 - *Develop and implement a management system,*
 - *Undertake appropriate training in conservation and management for the staff in charge of the preservation of the property,*
 - *Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes,*
 - *Develop of a State Programme for the protection of World Heritage religious properties in Georgia, as a legal framework for co-management under which*

the respective responsibilities of the State Party and the Georgian Patriarchate can be effectively established, monitored and evaluated in relation to the protection and conservation of the property,

- d) *Changes to be effected within five years (after possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2 - 3 year) - Long-term protection and conservation of the historical monuments and the archaeological remains in Mtskheta by:*
- *Complete the documentation and recording of all historical monuments and archaeological remains as a digitized information database for management, conservation and planning purposes,*
 - *Establish a full inventory of paintings including digitalization and reference system for all historical monuments in Mtskheta,*
 - *Implement restoration of the paintings,*
 - *Develop a special programme on the protection of all archaeological components of the City of Mtskheta;*
8. *Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, a detailed state of conservation report, including a progress report relevant on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session, in 2011;*
10. *Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

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

2005 - present

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

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
- c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
- d) Damage caused by the wind.

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

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

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of the management team with adequate human and financial resources;
- b) Structural consolidation and rehabilitation works for several emblematic buildings, such as the public buildings, the housing sector and the industrial zone buildings, using available materials within the property;
- c) Security measures for visitors in some buildings, such as those located in the industrial zone;
- d) Specific regulations for the buffer zone.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The work plan for the first phase includes security measures for visitors, cleaning and selection of materials, and low cost corrective measures. The second phase foresees the urgent structural consolidation of all the identified buildings which should be done by 2009;
- b) The implementation of the work plan is dependent on the availability of funds.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 7A.29; 32 COM 7A.28; 33 COM 7A.28

International assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 in 2007 for conservation.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2004: ICOMOS evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre site visit; April 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, in addition to stucco and lightweight construction;
- b) Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property;
- c) Corrosion of metal cladding and dismantlement of some of the structural elements. A few buildings, such as the Leaching House, are liable to structural collapse if no support is given;
- d) Very little conservation work carried out;
- e) Damage caused by the wind.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178>

Current conservation issues

The State Party provided a report on the state of conservation of the property on 15 March 2010, which includes information on the actions implemented to comply with the Decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and on activities carried out to address the identified corrective measures.

From 19 – 23 April 2010, a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out at the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009).

a. State of conservation and consolidation projects

The State Party reports that the intervention study and projects have been concluded for the 15 buildings considered in the Priority Interventions Programme in August 2009, and were sent to the World Heritage Centre. It indicates that consolidation works were finalised at the Boy Scout's meeting place and also that consolidation works were tendered for the Humberstone chimney, with financial resources from the Council of National Monuments (CMN), and was expected to be completed in March 2010. The report states that additional funding is being sought for interventions at the upper part of the Santa Laura Leaching Plant and for the Santa Laura Surgery. The State Party mentions that although elements exist to implement the emergency consolidation projects, limited funding has hindered its sustained implementation.

The reactive monitoring mission verified the state of conservation of the property and the interventions carried out to date. It noted that notwithstanding the existence of the intervention study, scientific studies for both metal and wood materials are still needed to understand the decay mechanisms, so as to better identify interventions that do not compromise the attributes of the property. The mission noted with concern the considerable damage that exists at some structures, particularly in Santa Laura, with some of them at imminent risk of collapse. Interventions need to consider the potential impacts on the authenticity and integrity of the property. The mission report also highlights the need to review some of the interventions carried out and identify more suitable solutions, particularly with regards to modern constructive systems that have been integrated and their compatibility with original materials.

The mission suggested organizing an international meeting to assist the State Party in identifying the required measures to stop or mitigate the degradation of wood and timber structures, and to provide the guidelines to ensure the conditions of authenticity and integrity of the property. The meeting will be organized in coordination with the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH).

b. Buffer zone

The report submitted by the State Party indicates that no significant progress has been made with the protection of the buffer zone. The CMN has requested assistance in its definition, taking advantage of the Municipal Zoning plan. In addition, it is exploring whether the area can be effectively protected through a National Monuments Act. The Saltpeter Museum Corporation is working towards getting a concession over government owned land at the northern and eastern limits to manage areas where the Peña Chica Saltpeter works and the Don Guillermo camp are located, including nitrate extraction areas.

