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

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

**Krakow, Poland
2-12 July 2017**

**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 properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41COM/documents>

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

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.

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NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1993-2007, 2010-present

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

The property was re-inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, on the request of the State Party, due to concerns that the property's aquatic ecosystem continues to deteriorate, in particular as a result of:

- Alterations of the hydrological regime (quantity, timing, and distribution of Shark Slough inflows);
- Adjacent urban and agricultural growth (flood protection and water supply requirements that affect the property's resources by lowering water levels);
- Increased nutrient pollution from upstream agricultural activities;
- Protection and management of Florida Bay resulting in significant reduction of both marine and estuarine biodiversity.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1275>

Updated: see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1062>

Updated: see pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4958/>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: IUCN participation in a technical workshop to identify benchmarks and corrective measures; January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Quantity and quality of water entering the property)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Surface water pollution and Pollution of marine waters (Agricultural fertilizer pollution, Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife)

- Water infrastructure (Lowered water levels due to flood control measures)
- Storms (Damage from hurricanes)
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species (Exotic invasive plant and animal species)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/3377>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>, and which describes the progress made in implementing the corrective measures adopted in 2010, as follows:

- To remove further barriers to water flow after completion of the Tamiami Trail 1-mile bridge, the construction of phase 1 of the Tamiami Trail Next Steps (TTNS) project, bridging another 2.3 miles, has started and is expected to be completed by 2019. TTNS phase 2 is in its planning phase to raise the remaining roadway. All land acquisitions have been completed. The Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) was approved in 2016 for completion by 2030;
- To increase water quantity, a new Water Control Plan (COP) shall be established by 2019, utilizing the restoration infrastructures in place. However, the COP and the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) project will not suffice to reach water volume targets prior to completion of CEPP and TTNS. Projects for seepage management are nearing completion, including a shallow five-mile barrier. The construction of the C-111 northern detention area is expected to be complete in mid-2017. The CEPP provides for a two-fold expansion of pumping capacity by 2026. In 2016, all required land exchanges to public ownership have been finalized;
- To improve water quality, the construction of flow equalization basins (FEB) and storm water treatment areas (STA) is progressing under the State of Florida's Restoration Strategies project ahead of schedule. The CEPP includes the construction of an additional FEB;
- The General Management Plan (GMP) was approved in October 2015 with a delay of five years. Its Advisory Committee, initially foreseen for 2016, has not yet been established.

The report notes that the changes required for the corrective measures will need at least another decade to meet the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The report also highlights a setback in implementing corrective measures due to the El Niño event in 2015. An exceptionally dry season, followed by a heavy rainy season resulted in unprecedented salinity levels, a die-off of seagrass and a consequential algal bloom as well as in a failure to meet the hydrology targets of the DSOCR.

An Invasive Exotic Species Action Framework and a Presidential Executive Order intend to address increasing numbers of invasive species but resources for implementation remain limited.

Finally, the report informs about a proposal of a utility transmission line on the property's eastern border as well as the potential of hydraulic fracturing projects near the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The implementation of the corrective measures has progressed notably. However, the consequences of the 2015 El Niño event and the increasing abundance of invasive alien species (IAS) as well as potential hydraulic fracturing and transmission line projects raise concern.

It is noted that lionfish appear to have a more limited impact on the property than previously anticipated, but that a number of other marine, terrestrial and freshwater fauna and flora are threatening the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Taking into account that a number of IAS have been identified outside of the property boundaries that have not yet been found inside, measures to proactively prevent their introduction to the property are critical.

The reported details on the utility transmission line on the property boundary are noted, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any development in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

With respect to hydraulic fracturing, it is of utmost concern that in 2013 a company operating in the vicinity of the property used an 'acidization process'. Noting the potential for the contamination of surface water and groundwater aquifers, it is recommended that the Committee recall its position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status and that it request

the State Party to ensure that any oil and gas development proposed near or upstream of the property are not permitted to proceed if they could have negative impacts on the OUV of the property.

The approval of the General Management Plan (GMP) in 2015 and the start of its implementation is welcomed. Considering the delayed approval, high priority should be given to its swift implementation.

While progress is being made, significant work remains to be done to meet the DSOCR. The changes required to achieve the DSCOR targets and corrective measures of 2010 will need at least another decade. Therefore, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

In view of the fact that the implementation of the corrective measures, while well underway, will take at least 10 years to complete, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a report in 2 years' time only.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.17** and **40 COM 7A.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with appreciation the continuous progress made by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures, but requests the State Party to accelerate its efforts towards the completion of the restoration projects that are vital to meeting the water quality and quantity targets, and that can secure the improvement of the ecological indicators for the integrity of the property;*
4. *Welcomes the approval of the General Management Plan and the start of its implementation, encourages the State Party to establish its Advisory Committee without delay, and also requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the General Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
5. *Notes with concern the negative effects of the 2015 El Niño event on the property as well as the continuously increasing abundance of invasive species both within the property and in its proximity, and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure the provision of all resources necessary for their successful containment, eradication, as well as preventing the introduction of any additional invasive alien species;*
6. *Also notes with concern the proposal of a utility transmission line along the eastern border of the property as well as the potential for hydraulic fracturing projects in proximity of the property, and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any development before making any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and recalls its established position on the incompatibility of oil and gas exploration and exploitation with the World Heritage status of the property;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, 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 43rd session in 2019;*

8. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

2. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

3. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996-2007, 2011-present

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

- Illegal logging
- Illegal occupation
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure
- Reduced capacity of the State Party
- General deterioration of law and order and the security situation in the region

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4439>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (1982, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1996, 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 223,628

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 80,000 (in addition to approximately USD 100,000 of in-kind technical assistance) under the management effectiveness assessment project "Enhancing our Heritage"

Previous monitoring missions

November 1995 and October 2000: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2003, 2006 and 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of clarity of the boundaries of the property
- Human and financial resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal settlements
- Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment
- Illegal logging

- Illegal commercial fishing
- Poaching
- Invasive Alien Species
- Management deficiencies
- Potential impacts from hydroelectric development projects Patuca I,II and III
- Lawlessness and lack of law enforcement
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure and access to natural resources
- Deforestation and forest degradation
- Overlap with important archaeological sites implying a need to harmonize management of cultural and natural heritage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents/>, which documents the follow-up on Committee requests and recommendations under the leadership of the Honduran Institute for Conservation, Forest Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF) and a technical Ad Hoc Committee (inter-institutional site manager) bringing together a wide range of sectors. The activities and considerations can be summarized as follows:

- All efforts are guided by balancing national and international conservation commitments, including under the *Convention*, with the rights, interests and aspirations of indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran and Ladino (mestizo) communities;
- An extensive titling process in favour of Miskitos and Pechs indigenous peoples was undertaken in the cultural area of the reserve;
- Overflights combined with selected ground truth are being used to detect illegal activities and occupation early on;
- Limited human and financial resources are buffered by multilateral and bilateral cooperation, including a budget support program to the forestry sector by the European Union (PASPFOR) and financial and technical cooperation facilitated by the German government, such as PROTEP and regional efforts to support the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor;
- Further support includes an agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to strengthen the national protected areas system. The property is also eligible for projects under a Global Environmental Fund (GEF) established to support selected protected areas in Honduras;
- Implementation of the system of integral reserve monitoring (SIMONI) was underway during 2016 and several actions were undertaken to enhance and review information on biological monitoring, such as those regarding felines and their prey;
- State Party's readiness to make use of arguments, findings, and recommendations of the 2015 International Assistance, as a basis for a possible significant boundary modification of the property while stressing the crucial need for consultation with local stakeholders in this regard, including indigenous peoples and Afro-Honduran communities. To this end, cooperation agreements were signed with representatives of Miskitos and Pechs indigenous peoples. The process for agreement with the Afro-Honduran Federation and the Tawahka community shall begin in 2017;
- The short, medium and long-term planning established by the action plan of the technical Ad Hoc Committee provides useful overall guidance regardless of possible boundary modifications under the *Convention*. At the same time, it is acknowledged that such modifications would imply a need for refining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
- The Patuca III hydroelectric project, also known as Piedras Amarillas, continues to be halted due to "problems of financing and expropriation of land nearby". New loans from the Government of China are stated to enable the possibility of resuming the works. Multiple social and environmental impacts are listed.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continuous efforts made by the State Party in response to several Committee decisions since the property's second inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger (in 2011), including the most recent Decision **40 COM 7A.33** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), is welcomed. Multilateral and bilateral cooperation actors should be commended for their strong further contributions to the governmental efforts based on longstanding joint work. At the same time, the external support should not be considered as a sustainable compensation of systemic underfunding and understaffing for a vast, remote protected area prone to conflict. In this sense, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure sustained government funding to the property. Moreover, full coordination of partnerships is strongly recommended, as for example, the several efforts undertaken by the State Party as regards to monitoring that need to be fully harmonized under the established integrated monitoring system SIMONI.

In terms of ongoing threats to the property, the continuation of overflights and associated ground level surveys is noted and should be maintained to detect illegal activities as well as illegal new settlements as early as possible to enable immediate responses as opposed to evictions after the full establishment of settlements.

As for the Patuca III or Piedras Amarillas hydropower project, the social and environmental impacts listed by the State Party are most severe as they include resettlements, likelihood of facilitating the advancement of the agricultural frontier, loss of productive land and impacts on food security. It is noted, however, that no specific consideration has been given to the property and possible impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and therefore it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake an assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, prior to any decision regarding resuming work.

The explicit readiness of the State Party to proceed with the jointly developed recommendations under the 2015 International Assistance, as encouraged by the Committee in its Decision **40 COM 7A.33**, is welcomed, as is its determination to ensure that all conservation and management efforts to fully respect existing governance arrangements and meaningful consultation and negotiation with all stakeholders and rights-holders, including indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran and Ladino (mestizo) communities. It is clear that the notion of a boundary modification is most sensitive and could easily be interpreted as challenging rights and governance arrangements defined over years of negotiation. It should be clearly communicated that the intention is to add a layer of protection to both conservation and agreed local resource use against external resource users and large-scale commercial development projects and that boundary modifications will need to be elaborated to provide the best possible protection for the OUV of the property in such a way that would not compromise local and indigenous livelihoods and rights. It is recommended that the Committee strongly encourage the State Party to proceed with a participatory consultation and negotiation process to elaborate a proposal for a significant boundary modification.

The considerations inevitably surfacing in such process are, in essence, the same substantive issues to be addressed in the efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The significant boundary modification and the efforts aimed at removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger should thus be regarded and managed as an integrated and participatory effort requiring full harmonization. Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*

3. *Commends the State Party and governmental and non-governmental partners on further progress made in integrated monitoring and granting negotiated local access to land and natural resources, and encourages the State Party and partners to continue and enhance these efforts;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's effort to accomplish an extensive titling process in favour of indigenous peoples that are settled within and beyond the limits of the property;*
5. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party in order to control illegal activities, however reiterates its concern that human, financial and logistical resources allocated by the State Party continue to be inadequate to address these challenges;*
6. *Recommends that the State Party maintain the overflights and ground level surveys to detect illegal activities and to detect illegal new settlements as early as possible to enable immediate responses, avoiding evictions after the full establishment of settlements;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to further follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the discussions facilitated by the provisions of the 2015 International Assistance, by continuing the consultation and negotiation process underpinning elaboration of a proposal for a significant boundary modification, which fully considers the interests, rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran and Ladino (mestizo) communities, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;*
8. *Considers that the significant boundary modification and the efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger are intricately linked and should be regarded and managed as one coherent effort;*
9. *Recalls its request to the State Party to report on the possible impacts of the Patuca III project, and requests the State Party to ensure that current and potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are specifically assessed, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure that the implementation of this project will not be permitted before this assessment is completed;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
11. ***Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-present

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

- Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea
- Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve
- Insufficient institutional structure

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4982>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 20 (from 1981-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 482,588

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Influx of refugees
- Agricultural encroachment
- Deforestation
- Poaching
- Weak management capacity
- Lack of resources
- Lack of trans-boundary cooperation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire submitted its report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>, and which reports on the progress in implementing the corrective measures as follows:

- The revised boundary of the Nature Reserve has increased the area from 5,000 ha to 5,092 ha;
- The borders between Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia have recently been reopened and it is anticipated that transboundary management activities will resume in 2017;
- Surveillance has been strengthened through a UNESCO-funded project and establishment of the 'west mobile brigade', which has been operational since March 2016 to undertake anti-poaching patrols. This has led to removal of snares, closure of most of the poaching trails and the use of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), which show an increasing trend of direct wildlife observations, and 1000 person-days of patrolling between January and November 2016.