The State Party also reports that the perimeter fence was completely established, and as of November 2009, its maintenance is under the responsibility of the Saltpeter Museum Corporation. It indicated that the documentation to apply for the review of boundaries, as indicated in 2009, would be submitted after the mission.

The reactive monitoring mission noted the importance of reviewing the legislative framework to control activities at the buffer zone. It stated in particular the importance of regulating activities at the existing Iodine Factory to the south of Humberstone, to mitigate the visual impacts derived from the industrial buildings and to address environmental concerns, including dust generated during the extraction of materials.

The mission also verified the proposed new trace for the bypass of Route A-16. It noted that while the revised route has diminished impacts on Humberstone, it will create visual impacts on Santa Laura which is already in a vulnerable state. It also underscored the need to revise the proposed boundaries and buffer zone, taking into account the conditions at Santa Laura. It noted that once approved, efforts should be made to disseminate information on the proposed boundaries to avoid potential conflicts with neighbouring properties.

c. Management plan

The State Party reports that funding is being sought for the update and review of the management plan.

The mission noted that the management plan originally defined to be implemented between 2005 and 2009 was not implemented due to limited funding and resources. Although personnel have been assigned to the property, there is still insufficient collaboration for the implementation of actions at the property. The mission underscored the need to have personnel on site to coordinate the implementation of the management plan, and to define strategies to secure funding for its implementation.

d. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and desired state of conservation

The State Party indicated in its report that the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger would be discussed during the reactive monitoring mission. Attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property were briefly discussed during the reactive monitoring mission.

Within the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Region, the “Workshop on the preparation of the Retrospective Inventory, Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of the properties included in the World Heritage List and an introduction to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region” took place November 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The focal point for Chile participated and was trained on how to produce the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value which should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by **31 July 2010**.

The State Party reports that at least three more years are needed to fully comply with the corrective measures previously set forth.

e. Other issues

The State Party noted the efforts made by the Saltpeter Museum Corporation in promoting the property as a tourism destination and also works implemented to facilitate access and interpretation, including the recovery of movable heritage and historic documentation.

The reactive monitoring mission considers that cultural aspects of the *Pampinos* need to be effectively integrated in this respect, to create a stronger commitment to the conservation of the property and to highlight their role in the cultural process. It noted that information and capacity building is needed among tour guides to better understand and convey the significance of the property, and mentioned the need to create facilities for emergency medical services and other elements for civil protection.

In conclusion, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the progress made by the State Party in addressing concerns that caused the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. However, they remain concerned about the conditions affecting the structural stability of emblematic buildings, particularly at Santa Laura. They also note that interventions have to balance the potential impacts on the authenticity of the property with the need to secure the structural stability of the elements, and the importance of revising methodologies and materials for intervention to guarantee their appropriateness. They recognise the achieved progress in spite of limited funding, but highlight the need to secure the required resources to have a fully operational management system in place that can coordinate both interventions at the property and the management of the buffer zone.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.28** adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Recognises the efforts made by the State Party in addressing conservation conditions and in addressing recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Notes the results of the April 2010 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission and endorses its recommendations;*
5. *Expresses its concern about the state of conservation of the property and urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Secure the necessary financial, technical and human resources for the implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme,*
 - b) *Finalize the revision of the Management Plan and ensure conditions for its effective implementation,*
 - c) *Finalize the process for defining the buffer zone and for establishing adequate regulatory measures,*
 - d) *Consider a new trace for the bypass of Route A-16 in light of the potential impacts the currently projected one might have on the Santa Laura area,*
 - e) *Submit the required documentation for boundary modifications, including appropriate cartography, for approval by the World Heritage Committee;*
6. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011,*
7. *Welcomes the idea of organizing an international expert meeting in coordination with the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage in order to assist the State Party in the identification of the required measures to stop or mitigate the degradation of wood and timber structures and to provide the guidelines to ensure the conditions of authenticity and integrity of the property;*

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011;
9. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1993

Criteria
(iv) (v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger
2005 to present

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

- a) Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004 and 2005;
- b) Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