On 13 March 2017, the State Party of Guinea submitted its report on the state of conservation of the property, available also at the above link, and reports the following:

- The demarcation of the Reserve was completed in 2016;
- A requirement for companies operating in proximity to the property to have the cumulative impacts of their operations assessed by depositing a common fund to the Guinean Bureau for environmental studies and assessments, which will recruit a company to undertake this assessment;
- 7 ha of degraded land in the Reserve was restored, and tree nurseries were established by the West Africa Exploration (WAE) Company and the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG). SMFG also continued to collect data on biodiversity to prepare for an environmental assessment;
- The boundaries of the exploration permit granted to SAMA Resources Company has been redefined;
- A new department has been created to monitor Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for mining projects;
- Awareness-raising workshops and meetings were organized, anti-poaching patrols were conducted and ecological monitoring was undertaken within the Reserve;
- A corps of 100 paramilitary forces has been established for the management and surveillance of the Biosphere Reserve (within which the property is located). However, insufficient resources (funding and equipment) continue to pose a challenge.
- A protocol for the collaboration of managers in Guinea and Liberia was prepared in 2016.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued efforts made by both States Parties in undertaking anti-poaching patrols and conducting ecological monitoring, as well as the continued actions to raise awareness of local communities by the State Party of Guinea, are appreciated. The increase in wildlife observations, as noted by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire, is a positive finding.

The impacts of the Ebola crisis have continued to seriously affect the implementation of the corrective measures, but it is noted that with the recent reopening of the borders, progress is anticipated in the coming year. In particular, it is important that ecological monitoring be harmonized between the States Parties, and that joint surveillance operations are organized as soon as possible. The development of a protocol for collaboration of managers between Guinea and Liberia is appreciated in this regard, and should be extended to include Côte d'Ivoire. However, to further support transboundary coordination and in order to promote the implementation of the corrective measures, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate once more its request to both States Parties to collaborate with UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to develop the second phase of the Nimba Project, to concern the entire property. This is particularly important considering the limited resources available, as reported by the State Party of Guinea.

Moreover, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the corresponding set of indicators have not yet been developed, and both States Parties should be requested to establish these in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

Although the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire provided further details of the drafting process of the decree for the redefinition of the boundaries, it does not confirm that the revised boundaries do not erroneously exclude degraded areas of the property containing cocoa plantations. While the area of the revised boundaries is slightly larger than before, the map provided does not enable a comparison with the current boundaries of the property, and therefore it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to confirm that the decree does not exclude degraded areas from the property.

It is not clear from the report of the State Party of Guinea whether the restoration of degraded land by WAE and SMFG was undertaken within the property or in the larger Biosphere Reserve. The continued collection of biodiversity data by SMFG to gather baseline information to inform an ESIA is noted. However, it is regrettable that no update was provided by the State Party of Guinea on the preparation of an ESIA by WAE to international standards, and that little information is provided on the status of the development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all planned mining projects that could impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). In that regard, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position regarding the fact that mining exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, and that it request the State Party to ensure that no mining will be permitted outside the boundaries of the property if it could have a negative impact on OUV.

It is noted that the boundaries of the exploration permit granted to SAMA Resources Company have been redefined, however, no further details have been provided. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Guinea to submit to the World Heritage Centre a map of the revised permit boundaries in relation to the property.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the continued actions by the States Parties to undertake anti-poaching patrols and ecological monitoring;*
4. *Noting that the borders between Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia have reopened, reiterates its request to the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to implement a joint monitoring system of the property to control all anthropogenic pressures, and to collaborate with UNDP and Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to develop the second*

phase of the Nimba Project, to concern the entire property, in order to promote the implementation of the corrective measures to safeguard the integrity of the property;

5. Welcomes the development of a protocol for collaboration of managers between Guinea and Liberia, and encourages all three States Parties, to consider extending this protocol to also include Côte d'Ivoire;
6. Requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to provide further details on the decree for the redefinition of the boundaries, in order to confirm that it does not exclude degraded areas of the property;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to strictly ensure that the preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the West Africa Exploration Company is in accordance with international standards as requested previously, and to submit this ESIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before authorizing the project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with international standards, to qualify and quantify all the potential cumulative impacts of all planned mining projects in proximity to the property on its Outstanding Universal Value, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before making any decision on these projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Reminds the State Party of Guinea of its position regarding the fact that mining exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the declaration of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts in order to ensure that no mining will be permitted outside the boundaries of the property if it could have a negative impact on OUV;
10. Further requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to prepare a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the corresponding set of indicators;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party of Guinea to submit a map of the revised boundaries of the exploration permit granted to SAMA Resources Company in relation to the property;
12. Requests moreover the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a joint 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 42nd session in 2018;
13. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) need to be read in conjunction with Item 12 below.

7. 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 1984-1992, 1996-present

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

- Increased poaching
- Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property

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

A draft was prepared during the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission

(<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>) but indicators need to be quantified on the basis of the results of the aerial surveys

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2010, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Revised in 2016, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6652>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 13 (from 1980-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 323,270

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 937,000 from the United Nations Foundation, the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain and the Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

2006, 2010 and 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict and political instability
- Poaching by nationals and trans-border armed groups
- Unadapted management capabilities to address the poaching crisis

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>. Progress in implementing the Committee's requests is provided as follows:

- In 2016, there was no reported case of Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) personnel involvement in poaching but poaching by armed groups from South Sudan continues to be a threat. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed between the

Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and 'Uélé Operational Zone' for joint patrols in the property to further their efforts;

- A meeting between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda took place, in October 2016, to address the security situation in the property;
- Efforts to replace 15 retiring guards will be undertaken during the first quarter of 2017;
- No progress has been made in developing the new management plan;
- 20 telemetric collars were placed on elephants in January 2016. The next elephant census is planned for April 2017 but the current estimate stands at 1,200 individuals. In 2016, 98 elephant and three giraffe carcasses were recorded;
- Aerial surveillance covered 100% of the property while patrol coverage for the surrounding hunting areas reached 20%;
- Park infrastructures have been improved through *inter alia* better communication systems, construction of watchtowers and a training center.

The State Party also notes the following planned activities:

- Increasing the number of radio collared elephants and start collaring giraffes;
- Increasing mobile patrols in hunting areas;
- Installation of two additional observation stations in the property;
- Finalization of the management plan, including a zoning plan;
- Strengthening of the relations with military officials in the Uélé Operational Zone.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Insecurity and armed conflict in the region continue to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, but there have been commendable efforts by the State Party to control the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and prevent the involvement of FARDC personnel in poaching during the reporting period. The growing pressure from the international ivory trade, involving armed groups from outside the country is a continuing serious concern and calls for further efforts to strengthen its surveillance, monitoring and control. The on-going patrol efforts to cover the whole property are welcomed, but it is noted that only 20% of the surrounding hunting areas have been covered so far. Noting the Committee's request (Decision **40 COM 7A.37**) to maintain surveillance of at least 50% of the hunting areas, further efforts are still needed to protect the OUV of the property.

Although the April 2017 elephant census will provide a more accurate estimate, the current estimate of 1,200 elephants, signifying a further decrease since 2015 (1,500), is of utmost concern. The reported loss of three giraffes to poaching also exacerbates the situation for this species of which only around 40 individuals remain in the country, which are restricted to the property. The State Party's reported plan to radio-collar more elephants and to start the radio-collaring of giraffes will support the current monitoring activities and efforts towards halting and reversing the current downward trend.

The two meetings held, respectively in July and October 2016 in margin of the World Heritage Committee meetings in Istanbul and at UNESCO, between the State Party and the States Parties of Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda to discuss the security situation in the region of the property, specifically in relation to poaching, are welcomed. These discussions will lead to a high-level meeting, involving all relevant stakeholders and institutions concerned, with a view to implementing the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, as well as elaborating solutions to combat poaching at the regional level. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to continue the ongoing dialogue and to organize such a high-level meeting, also including other potential stakeholders to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue.

Progress in developing the park's infrastructures is appreciated. The further developments planned by the State Party are also noted. A strategic location of the observation stations is considered to facilitate efficient and effective protection and management of the property, as noted in the updated corrective

measure for the property. No update was provided on one of the corrective measures, concerning the establishment of a conservation strategy for the hunting areas and developing a recognized Buffer Zone for the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement and provide an update on this action.

The final Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the Committee (40 COM 7A.37), which is considered to be an urgent outstanding action.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7A.37, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcoming the meetings held between the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda to discuss the threat of poaching on the property and insecurity in the region, encourages all four States Parties to continue the ongoing dialogue for the improvement of security in the region;
4. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to call on the State Party, as well as neighbouring States, in particular Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda, to ensure that military operations in the region do not impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to organize, in cooperation with United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), a high-level meeting between the above-mentioned States Parties and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue;
5. Commends the State Party on its continued anti-poaching efforts, notes with appreciation that there were no reported case of Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) personnel involvement in poaching in the reporting period and encourages the State Party to continue to pursue all its efforts to combat poaching at the regional level;
6. Reiterates however its deepest concern over continued insecurity around the property and on-going poaching pressure from the international ivory trade, and the fact that current estimates put the elephant population at 1,200, which represents a further decline from the 1,500 elephants estimated to remain in 2015, and reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), with the full engagement of transit and destination countries;
7. Notes with significant concern the loss of three giraffes as a result of poaching from a population of approximately only 40 individuals that remain in the whole of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are restricted to the property, and welcomes the planned radio-collaring of giraffes and more elephants;
8. Noting that 20% of the property's surrounding hunting areas are being patrolled, encourages the State Party to maintain an effective year-round surveillance of at least 50% of the hunting areas, in addition to the full coverage of the property;

9. Requests the State Party to provide an update on progress achieved towards establishing a conservation strategy for the hunting areas and developing a Buffer Zone for the property to strengthen the protection of its OUV;
10. Appreciates the progress made in developing the park's infrastructures and the further planned developments to facilitate efficient protection and management of the property;
11. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the final version of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as requested by the Committee, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, and at the latest by **1 February 2018**, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
13. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;
14. Also decides to retain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-present

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

- Impact of the conflict: looting of the infrastructure, poaching of elephants
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 103,400

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,450,000, from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Government of Belgium, the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPF)

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and May 2006: UNESCO World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2009 and 2014: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/>. Progress in implementing the corrective measures is provided as follows:

- The Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) conducted joint patrols in targeted areas of the property using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) software, which indicated a decrease in monitoring area coverage in 2016 (52%) compared to 2015 (68%) due to increased insecurity in the South Zone;
- Two aerial surveys were conducted in 2016, which noted the distribution of illegal gold extraction sites and deforestation;
- Sensitization efforts were undertaken of traditional authorities and public administration to facilitate their active participation in the peaceful evacuation of artisanal gold miners;
- Barriers have been introduced on the RN4 to close off road traffic at night;
- The Management Plan has not yet been finalized due to limited resource availability;
- Introduction of integral conservation zones was agreed between ICCN and stakeholders, including the public administration and local communities, for which validation is expected to take place in 2017;
- Zoning of the property has led to the delimitation of 32 agricultural areas, 29 hunting areas and 5 integral conservation zones;
- Sustainable natural resource management efforts for the forests adjacent to the property have focused on sensitization meetings with traditional leaders, resulting in the signing of a protocol between the management authority and the local committee;
- Representatives of FARDC, police, public administration and traditional leaders have agreed to hold monthly meetings on local security issues;
- The first Site Coordination Committee (CoCoSi) meeting, attended by traditional leaders, Governance Councils, and Conservation and Development Council was held in November 2016 to establish a Local Development Plan.

The State Party also listed planned activities for 2017, which include a gradual recruitment of 200 new guards, open two guard posts in the eastern part of the property to increase staff presence, and develop a Conflict Transformation Strategy.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued insecurity in the region and the on-going presence of armed rebel groups, who are preventing the patrol teams from gaining full access to the property, and the reported resultant decrease in surveillance coverage compared to 2015, are of significant concern as they complicate the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. However, the surveillance coverage reported for 2015 (68%) is inconsistent with the figure reported to the 40th session of the Committee (37%). Noting that this is the second consecutive year in which inconsistencies have been noted, future State Party reports should ensure accuracy in the data presented or provide clarifications on any changes.

Although the Committee had requested the State Party to recruit additional guards for patrolling, this appears not to have been achieved and as a result, there continues to be a shortage of guards to ensure sufficient coverage of the property. Expanding patrol coverage to halt poaching is critical but the security situation firstly needs to be improved. Adequate provision of financial and material resources is required to regain control of the site. In that regard, the initiation of joint operations between ICCN and FARDC using SMART technology is welcomed.

The State Party recalls the closure of large mines in 2015, and the undertaking of sensitization efforts to address the issue of artisanal mining in 2016. However, it still remains unclear if any further mining permits remain that encroach on the property. Any overlapping permits need to be cancelled and illegal occupants evacuated as a matter of urgency. According to third party information, it has been reported that the majority of gold and diamond mines inside the property have been reoccupied and have resumed operation, and additional new mines have been opened. The World Heritage Centre has requested comments from the State Party in this regard but no comments were received at the time of drafting this report.

The closure of RN4 at night is a welcome progress to reduce traffic within the property, but road use needs to be monitored to ensure compliance and effectiveness. In line with the corrective measures, other mechanisms to further limit road use need to be implemented, such as setting up a toll system. The State Party does not however provide any updates on the increasing number of inhabitants around the villages in pursuit of artisanal mining, and the measures taken to address this. Third party information has indicated significant expansions for example in the village of Badengaido.. As requested by the Committee (**40 COM 7A.39**), the impacts of the significant increase in inhabitants in the villages along RN4 on the land use around the villages need to be evaluated, but no update is provided in this regard. The World Heritage Centre has also requested comments from the State Party in this regard and no comments were received at the time of drafting this report.

The establishment of integral conservation zones in the property is appreciated but the extended delay in finalizing the Management Plan for the property is noted with concern. Progress is noted in improving communication between stakeholders on security issues and towards preparing a zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property.

No information was provided by the State Party with regards to the attainment of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.41** and **40 COM 7A.39**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its deepest concern over continued insecurity around the property, especially in the south, that has led to a reported decrease in surveillance coverage in the reporting period;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize efforts to further expand the patrol coverage and regain control of the property to halt poaching and the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through the recruitment of additional guards and the adequate provision of financial and material resources;
5. Welcomes the initiation of joint operations between the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) to patrol targeted areas within the property using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) technology;
6. Appreciates the closure of the RN4 road at night to reduce traffic within the property, but requests the State Party to monitor compliance and effectiveness, and to implement additional mechanisms to further mitigate the impacts of road use, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to evaluate the impacts of the increasing local populations on land use around the villages along the RN4;
7. Reiterating its concern about rebel groups encouraging the reopening of artisanal mining sites, and that the cause of increasing immigrants in the villages along the RN4 is closely linked to mining, also requests the State Party to provide an update on the measures taken to mitigate the threat, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on the remaining mining permits overlapping with the property and to ensure their cancellation;
8. Also appreciates the establishment of integral conservation zones in the property but notes with concern the extended delay in finalizing the Management Plan for the property and further requests the State Party to expedite its finalization rapidly;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide details on the data collected through the application of the SMART technology in order to enable an assessment of the illegal activities and poaching/wildlife trade, and their impacts on the OUV of the property and an assessment of progress achieved towards the targets defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
12. Also decides to retain **Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-present

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

- Impact due to conflict
- Increased poaching and illegal encroachment affecting the integrity of the site

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

Proposed in the 2012 mission report. However, core indicators of the results of the inventory of flagship species still needs to be quantified in view of the adoption of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by the Committee

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4575>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 149,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium

Previous monitoring missions

2007 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>. Progress in implementing the corrective measures is provided as follows:

- A 'Rapid Intervention Force', comprising of 40 elite guards of the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) has been established and operationalized to undertake long patrols in areas of high poaching pressure;
- A Surveillance Strategy will be finalized in the first part of 2017;
- Two meetings of the Site Coordination Committee (CoCoSi) were held in 2016 to evaluate and prepare the 2017 Operational Plan. Regional, national deputies and provincial governor attended these meetings where the matter of the livelihood of the local communities was discussed;

- Coordination of activities and communication between ICCN and its technical partners has significantly improved, leading to the establishment of a Rapid Response Team, and resulting in 60% surveillance coverage in 2016;
- The property was divided in 6 sectors including one base in each sector and several patrolling posts. Bases are equipped with SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) where data are collected and centralized at the park's headquarters;
- Park infrastructures have been improved through, *inter alia*, rehabilitation of the park's headquarters and purchase of equipment (vehicle and boat) to support surveillance. Additional supplies and equipment for park guards have been acquired and deployed;
- Extrapolation of ecological monitoring surveys of Lokofa, Lomela and Watsikengo blocks, covering 42% of the property, have produced a total estimated population of 18,419 bonobos and 1,738 elephants within the property;
- Demarcation of the park boundaries in the Lomela area between the sources of Emania and Bombilo Rivers was initiated through a stakeholders meeting;
- A biological inventory is expected in 2017 to assess the ecological continuity between the north and south components of the property;
- A study to assess the management options of the property in relation to the Yaelima and Kitawala communities was conducted between June and August 2016;
- A 'demographic explosion along the park corridor' is noted as a current threat that is affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The establishment of a new Rapid Intervention Force and a Rapid Response Team is welcomed to further strengthen the State Party's efforts to effectively tackle poaching. It is noted that the Surveillance Strategy to prioritize activities is near finalization. Furthermore, the reported increase in patrol coverage from 50% to 60% in the reporting period is a welcome achievement.

No update is provided on the State Party's intention to consider further options to improve connectivity between the 'sustainable conservation zones' proposed in the ecological corridor to link the two components of the property, as requested by the Committee. However, the biological inventory would generate valuable information in order to inform the possible options on managing this corridor, and it is therefore considered that the plan for the Multiple Use Zone should be reviewed once the inventory is completed.

The meaning of the 'demographic explosion' in the corridor, as reported by the State Party, remains unclear and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more information, comprising of the potential causes and the impact of this demographic explosion on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity. Noting that an influx of immigrants can be driven by, or result in, illegal activities such as mining and poaching, careful monitoring and management action is required without delay in particular to address the root causes that have led to this problem.

The preliminary findings of the inventory of bonobos and elephants from the survey of three blocks are noted, as is the collection of ungulate data along these transects. Comprehensive global population data on bonobos, which are endemic to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are currently lacking but estimates have previously suggested a minimum of 15,000-20,000 individuals in total. Considering the extrapolated population estimate, the property therefore appears to be a critical habitat for bonobos.

The study to weigh out options for the Yaelima and Kitawala communities either to remain in the property or to be relocated is noted. However, as requested by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7A.40**), it is crucial to initiate an effective dialogue with the communities to identify possible solutions and to also assess the socio-economic situation of the Yaelima community to inform the strategy on how to address their residence in the property. Information on progress in achieving either of these has not been provided.

Regarding the status of oil exploration and exploitation projects, it is recommended that the Committee regret that the State Party did not provide any information on this matter, as requested since 2012, following the comments made by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission,

concerning its interest in oil exploration and exploitation in the Central Basin, which encompasses the property.

Efforts are pursued by the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures with the aim to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7A.7** and **40 COM 7A.40**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the establishment of a new Rapid Intervention Force and a Rapid Response Team to further strengthen the State Party's efforts to effectively address poaching, and also welcomes the increase in surveillance coverage to 60% of the property;
4. Takes note of the preliminary findings of the inventory of flagship species, including bonobos and elephants, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the full findings of the inventories for all flagship species to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as they become available, and based on the results, to also submit an updated Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which quantifies the indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Requests the State Party to provide details of the reported 'demographic explosion' in the corridor, comprising of its potential causes, proposed measures to address them and the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including on the 'sustainable conservation zones' that have been identified by the State Party to be of particular importance in the ecological corridor to link the two components of the property;
6. Noting with appreciation the State Party's intention to undertake a biological inventory in 2017 to assess the ecological connectivity between the two components of the property, also requests the State Party to submit the findings to the World Heritage Centre once they are available;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to consider further options to improve the connectivity between the 'sustainable conservation zones' and the southern component of the property, and further requests the State Party to consider the findings of the above-mentioned biological inventory in reviewing the plan for the Multiple Use Zone;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently clarify its expression of interest in oil exploration and exploitation in the Central Basin, which includes the property, as communicated to the 2012 mission, and reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;

10. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;*
11. ***Also decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

12. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add

15. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-present

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

The region having recently suffered from military conflict and civil disturbance, the Government of Niger requested the Director-General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of the site

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1999-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 172,322

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2005 and February 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Political instability and civil strife
- Poverty
- Management constraints (lack of human and logistical means)
- Ostrich poaching
- Soil erosion
- Demographic pressure
- Livestock pressure
- Pressure on forestry resources
- Gold panning
- Illegal activities (poaching threats and timber harvesting)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/>. Updates on its activities and on-going threats are provided as follows:

- A nine month ecological monitoring project using camera traps has been initiated, starting with sensitization of local communities;
- In 2016 the results of an ecological monitoring survey estimated an overall kilometric abundance index (KAI) of 0.114 individuals across seven species (dorcass gazelle, dama gazelle, Barbary sheep, patas monkey, golden jackal, rock hyrax and striped golden squirrel), and vegetation density of 34.83 feet per hectare;
- Contracts have been signed between the Management Unit and two local communities to undertake joint monitoring activities for six months around Mount Takoukouzat;
- The third phase of the Co-Management of Natural Resources in Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (COGERAT) and the second phase of the Niger Fauna Corridors Project (NFCR) are underway;
- The increasing pressure of poaching is leading to the movement of wildlife from the property to other protected areas through natural wildlife corridors, which will need to be captured in the second phase of the NFCR;
- Surveillance efforts in the reporting period covered 2,000 km but the property continues to face threats from poaching, illegal logging, invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*), soil degradation, unregulated land use and human-wildlife conflict;

- A training workshop on Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and Enhancing Our Heritage (EoH) was provided to park managers and staff in a move towards halting and reversing the biodiversity degradation trend;
- There is inadequate support for the captive breeding of North African red-necked ostrich.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not adequately address all of the Committee's requests (Decision **40 COM 7A.45**) in its report and hence, no updates are available on: (i) the State Party's progress in recruiting forestry agents and ensuring adequate funding of the Management Unit; (ii) detailed information and data on poaching and timber harvesting along the perimeter of the property; (iii) the current situation of gold mining in Agadez; and (iv) development of the necessary studies with a view to preparing a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Information is provided however on the State Party's activities in implementing some of the corrective measures. In particular, the State Party's efforts to improve surveillance and ecological monitoring within the property through local community engagement are appreciated. Nevertheless, it is not clear whether a Surveillance Plan to strategically implement actions has been developed, in particular to focus on the protection of flagship species, as noted in the corrective measures. Recalling that the January 2016 application of the EoH toolkit identified that the property does not have a Management Plan, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide clarifications on the current status of the development of a Surveillance Plan.

It is of great concern that the property continues to face a number of threats, including poaching which has not yet been brought under control, the continued illegal harvesting of timber and the spread of the invasive plant *Prosopis juliflora*. The IUCN Global Invasive Species Database provides information on the management of the latter, which the State Party may wish to refer to in designing an eradication plan.

The overall KAI for seven observed species is noted, but in order to monitor trends of individual species, the collated data have limited use. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to record data for each key species that contribute towards the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and submit the data to the World Heritage Centre. This should include data on addax antelope, for which there is currently unconfirmed information on their presence within the property.

The North African red-necked ostrich population has declined significantly in Niger in recent years, with captive breeding programmes becoming critical for its recovery. It is therefore of significant concern that the State Party has reported an inadequate support for the programme. In order to ensure the success of a long-term reintroduction plan, it appears necessary to assess the genetic viability of the remaining population, and collaborate with other States Parties to expand the genetic stock under an international or regional action plan for the species. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to seek the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Breeding Specialist Group.