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

- a) Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (*Plan Integral de Conservación y Desarrollo para Coro y La Vela*), submitted to the authorities in August 2006;
- b) Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;
- c) Completion of comprehensive drainage systems as well as the rehabilitation of underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area;
- d) Prioritized implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Obtain official approval of the PLINCODE at the presidential level;
- b) Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela, signed by the IPC, mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;
- c) Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, and to formulate and revise intervention projects on the infrastructure, buildings and public spaces of the property;
- d) Formulate and prioritize a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effectiveness and implementation;
- e) Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through existing opportunities of workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and Coro;
- f) Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The Presidential Commission was established in 2005 and the Framework Agreement with the local government was signed in February 2006.
- b) A conservation plan was developed in 2007, and priority actions are currently being implemented (2008). Since PLINCODE has not been officially signed, the definitive timeframe has not been established. Following the Presidential signature to ensure its ratification, the necessary corrective mechanisms of PLINCODE can be fully implemented.

Previous Committee Decisions

32 COM 7A.30; 33 COM 7A.30; 33 COM 8C.2;

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust) for the planning, implementation and subsequent publications of participatory workshops and meetings with artisans and civil society in Coro and La Vela.

Previous monitoring missions

December 2003: Roundtable in conservation and management; September 2006: Evaluation of the state of conservation Mission; July-August 2002, April 2005 and May 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions

Factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property

- a) Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
- d) Absence of communication from the State Party since 2007.

Illustrative material

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit a state of conservation report in 2009 and 2010, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 33rd (Seville, 2009) sessions respectively, despite official correspondence to the State Party in August and December 2009 and in January 2010. These letters have remained unanswered.

From 26 to 28 November 2009, the “*Workshop on the preparation of the Retrospective Inventory and Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (of the properties included on the World Heritage List) and an introduction to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting for the Latin America and Caribbean Region*” took place in Buenos Aires (Argentina). Participants were briefed on the future activities regarding the launching of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Latin America and Caribbean Region. There was no cultural representative from Venezuela.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain deeply concerned about the lack of reporting over the past two years from the State Party, particularly in light of the site’s listing on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the state of conservation highlighted in past reports. Keeping in mind Article 6 of the *World Heritage Convention* which recognises that it is the duty of the international community as a whole to cooperate in the protection of World Heritage, the World Heritage Committee has a duty to explore all possible options for the benefit of the property within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*. If the lack of communication persists, and no response is provided to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee including the absence of an invitation by the State Party for a reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, the World Heritage Committee should explore at the highest political level all possible means to avoid the deletion of this property from the World Heritage List.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **33 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the required state of conservation report for the second consecutive year in spite of the requests made by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Urges the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress made in the implementation of corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation, and to collaborate with the State Party in finalizing the property's retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Bearing in mind Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention, requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, to initiate contacts at the highest level to explore all possible means to ensure the appropriate protection of the property in order to avoid its deletion from the World Heritage List;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2011**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.
7. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

GENERAL DECISION

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

As a result of the continued severe threats to the five World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) called upon the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to convene a meeting with the DRC authorities to discuss progress in addressing their deteriorating state of conservation. Unfortunately, this high level meeting has still not materialized, following its postponement by the State Party in May 2008. At its 33rd session, the World Heritage Committee expressed its regret that no new date was proposed by the State Party and again urged the State Party to set a date for the high level meeting as soon as possible, in consultation with the Director General of UNESCO, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the President of IUCN (Decision **33 COM 7A. 31**).

The World Heritage Centre has continued to insist with the State Party on the importance of the high level meeting proposed by the Committee and on the need to propose a date. During a mission to Kinshasa at the end of March 2010, a representative of the World Heritage Centre was received by the Director of Cabinet of the Minister for Environment, reiterating the need to propose a concrete date for the high level meeting before the next session of the Committee. The possibility of a meeting between the Minister and the Director General of UNESCO was discussed as a way to speed up the process. As a result, the Minister of Environment was received by the Director General of UNESCO on 25 April 2010. During this meeting, the Minister recalled the fact that all 5 World Heritage properties in DRC were considered in danger and reported on the considerable efforts being undertaken by the Government to eradicate the pockets of instability and insecurity, which affect the conservation of these properties. He thanked the World Heritage Centre for its continued support to the Congolese protected area authority ICCN (*Institut National pour la Conservation de la Nature*) and noted that different donors, in particular the European Union, World Bank and Germany, were providing substantial support in support of the environment in DRC, including to the 5 sites. The Minister also extended an invitation to the Director General of UNESCO, on behalf of the Government, for an official visit to DRC. He proposed that this visit could take place towards the end of the year, at the occasion of the conference planned to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Yaoundé Declaration. According to the Minister, the high level meeting could take place just before this conference. He further announced that he would send a representative to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee, who would inform the Committee when the high level meeting could be held. The World Heritage Centre remains in contact with the Permanent Delegation of DRC on this issue.