Further information is required on the camera trap survey, such as the expected aim of the study and how it will feed into the implementation of the corrective measures.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Regrets that the report on the state of conservation of the property submitted by the State Party did not adequately address the Committee's requests;*

4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to accelerate the recruitment of forestry agents, and ensure adequate funding of the Management Unit to better control the exploitation of the natural resources within the property;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information and data on poaching and timber harvesting within the property and its vicinity, as well as the actions taken to combat these threats;*
6. *Appreciates the State Party's efforts to improve surveillance and ecological monitoring within the property through local community engagement, but urges the State Party to develop a Surveillance Plan and a Management Plan for the property as a matter of priority, and submit copies of both to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;*
7. *Notes with concern the spread of the invasive plant species, *Prosopis juliflora*, across the property, and requests the State Party, in consultation with IUCN's Species Survival Commission Invasive Species Specialist Group, to design and implement an eradication plan for the species;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to monitor the trend of the key species that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and submit to the World Heritage Centre the results for each species in order to demonstrate their trends;*
9. *Noting with concern that there is inadequate support for the captive breeding of North African red-necked ostrich, further requests the State Party to secure necessary funding for the effective operation of the captive breeding centres and closely collaborate with other neighbouring States Parties to develop and implement a regional action plan for the conservation of this species, and encourages the State Party to seek the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Breeding Specialist Group;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide details of the camera trap survey including how it will contribute towards improving the monitoring and surveillance of the property, and submit its findings to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN once they are available;*
11. *Requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on the current status of gold mining in the region of Agadez as well as any other areas outside of the property that has the potential to impact on the OUV of the property;*
12. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2015 IUCN reactive monitoring mission as well as an action plan on the corrective measures defined in consultation with the State Party during the mission;*
13. *Urgently reiterates its requests to the State Party to carry out the necessary studies with a view to preparing a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit the draft DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**, for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*

15. ***Decides to retain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

16. 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-present

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

- Poaching
- Livestock grazing
- Dam construction project at Sambangalou

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4087>

Revised (finalization of indicators) in 2015, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6232>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 177,125

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2007 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife
- Drying up of ponds and invasive species
- Illegal logging
- Livestock grazing
- Road construction project
- Potential dam construction
- Potential mining exploration and exploitation
- Loss of chimpanzee habitat

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>, and provided information on the implementation of the corrective measures, as follows:

- Assignment of additional officers, deployment of a third mobile brigade and construction of five guard posts;
- Increased surveillance effort: there was an increase in arrests, including gold miners, poachers, illegal breeders and loggers;
- Training offers to agents of the property, including environmental monitoring and application of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART);
- Annual removal of *Mimosa pigra*, as part of the restoration of the ponds;
- Continued provision of material and financial resources for the rehabilitation of the trails;
- Request for international assistance submitted to the World Heritage Centre to support the updating of the management plan;
- Implementation since 2016 of an ecological monitoring programme to be integrated into the management plan. The annual report for 2016 is appended to the State Party's report;
- Work on densification of speed bumps on the RN7 national road is under way;
- On 14 July 2016, a mining concession was granted to the Mako gold prospection project for the period 2016-2027. As part of the project's mitigation measures, an intervention area of 1,700 km² was identified in the southeastern part of the property where the large mammalian fauna is concentrated. The NGO Panthera, contracted by the Pétowal Mining Company, has proposed an intensified protection project for this area for the period 2016-2027

In addition, the State Party indicated the following:

- The permanent closure of the Mansadala basalt quarry is planned for late 2018. Several impact mitigation measures are being implemented;
- The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA, annexed to the State Party report) of the Sambangalou dam, dating from 2007, was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in February 2015. A specific evaluation of the project's impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has not yet been carried out. However, impacts on the hydrological regime of the property are likely to have negative impacts on the park's habitats and the flora and fauna that depend on it.

On 11 May 2017, a meeting was held with the State Party, the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the company Toro Gold, during which the company explained the current state of implementation of the Mako gold prospection project.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures. Progress has been made, particularly with regard to strengthening the anti-poaching mechanism and the capacities of the property's staff. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue these efforts. It is also recommended that the Committee take note with satisfaction of the State Party's confirmation that the basalt quarry at Mansadala will be permanently closed in 2018.

The updating and implementation of the ecological monitoring programme, as well as the intention to integrate it into the management plan of the property, is noted. The updating of the management plan, which remains a priority for the property, was the subject of a request for international assistance submitted by the State Party in 2016, for which the recommendations of the evaluation panel are positive.

The State Party has not provided information on the status of other corrective measures or progress made to achieve the Desired state of conservation with a view to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in particular the improvement of the property's boundary

marking and the improvement of the development of grazing and land watering points in the village territories around the property to minimize the encroachment of livestock inside the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on the implementation of all corrective measures and to provide more information on progress towards the achievement of the state of conservation indicators with a view to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) in its next report to the Committee.

There is no mention of any new elements concerning the current state of development of the Sambangalou dam project. An evaluation of the impacts of the project on the OUV of the property has not yet been made, despite repeated requests from the Committee. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate this request and express once again its deep concern about the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, in particular the foreseeable impacts on the reduction of the area of the forest galleries and the Ronier Palm stands, the river fording by the great fauna and on the insufficient water supply of the flood basins and the ponds in the property. In addition, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more details on the current status of the project. If the project is implemented, there is a risk that the continued drying up of the ponds, which is already a problem, is likely to accelerate, which in turn would further facilitate the proliferation of *the Mimosa pigra* invasive species.

It is also worth recalling the concerns expressed by the Committee at its 40th session in 2016 about the potential impacts of the gold prospection project at Mako, in particular that they could exacerbate existing problems such as poaching, illegal gold panning and habitat fragmentation. The intensified protection project proposed by the NGO Panthera, which will cover the southeastern area of the park adjacent to the gold prospection project, is therefore a very pertinent initiative, which is welcomed. However, it is highly regrettable that a mining concession has been granted without the Committee's requests being implemented, notably that the project's ESIA be revised to take account of the Committee's concerns and to identify an alternative design and location of the project that would not adversely affect the OUV of the property. In addition, no mitigation measures have yet been identified for the permanent loss of chimpanzee habitat outside the property, and works have started before an adaptive management was introduced to mitigate the impacts (direct and indirect, expected and unforeseen) as implementation of the project proceeds, as confirmed by the company Toro Gold at the meeting of 11 May 2017. It is therefore recommended that the Committee strongly regret the allocation of a mining concession and request that the State Party take all necessary precautions to avoid any impact of the project on the OUV of the property. The granting of a mining concession at Mako would make it unrealistic, as long as the project is operational, to implement the corrective measure requiring a "prohibition of any extractive (traditional or industrial) activity within the property, as well as outside the property insofar as such activity could have a negative impact on the OUV including the conditions of integrity".

For all the above reasons, it is recommended that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.13** and **40 COM 7A.46**, adopted respectively at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions,
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures, in particular as regards strengthening the anti-poaching mechanism and the capacities of the property staff, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts;
4. Also welcomes the intensified protection project submitted by the NGO Panthera, covering the southeastern part of the property adjacent to the mining concession in Mako;

5. *Also recalling its concern about the potential impacts of the gold prospection project at Mako that could exacerbate existing problems, such as poaching, illegal gold-mining and habitat fragmentation, and its request to the State Party that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project be revised to reflect this concern and to identify an alternative design and location of the project that would not have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, strongly regrets that a mining concession was granted to the Mako gold prospection project for the period 2016-2027;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to take all necessary precautions to avoid any impact of the project on the OUV of the property, including the permanent loss of chimpanzee habitat outside the property, considered as having a direct impact on its OUV;*
7. *Considers that the corrective measure in paragraph 4.i) of Decision **39 COM 7A.13** cannot be implemented as long as the mining concession in Mako exists and is operational;*
8. *Also regrets that an evaluation of the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property has still not been carried out, despite repeated requests from the Committee and, once again expressing deep concern about the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, in particular on the reduction of the areas of gallery forests and Ronier Palm stands, on the river fording by the great fauna and on the insufficient water supply of the flood basins and the ponds in the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a specific study on the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: the Environmental Assessment, before any decision on its construction, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and also to provide updated information on the status of this project;*
9. *Notes the updating and implementation of the ecological monitoring program and its foreseen integration in the management plan of the property, while recalling that updating and implementing the management plan remains an urgent priority;*
10. *Takes note with satisfaction of the State Party's confirmation that the basalt quarry at Mansadala will be permanently closed in 2018;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to provide in its next report information on the implementation of all corrective measures and on the progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*
12. *Requests moreover that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
13. ***Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

17. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

Poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations, and the effects thereof on the ecosystem

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 67,980

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions. February 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching
- Insufficient funding and management
- Mineral and hydrocarbon prospecting and mining
- Tourism management and development
- Proposed dam development
- Operationalizing the uranium mining project
- Lack of disaster preparedness
- Need for buffer zone
- Need for increased involvement of local communities
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. An IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place between 8 and 15 February 2017. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>. Progress in addressing previous Committee decisions is provided in the State Party report as follows:

- The Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project is planned to be implemented by the State Party in collaboration with the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the German Development Bank (KfW) to address poaching;

- The current population of black rhinos in the property is unknown, but long-term monitoring activities will be reinitiated;
- The Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) has been operational since July 2016;
- A draft five-year action plan has been developed by the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to protect the Selous-Niassa corridor, but resources to implement it are limited;
- Feasibility of the In Situ Leaching (ISL) method is being tested at the Mkuju River Project. Monitoring of water quality and radiation tests is on-going, and an emergency plan is in place;
- The Stiegler's Gorge Dam project has not yet been approved, but the project proponent, Odebrecht, has been allowed to proceed with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda Dam is being finalized and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review once completed;
- Prospecting and mining of oil, gas and uranium inside the property cannot legally be restricted under the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009, but the State Party is taking measures to ensure that no mining permits are granted;
- Local communities are consulted in developing the General Management Plan (GMP) and receive benefit through retention of hunting fees and partnering with private investors in Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs);
- The State Party appeals to the World Heritage Centre and the donor community to support the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts of the various existing and proposed developments impacting on the property.

A draft proposal for a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and a draft two-year Emergency Action Plan (EAP) were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in preparation for the mission. They have been developed with the aim to significantly reduce poaching and initiate recovery of populations of key wildlife species by July 2018. The DSOCR and EAP are expected to be revised and re-submitted by December 2017.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN were informed of an oil and gas prospecting concession called Kito-1 in the Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site, upstream of the property. The World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 22 March 2017 requesting information on this matter.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Commendable efforts have continued to be made by the State Party, including through the full operationalization of TAWA, international support to target poaching and collaboration with Mozambique for conservation of the trans-boundary Niassa-Selous ecosystem. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the SECAD project plan, and the action plan with the State Party of Mozambique to the World Heritage Centre, and report on progress of implementation. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.47**, it is also recommended that the Committee request the States Parties of Tanzania and China to report on their activities in the framework of their agreement to prevent wildlife crime.

It is appreciated that a draft DSOCR and the EAP have now been developed, albeit with a significant shortfall in the budget to implement the plan. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available to ensure adequate resources for implementation of the Action Plan, and to report on any progress.

Noting the findings and recommendations of the 2017 mission, the project design for Kidunda Dam should firstly attempt to avoid any inundation of the property. If this is not possible, its acceptability would need to be determined. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to include a model for the flooding regime within the ESIA and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The findings of the mission indicate that ISL is only one of many extraction methods being tested at the Mkuju River Project. Depending on the outcomes of these tests, an ESIA is needed to assess the potential impacts of all methods, and it should include details of measures to avoid and mitigate impacts.

The mission was informed that the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project is still at its conceptual stage, whereas the State Party report indicates that Odebrecht has been already allowed to proceed with an EIA. The project is also included in the updated 2016 national Power System Master Plan. The status of the project remains therefore unclear. In light of the Committee's concern over the high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the OUV, and in line with the Committee's position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status (Decision **40 COM 7**), it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to permanently abandon this project.

The mission noted with concern the oil and gas prospecting concession of Kito-1 in the Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site, which also supplies two-thirds of the Rufiji River's waters and may therefore lead to potential downstream impacts on the property. According to the project operator, Swala Oil and Gas plc, drilling is expected to start in the third quarter of 2017. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to not permit drilling until a specialist study on the hydrological regime of the floodplain has been undertaken, subsequently informing the EIA, which should include a specific assessment of potential downstream impacts on the OUV, and both are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The mission additionally identified the emerging threat posed by increasing and intensifying livestock grazing, mainly in the northern section of the property. Although the threat is limited at present, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to proactively develop, as part of the overall management framework, a strategic plan and interventions to secure a sustainable solution to mitigate the impacts of livestock grazing on the OUV.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2017 mission.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party and its international partners for their on-going efforts to address poaching, and requests the State Party to submit the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;*
4. *Welcoming the development of a draft Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the Emergency Action Plan, also requests the State Party to submit the revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available, and to ensure adequate resources are available for the implementation of the Action Plan, and to report on progress made;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the development of a draft Action Plan by the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to strengthen their collaboration to protect the Selous-Niassa corridor, and further requests the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to submit the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Tanzania and China to report on the activities carried out in the framework of their agreement to prevent wildlife crime;*

7. Considering the high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property resulting from the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project, and noting the inclusion of the project in the updated 2016 national Power System Master Plan, strongly urges the State Party to permanently abandon the project;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to fully implement all of the recommendations of the 2017 mission, in particular:
 - a) To consider a project design of the Kidunda Dam that will not inundate any part of the property at full supply level, to include a model for the flooding regime in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,
 - b) To develop an ESIA for the In Situ Leaching (ISL) method and any other method selected at the Mkuju River Project (MRP), should the project proceed to this stage,
 - c) To propose an additional valuable wildlife forest area as an extension of the property as requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 8B.43**;
9. Notes with concern the Kito-1 oil and gas prospecting concession located in the Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site, where drilling is expected to start in the third quarter of 2017, which may impact on the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to not permit drilling to proceed until a specialist study on the hydrological regime of the floodplain and a comprehensive EIA informed by the specialist study, have been undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Notes the emerging threat posed by increasing and intensifying livestock grazing inside the property, and requests moreover the State Party to rapidly develop, as part of the overall management framework, a strategic plan and interventions to secure a sustainable solution to mitigate the impacts of livestock grazing on the OUV of the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

18. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

20. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Irreversible interventions as part of major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4196>

Previous Committee Decisions See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2014: ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to Gelati Monastery; January 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- General need for interior and exterior conservation work on the monuments
- Construction of the visitor centre outside the Gelati Monastery
- Major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral (completed)
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities (issue resolved)
- Lack of coordinated management system (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/>

Current conservation issues
On 30 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/> and which addresses the progress made in the implementation of the Committee's Decision **40 COM 7A.28**, including on the progress in a number of measures implemented concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property:

- Adoption by the Government of Georgia of the National Strategy for Culture, including provisions of the World Heritage Strategy elaborated with the assistance of the EU Eastern Partnership Program;
- Elaboration of the Cultural Heritage Code (CHC), including a special chapter on protection and management of the World Heritage in Georgia;
- Signature of the Memorandum of Collaboration on Cultural Heritage issues between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia;
- Revision of the draft Management Plan for the property in conformity with the ICOMOS recommendations and its submission within the framework of the significant boundary modification proposal;
- Clarification of the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the protection and management of the Gelati Monastery;
- Restoration and stone conservation works in conformity with the Gelati Monastery Conservation Master Plan updated in 2015;
- Construction of the visitor centre outside the Gelati Monastery;
- Planned installation of the digital monitoring system on the Main Church of the Monastery.

On 30 January 2017, the State Party also re-submitted the significant boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre.

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

The State Party provided updated information in response to the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its previous decisions, and supplied information about the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property. It should be noted that, following its referral by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) (Decision **39 COM 8B.35**), the State Party has re-submitted the significant boundary modification of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (see Agenda Item 8B).

It is noted that the extended buffer zone of Gelati Monastery, adopted in 2014 by the decree of the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection, as well as the revised Management Plan of the property, were submitted as part of the significant boundary modification request.

The establishment of the inter-ministerial Steering Committee at the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection to ensure co-ordination among all stakeholders concerned, as well as the signature of the Memorandum of Collaboration on Cultural Heritage issues signed between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia are welcomed.

It is noted that the draft Cultural Heritage Code (CHC), sent to the relevant stakeholders for comments in December 2016, will be submitted, after its finalization, to the Georgian Parliament for approval. Its adoption should be encouraged.

It is also noted that the Patriarchate of Georgia, owner of the property, is responsible for day-to-day management of the site, general upkeep of the territory, ensuring safety, basic cleaning and maintenance within the property. All the physical interventions carried out by the owner within Gelati monastery require the prior approval of the National Agency.

All implemented and ongoing restoration and conservation works are duly noted.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to provide updated information regarding the construction work of the visitor center outside of the Gelati Monastery.

Lastly, it should be noted that the recommendations regarding the revised draft Management Plan, as well as the extension proposal of the buffer zone of Gelati Monastery, will be provided to the State Party by ICOMOS as part of the forthcoming evaluation process of the significant boundary modification request (see Agenda Item 8B).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.28** and **40 COM 8C.2**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property;
4. Notes that the State Party formally re-submitted on 30 January 2017 a significant boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
6. **Decides to retain Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004, extension 2006

Criteria (ii) (iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2006 to present

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

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

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

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- c) Implementation of the Management Plan, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljevisa;

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

Long-term corrective measures:

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

Total amount granted: USD 2,798,348 in 2008-2014 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005; USD 693,330 in 2008-2013 by the Italian Government; USD 76,335 in 2008-2013 by the Czech Government; USD 132,833 in 2008-2013 by the Greek Government; USD 2,010,000 in 2011-2014 by the Government of the Russian Federation and USD 45,000 in 2012-2013 by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo; July 2008, January and August 2009, July 2010, July 2012, January and July 2013, January and June 2014, June and October 2015, April 2016: missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice.

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724>

Current conservation issues

Note: *The Secretariat was informed by UNESCO's Legal Advisor in 2008 that the UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement is achieved.*

At its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn until its next ordinary session the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **40 COM 7A.30**). The state of conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: <http://whc.unesco.org/document/141500>. The present report includes updated information.

On 31 January 2017, the Permanent Delegation of Serbia to UNESCO submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/>. The report provides the following information:

- At the Dečani Monastery works were successfully conducted to install lighting and to restore electrical installations;
- At the Gračanica Monastery conservation and restoration treatments of the frescoes were successfully conducted;
- At the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery and the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša regular inspections took place and concluded that there are no conservation issues at these monuments.

The World Heritage Centre continues to closely monitor the situation through regular exchange of information with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice. Concerning the security situation at the property, it should be noted that three components of the property are currently under the protection of Kosovo Police: the Gračanica Monastery, the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša and the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery. The fourth component of the property, the Dečani Monastery, remains under protection of the NATO-led Kosovo Force, KFOR.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.21*

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34, 38 COM 7A.18, 39 COM 7A.42** and 40 COM 7A.30 adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided in the state of conservation reports of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, and the results of the missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, to the property;*
4. *Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the monuments and the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the Management Plan;*
5. *Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired*

* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

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

6. *Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2018, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue applying the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2018.***

22. Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1150)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
The proposed development of "Liverpool Waters"

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

Corrective measures identified
In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/>

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
October 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance: Lack of overall management of new developments
- High impact research/monitoring activities: Lack of analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and important views related to the property and its buffer zone
- Legal framework: Lack of clearly established maximum heights for new developments, for the backdrops of the World Heritage areas as well as along the waterfront

- Social/cultural uses of heritage: Society's valuing of heritage, lack of awareness of developers, building professionals and the wider public about the World Heritage property, its Outstanding Universal Value and requirements under the World Heritage Convention (understanding of heritage values)
- Buildings and development: Commercial development, housing, interpretative and visitor facilities
- Lack of adequate Management system/management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2016, the State Party transmitted a proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures, and on 25 January 2017, submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents>. The report reiterates the commitment of all stakeholders to safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and provides information on the following issues:

- validity of the planning consent for Liverpool Waters until 2042;
- progress on the development of a new Local Plan, and consequent planned update of the Supplementary Planning Document;
- proposed submission of an updated and revised World Heritage Site Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- continued effort by the State Party to work in partnership with Liverpool City Council (LCC), Historic England and developers to ensure that planning decisions are informed by Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) and that development will be permitted only where it does not adversely affect OUV;
- LCC's endeavors to focus on public consultations and establish public awareness programmes about the City's built heritage and OUV;
- Proposed and approved developments.

The report indicates that within the United Kingdom's legislative framework, the State Party is unable to accede to the Committee's request to limit the granting of planning permissions.

The proposed DSOCR recalls previous Committee decisions, the 2010 Statement of OUV, and the findings of the 2011 and 2015 missions. It identifies methodological approaches and indicators to monitor OUV (physical protection, protection of setting of the attributes and the historic urban landscape) for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It further proposes corrective measures, including updating planning tools and drafting detailed Neighborhood Master Plans and provides information on ongoing public consultation, procedures for adoption of revised instruments, corrective measures for specific projects and ongoing public/private agreements (Central docks underground parking; Princes Dock high rise buildings). The proposed DSOCR also indicates the State Party's intention to assess/approve new developments within the property and its buffer zone despite the absence of key guidance of the future Neighborhood Master Plans.

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

Regarding the DSOCR, the first draft DSOCR was prepared by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and transmitted to the State Party on 29 April 2013. A year later on 15 April 2014, the State Party submitted a new draft DSOCR, which was considered by ICOMOS as a statement of process. This DSOCR was presented at the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014) and the State Party expressed its willingness to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in view of its finalization. Following the invitation of the State Party, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission (24-25 February 2015) provided recommendations on the content of the DSOCR and concluded that if the Committee endorsed the recommendations and was concerned with the loss of OUV due to the scale of developments, it should consider possible delisting of the property. At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the Committee requested the State Party to submit a revised DSOCR by 1 December 2016.

The November 2016 DSOCR still does not specify a desired state of conservation, nor provide appropriate corrective measures. The methodological approach focuses on processes and assumes

that the steps of the process must align with the timing of the State Party's development consent process. As noted by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the final DSOCR should precede finalization of the planning tools and regulatory framework, as these should be part of the corrective measures.

In order to achieve a DSCOR that sets out a state of conservation to be achieved and the corrective measures necessary to achieve that state, the November 2016 DSOCR would need to be revised to:

- Respond to the Committee's 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) requests, and the recommendations of the 2015 mission and 2017 ICOMOS' technical review;
- Acknowledge the importance of protecting key attributes of OUV and the significance of the context of the property and its buffer zone, define and protect important views, support a consistent approach for development processes within the property, its buffer zone and its wider context, and link the strategic city development vision to regulatory planning which provides clear guidelines on protection of OUV;
- Include adopted Neighborhood Master Plans specifying actual heights and built form envelopes for new development, and comprehensive documentation regarding the integration of public-private investment management.

However, since 2013, the DSOCR has been pending and no corrective measures have been adopted. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to clarify by 1 **February 2018**, whether or not such a revised DSOCR can be defined and considered for adoption at its 42nd session in 2018.

At the time of inscription of the property at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee recommended that particular attention be paid to monitoring the process of change within the property. The Committee has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns over the potential threat of the proposed Liverpool Waters development and noted that as planned it would irreversibly damage the attributes of OUV and conditions of integrity. At its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) the Committee noted the conclusions of English Heritage's Impact Assessment on the damaging negative impact of the Liverpool Waters scheme on the OUV of the property. However, outline planning consent was given in 2013 despite all previous Committee recommendations and requests. At its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively, the Committee therefore already considered possible deletion due to the potential threat brought by Liverpool Waters development to the OUV, including authenticity and integrity of the property.

In its 2017 report the State Party indicated that within the United Kingdom's legislative framework it is unable to accede to the Committee's request to limit the granting of planning permissions.

Although no new detailed planning applications were submitted in 2016 for the Central Docks, development applications were approved within the property and buffer zone, including a 34-storey tower at Princes Dock that is part of the Liverpool Waters scheme. The World Heritage Centre was notified after permission was granted and no Heritage Impact Assessment was transmitted. In cases where Heritage England has raised concerns, the World Heritage Centre was notified, but details were not provided.

A final draft of the Liverpool Local Plan is to be submitted in mid-2017. Following the adoption of the new Local Plan, the World Heritage Site (WHS) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is to be reviewed and updated. Detailed Neighborhood Master Plans for the Princes Dock and King Edward areas are being prepared.

Clearly defined attributes that contribute to OUV and substantive commitments to limitations on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form are required. The strategic city development vision needs to be linked to a regulatory planning document, which provides legal guidelines allowing for review of the Liverpool Waters planning application and managing the property with a consistent approach to avoid 'project by project' evaluation of proposals. This highlights the need to align the obligations of the State Party and LCC with appropriate planning mechanisms that protect OUV.