The World Heritage Centre has continued its close follow up on the situation in the five DRC properties as well as its work with ICCN and the different conservation actors in support of the properties, as part of its World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for DRC.

Since the 33rd session, the security situation has improved in the east and northeast of the country, as mentioned in the reports on the State of Conservation of the different properties. Nevertheless, operational conditions for the park guards remain extremely difficult, as militia and heavily armed poachers remain active in all properties. The recent refusal to give a paramilitary status to the ICCN guard corps and lack of appropriate armament and ammunition make these conditions even more difficult and at times life threatening. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned about the consistent reports from all the properties about involvement of elements of the Congolese Army in illegal exploitation of

their natural resources. This includes involvement in poaching, in particular elephant poaching, illegal mining activities, deforestation and charcoal production as well as other forms of resource exploitation. In certain cases, this has led to violent clashes between the military and park staff. The involvement of the army in mining activities and trafficking as also been documented in December 2009 report of the Group of Experts on DRC to the UN Security Council.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also reiterate their concern about the lack of progress on a number of important threats to the different sites such as mining exploration and exploitation concessions attributed by the Ministry of Mines, the oil exploration concession granted by the Ministry for Oil in Virunga National Park, the issue of the illegal settlements in the corridor of Kahuzi-Biega and the relocation of the Nyaleke army training camp in Virunga National Park. All these issues are outside the influence of ICCN, the protected area authority, or even the Ministry of Environment, and there continues to be insufficient cooperation from other ministries or regional authorities to address them. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain convinced that the high level meeting is necessary to create the political momentum to achieve these essential conditions for progress and express hope that following the visit of the Minister of Environment to the Director General of UNESCO, a definite date can be set for this meeting.

The World Heritage Centre continued its cooperation with the United Nations Mission to DRC (MONUC). On 30 November 2009, the Special representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for DRC (SRSG) paid a visit to UNESCO and met with the Chief of Cabinet of the Director General, as well as staff of different sectors of UNESCO, including of the World Heritage Centre. The SRSG noted the excellent cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and presented how MONUC is supporting the conservation of the World Heritage properties, in particular, through the joint patrols organized with ICCN and the support of MONUC for the (at that time) on-going military operations in the east to remove rebel forces from the properties. He insisted on finalization of the MOU between MONUC and ICCN and pledged its continued support to UNESCO for the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties.

As mentioned under the report for Kahuzi-Biega National Park, progress was also made with the establishment of a trust fund for DRC properties.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the Government of Belgium at the end of 2009 approved a substantial contribution of 2 Million Euros to the third phase of the DRC Programme. This contribution will allow the World Heritage Centre to continue its support to the emergency action plans of the properties and to post a technical advisor in Kinshasa who will greatly facilitate the follow up on the state of conservation of the properties. The Government of Spain also provided 200,000 Euro in support of the third phase for activities in Garamba National Park.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/7A.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 33 COM 7A.31, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the consistent reports from all the properties concerning involvement of elements of the Congolese Army in illegal exploitation of*

their natural resources and the lack of progress on a number of significant threats to the different sites, including the attribution of mining exploration and exploitation concessions and oil exploration concessions in the properties, the relocation of the Nyaleke army camp, and the measures required to address illegal occupation of the Kahuzi-Biega corridor;

4. *Considers that these issues should be addressed through a comprehensive approach involving the different relevant Ministries and should be discussed at the high level meeting requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
5. *Notes the proposal made by the Minister of the Environment to organize the high level meeting before the Conference commemorating the Yaoundé Declaration planned towards the end of the year and urges the State Party to set a definite date for this meeting as soon as possible in consultation with the Office of the Director General of UNESCO, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the President of IUCN;*
6. *Welcomes the continued commitment of MONUC and the financial support provided by numerous donors to the conservation of the properties and in particular the new contributions by Belgium and Spain to the third phase of the World Heritage Biodiversity programme in DRC;*
7. *Also recalls its request to all States Parties to the Convention to raise international awareness and promote the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.*