In view of the above analysis, it is recommended that the Committee expresses its deep concern that the projects already approved as well as those approved in outline have actual and potential highly adverse and irreversible impacts on the OUV of the property. Therefore, it is also recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger but consider its deletion from the World Heritage List at its 42nd session in 2018, if the State Party does not reverse course and stop the granting of planning permissions which have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, provide substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable

built form, link the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document, and lastly provide a DSOCR and corrective measures that could be considered for adoption by the Committee.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7A.35**, **38 COM 7A.19**, **39 COM 7A.43**, and **40 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with regret that the implementation of the Liverpool Waters scheme has started with the granting of planning permission for a 34 storey tower at Princes Dock and that the State Party acknowledges that it cannot accede to the Committee's request to limit granting of further planning permissions that impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Considers that the recent planning permissions at Liverpool Waters scheme and elsewhere, and the stated inability of the State Party to control further developments clearly reflect inadequate governance systems and planning mechanisms that undermine protection and management and therefore fail to sustain the OUV of the property;
5. Recalls that it has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns over the impact of the proposed Liverpool Waters development, as it would irreversibly damage the attributes of OUV and conditions of integrity of the property; and also recalls that it already considered possible deletion of the property (Decisions **36 COM 7B.39** and **37 COM 7A.35**) due to the potential threat brought by Liverpool Waters development to the OUV, including the authenticity and integrity of the property;
6. Although noting that the State Party has proposed a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), also regrets that this draft does not provide a comprehensive desired state of conservation nor appropriate corrective measures, and remains a statement of process instead of acknowledging the importance of protecting key attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property, and the significance of the context of the property and its buffer zone;
7. Notes that all stakeholders recognize the serious concerns of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme to the OUV of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to clarify whether a further DSOCR can be defined in line with previous recommendations and further recalls that submission of a further draft of the DSOCR by the State Party and its approval by the Committee should come prior to the finalization and approval of the necessary planning tools and regulatory framework;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit, only if it confirms the feasibility of revising the draft DSOCR in line with previous committee's recommendations, a revised draft of the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as requested in Decision **40 COM 7A.31**,

and to include the approval of the Local Plan and the revised Management Plan as part of the agreed implementation plan for the corrective measures;

10. *Further requests the State Party to progress in the establishment of clearly defined attributes that contribute to OUV and substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form and linking the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides legal guidelines on protection of OUV;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering the deletion of this property from the World Heritage List at its 42nd session** if the State Party does not:*
 - a) *Reverse course and stop the granting of planning permissions which have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,*
 - b) *Provide substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form,*
 - c) *Link the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document,*
 - d) *Submit, lastly, a DSOCR and corrective measures in a form that might be considered for adoption by the Committee;*
12. ***Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

23. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 420)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

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

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

- Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings
- Lack of maintenance for 40 years
- Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials
- Damage caused by the wind

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2007-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 135,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/assistance/>

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

- 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
- Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property
- 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
- Damage caused by earthquakes and the wind (damages due to the 2014 earthquake addressed)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents/>, in which the State Party confirms that the corrective measures are expected to be completed by December 2018 and informs the following:

- The Management Plan 2013-2018 is fully operational;
- Financing was obtained for executing 11 of the 15 interventions that are still to be completed in the Priority Intervention Programme;
- Four infrastructural works have been completed (water, electricity and fences around the Humberstone and Santa Laura components);
- The International Assistance project “Post-Earthquake 2014 Emergency Assistance for Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works, Chile” was concluded. In total, a survey was conducted on 39 properties and a general plan was prepared for the maintenance, safety, shoring up and reinforcement of structures. 6 proposals for intervention were designed and 2 were executed;
- Considerable progress was made with the Conservation Plan, especially regarding a cooperation agreement initiated with Mexico aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of institutions linked to World Heritage in both countries and development of conservation and monitoring plans;
- Safety measures and surveillance were maintained and the site is now completely fenced off with only one entrance to both saltpeter works;
- Drainage works in Humberstone were built;
- A Dissemination Campaign is being executed with seminars, workshops, exhibitions and special newspapers.

Regarding the definition and protection of the property and the buffer zone, studies on the Zoning Plan of the Municipality Pozo Almonte (the administrative territory where the site is located) showed that this protection cannot be achieved under the Urban Development and Construction Act. Alternative legal models will have to be identified.

As to the creation of the Ministry of Culture, this was approved by the Lower House in August 2016. It is expected that the Senate will give its approval this year.

Finally, in 2016 the “National Center for World Heritage Sites” (NCWHS) began to function within the recently created Assistant National Board for Managing Heritage of the Board of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM). This NCWHS is to encourage a coordinated management, conservation and dissemination of the World Heritage Sites, in close cooperation with the National Monuments Council (NMC). It currently has five professionals of different disciplines with wide experience dealing with heritage and its management (including a specialist on management devoted to the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works).

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

The report of the State Party is very encouraging and the information that is given confirms that the 10 corrective measures, adopted in 2013 to be implemented within five years, may indeed be concluded by the end of 2018:

- i) *Priority Intervention Programme*: Of the 28 interventions, 13 have been completed, 11 are under execution and are pending. The infrastructural works have been completed;
- ii) *Conservation Plan*: Progress is underway as planned;
- iii) *Security and Protection*: All measures have been taken and are under continuous implementation. Permanent security staff and the fencing of the property and access control through one single entrance should be recognized as important steps;
- iv) *Management Plan and Management System*: The plan for 2014-2018 is under full implementation and a qualified management team is in place that consists of 30 persons, including managers, specialized personnel, security staff, etc.;

- v) *Management Plan articulated with local and regional planning instruments*: Coordination with local authorities is established, but more detailed information on this matter would be welcomed;
- vi) and vii) *Sustained human, material and financial resources and stable contribution by the State*: A national programme for Chilean World Heritage sites has been initiated that will provide continuity in the government's policy towards the conservation and management of the sites and will ensure a permanent programme of investments;
- viii) *Visitor Security Measures*: Several measures were reported in earlier reports. A Risk Management Plan is now under preparation in cooperation with the Federico Santa Maria University;
- viii) *Visitor Strategy and Interpretation Plan*: An interpretation plan was developed in 2012-2013 and in addition audio-guided tours are now available for visitors. An assessment of interpretation and presentation was commissioned late 2016 and its results will become available in 2017;
- ix) *Site's facilities and activities contribute to the conservation and protection*: The Saltpeter Museum Corporation generates its own funds from donations, ticket sales etc. for an amount of USD 540,000 in 2016;
- (x) *Buffer zone*: New legal models need to be explored for the protection of the buffer zones. This remains one of the main pending issues to be resolved.

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures and that it request the State Party to continue their implementation with a particular attention to the matter of the definition and protection of the buffer zone.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to structure its next report according to the 10 corrective measures scheduled for the five-year period 2014-2018 and with reference to the set of indicators identified in Decision **37 COM 7A.37**. This will assist the State Party and the Committee to more precisely assess the progress made in the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party and congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the programme of corrective measures;*
4. *Welcomes the progress made in the creation of the Ministry of Culture of Chile and the establishment of the "National Center for World Heritage Sites";*
5. *Invites the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures so that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) may be achieved by the end of 2018, as scheduled;*
6. *Requests the State Party to pay particular attention to the establishment of a buffer zone and the definition of regulatory measures to ensure its protection;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, addressing in*

detail the five-year programme of corrective measures 2014-2018 and the indicators as included in Decision **37 COM 7A.37**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

8. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zones
- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)

Total amount approved: USD 76,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993: technical mission; November 2001, March 2009, March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zones

- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)
- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/>, in which it is informed, that in response to the World Heritage Committee's approval of the revised programme and timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures in the period 2016-2019 (**40 COM 7A.3**), the State Party took all the necessary steps for their implementation. Among the actions undertaken during 2016, the following is reported:

- *Definition of boundaries and buffer zones:* The process is under way in coordination with relevant ministries and authorities. This is expected to be completed by mid-2017. The cadastral plans of all fortifications of Portobelo and its subsequent registration are currently being surveyed and updated;
- *Management Plan / Master Plan:* Desk studies and diagnosis of existing tools and plans are being undertaken in preparation for a consultancy that should start in March 2017;
- *Territorial regulation:* The POT (Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial) of Portobelo was not yet approved by the Ministry of Housing but is in process of drafting and revision;
- *Strategies for protection and conservation:* This study has a 75% progress;
- *Budgetary allocations:* The budget request to the Ministry of Finance and Economy for the implementation of the corrective measures in 2017 was not approved and a number of interventions foreseen under the Emergency Plan could not be undertaken. The Ministry of Finance is now in the final stages of negotiation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) to obtain funding for emergency interventions and for the implementation of the corrective measures;
- The reactivation of the "National Commission for World Cultural and Natural Heritage" and the active participation of the Ministry of the Environment and the Panama Tourism Authority strengthened institutional collaboration and participation. In this regard, the Public Use Plans for the Protected Forest of San Lorenzo and for the National Park of Portobelo were created by the Ministry of the Environment.

While the National Institute for Culture (INAC) is legally responsible for the national cultural heritage, the management of the property continues to be entrusted to the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo (PPSL), which received funding from INAC to strengthen its capacities. PPSL has appointed an architectural conservationist as project manager, and the strengthening of management arrangements and the creation of a technical office are well underway. The activity report of the Patronato also includes information on the preparation of a new visitor centre with funding from the Tourism Authority.

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

Considering the report submitted, it is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for its very clear understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and of the actions required for the implementation of the corrective measures and the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

The strengthening of the institutional arrangements with the Ministry of the Environment, the Panama Tourism Authority and local authorities is most welcomed.

However, it should be recalled that the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2012 and that the State Party was not able to implement the corrective measures foreseen for the period 2012-2015. A new strategy, work plan and timeframe were proposed by the State Party and adopted by the Committee in 2016. While the state of conservation report confirms the commitment of the institutions directly responsible for the conservation and management of the property, it remains a

matter of very serious concern that sustained budgetary allocations for the implementation of the Emergency Plan and the programme of corrective measures are still lacking. It is commendable that efforts are being made to obtain a loan from the IADB and grants from other sources but it should be stressed that sustained government funding should be a priority and is indispensable for the implementation of the Emergency Plan and the programme of corrective measures as agreed upon with the World Heritage Committee. Several corrective measures and interventions foreseen under the Emergency Plan could not be initiated in 2016-2017 due to lack of funding and it is feared that in the absence of this funding the very serious threats to the physical fabric of the property, its conservation and appropriate management may aggravate in a short period of time.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the commitment of the institutions responsible for the conservation and management of the property and their efforts to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and coordination;*
4. *Notes, however, with great concern that there is a continued lack of sustained funding from the State Party that jeopardizes the implementation of the Emergency Plan and the corrective measures foreseen for 2016-2019 and, as a consequence, may seriously affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its attributes, including its authenticity and integrity;*
5. *Urges the State Party to secure sustained government funds that are required for the integral implementation of the strategy, work plan and timeframe 2016-2019 in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by 2019;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
7. ***Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1986-present

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 118,700

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010 and December 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>, which provides updated information on actions undertaken in 2016, and on the implementation of the corrective measures and Decision **40 COM 7A.4**, as follows:

- The inter-institutional cooperation agreement between Plan COPESCO (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism) and the Ministry of Culture for the expansion of the site museum has been signed, and foresees the expansion of the exhibition space, visitor services, areas for

administration and management, facilities for conservation workshops as well as the required space for the Pan-American Conservation Centre for Earthen Heritage Sites (PCCEHS);

- The Archaeological Intervention Manual is in implementation whereas the Risk Prevention Plan is in process of development on the basis of guidelines established in 2013. In the first semester of 2017 inter-institutional and interdisciplinary groups will start preparing the first risk response plans to identified threats;
- The Decentralised Department of Culture-La Libertad (DDC-LIB, Ministry of Culture) submitted, in April 2016, Guidelines for the Regulation of the Buffer Zones to the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo, which are now under review by the Planning and Urban Development Office (PLANDET);
- The updated version of the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex is in its final phase of approval by the Minister of Culture;
- The Draft Regulations of Law 28161 regarding illegal occupation was referred to and evaluated by the Prime Minister's Office and the observations made are now under review.

Furthermore, the State Party reports on conservation and maintenance actions undertaken in 2015 and 2016, as well as on the completion of the preventive measures that were decided in response to the El Niño phenomenon of 2014.

Comprehensive information on several Public Investments Projects (PIP) is also reported, along with detailed information on budget and implementation of the activities of the Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Heritage Sites. Moreover, its activities in 2016 were concentrated on research, environmental and conservation monitoring, and documentation with the use of advanced technology. Cleaning and awareness activities were also implemented.

As to the completion of the corrective measures, the report includes an assessment of the progress made in the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and concludes that the completion of the main issues – approval of the updated Master Plan, approval of Law 28161 and regulations of the buffer zone - are still pending.

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

It is considered that important progress has been made in the conservation and management of the property, the implementation of the corrective measures and the achievement of the DSOCR.

The agreement for the expansion of the museum, its facilities and the Conservation Centre is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for its actions in areas of research, monitoring, conservation and awareness raising.

It is noted that the three following main pending matters are in the final stage of conclusion:

- The formal adoption of the Master Plan by the Minister of Culture;
- The review of the Guidelines document proposed by DDC-LIB, for the regulation of the buffer zone, by the Planning and Urban Development Office of the Municipality of Trujillo;
- The review of the draft regulations for Law 28161, which will address the issue of illegal occupations, following observations made by the Office of the Prime Minister.

While it is understood that the completion of administrative processes may take long, it is still recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to give high priority to these matters as they are essential requirements for the adequate conservation and management of the property.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures that are required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. Welcomes the agreement for the extension of the site museum and its facilities, as well as the Pan-American Conservation Centre for Earthen Heritage Sites (PCCEHS), among others;
5. Acknowledges the commitment expressed by the State Party to update the Archaeological Intervention Manual and the Integral Risk Prevention Plan;
6. Takes note of the progress made in three main pending issues and that administrative processes for their completion are under way, and urges the State Party to give high priority to:
 - a) The formal adoption of the Master Plan by the Minister of Culture,
 - b) The formal delimitation of the buffer zone and elaboration of its regulatory measures, which may incorporate the Guidelines document proposed for the Municipality of Trujillo,
 - c) The review of the draft regulations for Law 28161 which will address the issue of illegal occupations, following observations made by the Office of the Prime Minister;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

27. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (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-present

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

- Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004, 2005 and 2010
- Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property
- 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
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965>

Updated in 2015: see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6263>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 20,000 (Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage) 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 and September 2006: World Heritage Centre missions to assessment of the state of conservation; July 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Serious deterioration of materials and structures
- Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property
- Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms
- Absence of detailed and technical information on the state of conservation of the property since 2007
- Flooding and water damage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/>. Previously it had also submitted a Progress Report in Spanish on 7 December 2016. The reports respond to the matters raised by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **40 COM 7A.5**, as well as to the set of revised corrective measures approved in Decision **38 COM 7A.23**. The State Party provides the following information:

- A description and maps detailing preliminary proposals for the extension of the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zones for both components of the property, noting that additional studies are needed for the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification;
- Information is provided on several conservation activities, and the revitalization of important buildings and spaces for sustainable public use. It includes new diagnostic research tools and a timeline to complete a detailed state of conservation inventory for all buildings of heritage value in the property;
- Extensive cooperation and collaboration linkages have been established between the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPC), the management authority (OPEDAP), other State institutions and authorities, and Community Councils that participate in and support the property's conservation;
- Information is also included on the successful transmission of traditional know-how through a social enterprise established to preserve traditional mud construction techniques in the property's restoration efforts. Furthermore, a great number of awareness and capacity-building workshops and other activities have been conducted in the communities;

- The various legal tools at the national, state, and local levels related to heritage governance and conservation are detailed. Recent ordinances issued by the relevant Municipalities regulate the use, functions and conservation approaches of buildings in the property. These instruments are crucial in addressing the matter of abandoned and neglected properties of heritage value;
- It also presents substantial information on completed diagnostic tests and possible solutions to improve the drainage system in both property components.

The State Party furthermore reports advances on the Management Plan's elaboration, including the development of a methodological schema to guide the process, the leadership provided by a Mixed Commission, and the participation of various institutional and community actors.

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

The information provided by the State Party demonstrates in clear terms its commitment at all levels of government and the wide participation of the community in the property's ongoing management and conservation efforts.

It is recommended that the Committee recognize the remarkable progress of the State Party in addressing the corrective measures needed to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and request the State Party to provide further analysis on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Desired state of conservation, particularly in conservation and restoration interventions, integration of traditional know-how and support for capacity building, and sustainable development strategies and public use plans in the two communities. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish a new timeline for the implementation of the corrective measures, given the State Party's recognition that the previously established timeline updated in 2015 (Decision **39 COM 7A.48**) will not be achieved.

Considering the preliminary proposal submitted by the State Party for extending the property's boundaries, it is recommended that consideration be given as to whether these proposals fall within the Minor Boundary Modification process as defined in the Operational Guidelines or if this is more likely to require a process for a significant boundary modification. It is recommended that the Committee therefore request the State Party to develop and finalize a clear boundary definition strategy in a timely manner and with the assistance of ICOMOS, considering its importance for alignment with the Management Plan and continued implementation of all other corrective measures.

The main outstanding corrective measures to address are still the preparation of a Management Plan that includes a disaster risk preparedness plan, and the lack of a suitable drainage system to prevent further material damage to the property.

Regarding the Management Plan, the State Party should clearly articulate the methodology and timeframe for its elaboration and approval. In doing so, it should explain the coherence between the new inventory and timeline for collecting state of conservation information on heritage buildings outlined in the report, and the methodological schema for the Management Plan's elaboration included in the Progress Report. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate the need to submit the completed disaster risk management plan as part of the Management Plan.

Recognizing the advancement of technical studies and diagnoses for the property's drainage system, it is further recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to provide plans for the implementation of the proposed solutions, including a prioritized timeline, and demonstrate that sufficient financial resources have been secured for the project.

Furthermore, regarding the many advancements in addressing the corrective measures, as noted by the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission and in the Committee's last decision, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide explicit, clear, and complete information on all relevant details regarding the status of implementation of all corrective measures, following the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Appreciates the continued efforts by the State Party in implementing the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, and recognizes the steady progress in conservation and management of both public and private structures within the property;
4. Also appreciates the inclusion of Community Councils and the two communities at large as integral participants in the property's conservation and management efforts, and commends the State Party on its initiatives for capacity building and transmission of traditional know-how for the sustainable development and use of the property;
5. Notes that the State Party requires additional time for the implementation of the corrective measures, as updated in Decision **39 COM 7A.48**, and therefore requests the establishment of a new detailed timeframe for the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures;
6. Also note the preliminary proposal submitted by the State Party to redefine the property's boundaries and buffer zones and also requests the State Party to work with ICOMOS to consider options for the redefinition of the property's boundaries as a matter of priority, considering its primacy for continued management and conservation efforts;
7. Also urges the State Party to finalize and submit the property's Management Plan, including the disaster risk management plan, taking into account the definition of the property's boundaries;
8. Recognizing the advancements in diagnosing and proposing potential solutions for the property's drainage system, further urges the State Party to develop a prioritized and costed plan to begin the implementation of these solutions;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide, as noted in the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, clear and comprehensive information on the progress towards the full implementation of the entire set of corrective measures;
10. Considers that once the State Party has resolved the boundary definition process, and has demonstrated significant progress in implementing the Management Plan and an adequate drainage system, an assessment could then be made to determine whether the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has been reached;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

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

- Serious deterioration of materials in the historic town and continued decay at the archaeological sites
- Inappropriate interventions
- Erosion of the architectural coherence of the town
- Lack of implementation of regulatory and planning tools

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1981-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 84,577

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 110,000 (Italian Funds-in-Trust); USD 23,100 (Croisi Europe); USD 86,900 (European Commission); USD 53,000 (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2005: World Heritage Centre missions; 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; 2014, 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- No management and conservation plan
- Pressure from urban development
- Deterioration of dwellings
- Waste disposal problems
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Unstable security situation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 January 2017, in response to Decision **40 COM 7B.13**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/116/documents/>,

and supplemented by a more detailed evaluation report submitted on 3 May 2017, available at the same web address. These reports provide the following information:

- Of the 20 corrective measures adopted by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7B.13**), five have begun to be implemented:
 - ✓ Measures have been taken to provide land titles (properties of the State) to the four archaeological sites of the property, to protect them from land pressure,
 - ✓ The surveillance system for the property has been strengthened, particularly at the archaeological sites of Djenné-Djeno, Hambarkétolo and Kaniana, but these sites remain subject to risks of degradation and looting,
 - ✓ Physical protection and site enhancement continue with the improvement of the stone barrier system and the installation of markers and additional signage,
 - ✓ Sustainable conservation measures for riverbanks are undertaken as part of a project with the Agan Khan Trust for Culture Foundation (AKTC) funded up to the amount of 300,000 euros. These measures will contribute to a lasting solution to the problem of illegal riverbank occupations while solving the thorny sanitation issue,
 - ✓ Information and awareness-raising programmes continue through workshops, radio broadcasting of messages relating to sanitation, protection of archaeological sites and the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property;
- The flood caused by torrential rains in August 2016 caused the collapse or degradation of some monumental houses in the old urban fabric, including the old Moroccan Palace dating back to the 16th century;
- Cracks appear on some pillars of the great mosque of Djenne but do not presently pose a threat to the integrity of the monument;
- The Conservation and Management Plan for the site has not yet been updated, but funding has been mobilized to achieve this before the end of 2017. This funding is part of the implementation of the second phase of the cultural heritage rehabilitation programme of Mali (2017-2020). The first phase of this programme launched in 2013, concentrated on Timbuktu;
- The urban planning regulation document, although validated at the regional level, has not yet been adopted by the Council of Ministers or implemented;
- The Cultural Mission of Djenné does not yet have sufficient financial resources and adequate logistical means to effectively implement its activities.

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

The efforts made by the State Party to initiate the implementation of corrective measures to ensure the best conditions for the integrity and authenticity of the property are well noted. The fragility of the security situation in Mali is slowing down the State Party's response capacity, resulting in a low level of implementation of the corrective measures (5 out of 20 measures being implemented). This situation is also explained by a low level of financing mobilized for Djenné, the financial partners having mainly expressed interest in Timbuktu and concentrated their support on that site. It is therefore recommended that the Committee take note of the progress made by the State Party and encourage it to continue, and to increase awareness amongst its partners for supporting Djenné in the framework of the Action Plan for the second phase of rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of Mali.

It is also noted with concern that new problems emerged after the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2016. This includes the collapse or degradation of some monumental houses, of which the old Moroccan Palace dating from the 16th century. Added to this is the appearance of cracks, following flooding caused by the torrential rains in August 2016, on the pillars of the emblematic Djenné Mosque, the first edifice of which was built in the 13th century. Despite the efforts deployed, there are also difficulties as regards the archaeological sites, which remain subject to risks of degradation and looting owing to an upsurge of insecurity and attacks by terrorist groups. To this end, it is recommended that the Committee express its concern and encourage the State Party to seek a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

Moreover, the review of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, as well as the implementation of the urban planning regulation, and the reinforcement of the operational

capacities of the Cultural Mission of Djenné, appear to be of high priority. It is therefore necessary to update and supplement the provisional corrective measures adopted by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7B.13**). It is also essential to prepare as soon as possible a proposal for a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as requested by the same decision.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. The security situation made it impossible to organize the mission requested by the Committee in 2016.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of some of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session, in a difficult security context in Mali, and with the lack of adequate resources at the local level, which slowed down their Implementation;*
4. *Notes that despite the inadequate financial and logistical resources available to the Cultural Mission of Djenné, resources have been allocated to the finalization of the Conservation and Management Plan by the end of 2017, and that measures are ongoing for awareness raising for the fight against illicit traffic;*
5. *Also expresses its concern at the appearance of further deterioration in the old urban fabric of the property after the flooding caused by the torrential rains in August 2016, which led to the collapse of certain monumental houses, including the old Moroccan Palace dating back to the 16th century; and at the risks of degradation and looting of the archaeological sites;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to seek a request for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund in order to implement priority actions for the rehabilitation of these damaged monumental houses;*
7. *Notes with appreciation the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's support for the sustainable riverbank conservation measures;*
8. *Expresses its concern at the fragility of the security situation in Djenné, which prevented the organization of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the security situation will be stabilized in Mali, this joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;*
9. *Also notes that international support for the buildings has focused mainly on Timbuktu, and calls upon the international community to support the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, by all possible means, for the conservation and protection of the property, in particular in the implementation of the Action Plan for the second phase of the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of Mali;*

10. *Requests the State Party to update and finalize the list of corrective measures, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, with an updated implementation calendar, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
12. ***Decides to retain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

29. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1990-2005, 2012-present

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

- Occupation of the property by armed groups;
- Absence of management;
- Destruction of 14 mausoleums and degradation of the three mosques in the serial property.

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6622>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1981-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 188,315

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 55,000 from the UNESCO Emergency Fund; USD 2,100,000 from the Action plan Fund for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2005, 2006: World Heritage Centre missions; 2008, 2009 and 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May, October and December 2012: UNESCO emergency missions to Mali; June 2013: UNESCO assessment mission to Timbuktu

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Occupation of the property by armed groups
- Lack of management structure at the site
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 January 2017, in response to Decision **40 COM 7A.6**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/119/documents/>, and supplemented by a more detailed evaluation report submitted on 3 May 2017, available at the same Web address. These reports provide the following information:

- Of the 12 corrective measures adopted by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7A.6**), seven have been fully carried out and/or are being implemented:
 - ✓ The two mosques of Sankoré and Sidi Yahia were rehabilitated with the participation of local communities;
 - ✓ The plaster work of the Djingareyber mosque was also carried out with the participation of local communities;
 - ✓ A mausoleum maintenance guide has been developed;
 - ✓ The security situation around the mausoleums and mosques has improved thanks to the lighting of the premises through the installation of solar panels and because of the increase of the United-Nations police patrols in the city;
 - ✓ The operational capacities of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu were strengthened following on-the-job training, and its staff was expanded with the recruitment of two persons;
 - ✓ Funding was mobilized by UNESCO from the European Union (500,000 euros) and by the State Party from India (USD 500,000) to strengthen the rehabilitation and restoration of the cultural heritage of Timbuktu. In this context, the fences of the mausoleum cemeteries will be rehabilitated to consolidate their security. The Conservation and Management Plan for the property, as well as the buffer zone boundaries, will also be revised;
 - ✓ The Management Committee for the property is being revitalized with all stakeholders;
- The recent corrugated sheet construction of a modern bakery in the heart of the market interferes with the architectural homogeneity of the site and generates noise and environmental nuisance;
- Instability of the security situation: despite the increase in military presence, this security situation is still not under control.

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

It is important to highlight the progress made by the State Party in an unstable security context in the implementation of more than half of the corrective measures, in order to ensure the best conditions for the integrity and authenticity of the property. The rehabilitation of the mosques of Sankoré and Sidi Yahia and of the plaster work of the Djingareyber mosque have made it possible to consolidate the architectural structures of these more-than-five-centuries-old historic monuments and to ensure their physical conservation. This work, which brought together the local communities, contributes to the restoration of their dignity, social cohesion and national reconciliation.

The strengthening of the operational capacities of the Cultural Mission of Timbuktu, as well as the mobilization of additional funding from the European Union and India are also welcomed. This positive trend is favourable to the implementation of all the corrective measures. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Committee commends the State Party for the progress achieved and encourages the State Party to continue its progress.

Nevertheless, the security situation still remains unstable, despite the increase of the military presence on the ground. This situation made it impossible to organize the UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM

Reactive Monitoring mission requested by Decision **40 COM 7A.6**. In addition, the State Party was unable to finalize the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as requested in that decision.

Moreover, the recent corrugated sheet construction of a modern bakery in the heart of the market is a cause for concern, given the contrast it creates to the architectural homogeneity and the noise and environmental nuisance it causes. In view of this situation, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to update and implement the urban regulations in the inscribed perimeter, ancient fabric and buffer zones as soon as possible. It is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to accelerate the finalization of the DSO CR with the support of its partners.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session in a difficult security context in northern Mali and encourages it to continue with the support of its partners;*
4. *Expresses its concern at the fragility of the security situation in Timbuktu which prevented the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission from being carried out in order to assess the general state of conservation of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to update and implement the urban regulations within the inscribed perimeter, the ancient fabric and the buffer zones of the property, as soon as possible;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to continue to provide support to the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in all possible ways, for the conservation and protection of the property;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the situation in the northern region of Mali is stabilized, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a precise timetable for implementation, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
10. *Decides to pursue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;*

11. **Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Occupation of Gao city by armed groups
- Inability to ensure daily management for the protection and conservation of the property
- Risk of collapse of the property

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6623>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 54,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO Emergency Fund: USD 40,000; Action plan for the rehabilitation of cultural heritage and the safeguarding of ancient manuscripts in Mali: USD 50,000

Previous monitoring missions

May 2012: Emergency UNESCO mission to Bamako; October and December 2012: World Heritage Centre monitoring missions to Bamako; February 2014: UNESCO assessment mission to Gao

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of site management
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 January 2017, in response to Decision **40 COM 7A.7**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1139/documents/>, and supplemented by a more detailed evaluation report submitted on 3 May 2017, available at the same web address. These reports provide the following information:

- Of the 10 corrective measures adopted by the Committee (Decision **40 COM 7A.7**), three have begun to be implemented:
 - ✓ The rehabilitation of the property, comprising the renovation of the roof terrace (men's mosque) and the elimination of the accumulated materials, has been undertaken. The

slopes were also redefined in order to distribute the rainwater uniformly to all the existing gargoyles so as to guarantee the durability of the entire mosque,

- ✓ Funding has been identified to revise and update the Conservation and Management Plan of the site before the end of 2017,
- ✓ Operational capacities of the management body (Cultural Mission of Gao) for the property have been strengthened: a new site manager was appointed in March 2017. However, since the crisis of 2012, the functioning of the management body has slowed down;
- The Tomb of Askia was inscribed in December 2016 on the List of Cultural Properties under Enhanced Protection in the framework of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict 1999;
- The necropolis of the men's mosque is progressively degrading due to water erosion caused by the heavy rains of August-September 2016;
- The esplanade of the property is insalubrious due to the waste dumped daily by residents living on the site;
- The security situation has deteriorated in the city and region of Gao and tends to hinder the local communities' conservation dynamics;
- The cessation of tourism activity has contributed to further impoverish the local communities and to also reduce the community contribution to the conservation and management of the property.

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

The efforts made by the State Party in a difficult security context to initiate the implementation of corrective measures to ensure the best conditions for the integrity and authenticity of the property should be noted. The risk of partial collapse of the property has been reduced with the rehabilitation work carried out on the roof, and constitutes a major achievement in the conservation of its physical components. The appointment of a site manager is also welcomed, as is the future update of the Management Plan. Thus, the daily monitoring and protection of the property is expected to improve. It is therefore recommended that the Committee take note of the progress made and encourage the State Party to pursue these efforts.

Furthermore, the inscription of the Tomb of Askia on the List of Cultural Properties under Enhanced Protection is also welcomed. It provides an opportunity to strengthen synergies on the ground between the 1954 and 1972 Conventions.

Nevertheless, the low level of implementation of the corrective measures is to be noted. Only three out of seven have begun to be executed. Furthermore, the State Party was not able to finalize the proposal for a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as requested by Decision **40 COM 7A.7**. The fragility of the security situation in northern Mali also prevented the organization of the UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission requested by this same decision of the Committee to assess the general state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of corrective measures.

Moreover, in view of the problems raised by the degradation of the necropolis of the mosque and the insalubrity of the esplanade, urgent action must be taken in order to avoid an aggravation of the situation.

To this end, it is recommended that the Committee express its concern and urge the State Party to accelerate the implementation of the corrective measures and the finalization of the DSOOCR with the support of its partners. The State Party could also be encouraged to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

It is also regrettable that community involvement in the conservation of the site is declining. Thus, there is a need to consider alternative tourism activities, based on the development of other local potentials that could generate income.

In view of all these conservation issues, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session in a difficult security context in northern Mali, and encourages it to pursue its efforts with the support of its partners;
4. Expresses its concern about the unstable security situation in Gao, which did not allow the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be organized in order to assess the general state of conservation of the property;
5. Also expresses its concern at the problems of degradation of the necropolis of the men's mosque due to water erosion caused by heavy rains in August-September 2016, and also encourages the State Party to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the rehabilitation of this necropolis;
6. Notes with satisfaction the granting of the status of Enhanced Protection to Tomb of Askia under the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the opportunity thus offered to strengthen synergies on the ground between the 1954 and 1972 Conventions;
7. Taking note of the decline in community participation in the conservation of the site, requests the State Party to take measures to promote the latter;
8. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in all possible ways, for the conservation and protection of the property;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the security situation in the northern region of Mali is stabilized, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;
10. Also requests the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a clear implementation timetable, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
12. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;

13. **Also decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

31. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Fire that resulted in the destruction of part of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 111,292

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 2011-2012: USD 68,365 from the Japanese FIT for an Expert Appraisal Mission; 2013-2016 (project on hold pending completion of the Master Plan): USD 650,000 from the Japanese FIT for the project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger. 2017: 3,600 USD from the World Heritage Fund for ICOMOS advisory consultancy for the finalization of the elaboration of the Master Plan.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2010, August 2011, November 2011 and August 2013: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission. Since 2014, regular missions by UNESCO Office in Nairobi.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction by fire of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga
- Ground transport infrastructure: Proposed widening of the Masiro Road
- Management systems/management plan: lack of a Master Plan and a complete Management Plan with detailed disaster risk management plan and a tourism management plan.
- Management activities: Management structure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/>. A draft Management Plan was submitted on 1 March 2017.

- *Reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga:* Positive progress is reported on construction of the roof rings, although work is slower than anticipated. The first part of the ceiling has now been completed, and work will continue on the remaining part of the ceiling, the roof and the rest of the building. The completion date is now foreseen for the beginning of 2018, with the firefighting and security work running to the end of 2019. There were problems reported with regard to keeping enough thatchers working on the project due to late payment of wages, missing equipment, and other concerns. There is also a need to ensure that the thatchers have sufficient skills in traditional construction techniques;
- *Disaster risk management strategy:* In response to an expert technical review provided by ICOMOS and ICCROM that outlined some concerns over the potential impact of fire-fighting proposals, and the need to ensure that equipment was supported by fire management systems, plans have been provided. These are dated August 2013, however, they have no accompanying explanatory text. The timetable for completion of the installation of fire-fighting equipment is mid-2019, if adequate funding is available. Meanwhile temporary fire-fighting equipment has been installed. An emergency evacuation plan was submitted by the State Party on 1 March 2017. It is reported that there is a lack of security at the property in terms of lighting and patrols. Adequate risk prevention is also still not in place with regard to cooking equipment on the site;
- A draft outline of the contents of a Master Plan has been provided, and the State Party will continue this work with guidance from ICOMOS;
- Two plans are provided showing the layout of the property as it is now, and as proposed, with the latter showing structures that will be demolished, rebuilt, or renovated and the location of new structure including kitchens, a solar power plant, and a borehole and underground tanks. No detailed descriptions have been provided for these proposals, although several were discussed during the last Reactive Monitoring mission. The report also contains an extract from the Kampala Spatial Physical Development Plan of 2012 with information on the development of a Bus Mass Transport system for Kampala. This indicates routes linking Kasubi to other main cultural attractions, although the relevance of these to the property is not indicated;
- A draft Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 March 2017. It is an updating of the previous plan;
- No progress is reported on the development of an overall capacity-building strategy, although considerable efforts have been invested in training and motivating skilled artisans;
- The proposal for the widening of Masiro Road no longer has a high priority amongst other road schemes for the capital;
- *Detailed plans for the conservation of the Bujabukua:* Efforts have been made to provide temporary shoring for this important traditional building, and measured drawings are provided. A detailed restoration proposal will be prepared in the future, but work cannot begin until the work on the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is completed.

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

Progress on installing the roof rings of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is welcomed, though this has been slower than anticipated. Much of 2016 was taken up with resolving equipment needs and technical issues, which it is hoped have now been resolved. Problems have also arisen on site with regard to the work of the thatchers. This is expected to be resolved by the end of 2017, and work is now proceeding at a good quality although still somewhat slower than originally foreseen. ICOMOS and ICCROM emphasize that ongoing work on the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga should continue respecting the traditional construction systems, as the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) refers several times to traditional craftsmanship. The reconstruction project should aim not only to complete the reconstruction of the building but also to reviving and sustaining traditional skills. For this reason, it

is recommended that the State Party give high priority to augmenting the skilled workforce with experienced artisans, and to resolving cash flow problems that have impacted adversely on the workers. Reports done on the extrabudgetary Japanese-funded project show that the master thatcher, a community elder, is ensuring that the young thatchers have the adequate skills in traditional construction techniques. These trainings are welcomed and are further encouraged. Indeed, training, and overall valorization of the traditional artisans, should be considered a priority.

Initial progress with the development of the Master Plan is welcomed and further encouraged. It is recommended that this work be given high priority as it is a means to define, justify and coordinate the various development activities at the property (and around the property such as the proposed Bus Transit System), which currently remain separate and lack detail. It is not possible to comment on the various proposals set out in the annotated plan of the site on the basis of that plan alone. There needs to be a clear differentiation between the Master Plan that concentrates on coordinating development and the Management Plan that puts in place ongoing systems of management. Until the Master Plan is in place, the need to halt all new development is reiterated, and this includes work on reconstructing or conserving buildings (other than the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga) and building new structures. The work of the Reconstruction Committee, which has a coordinating role, is also welcomed.

It is to be noted that the extrabudgetary project funded by Japan through UNESCO on the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga contains risk preparedness and conservation activities. This project has been put on hold since July 2015 pending completion of the Master Plan. Until the extension of the project is approved, the funding for firefighting is not guaranteed.

The ICOMOS technical review (commented by ICCROM) of the fire-fighting proposals recommended that the Pump house and associated oil storage areas be re-located at least 20 metres from the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. From the plans now provided, this recommendation does not appear to have been adopted. The plans provided are dated August 2013, and there is a need to clarify if the recommendations of the technical review have been taken into account. The review stressed the fact that technical measures can only reduce the risk and need to be augmented by fire safety management practices (including banning cooking fires in the vicinity of thatched buildings) as part of a wider risk-prevention strategy. As the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga is likely to be completed before all the fire-fighting equipment is in place, the development of an overall risk prevention strategy remains a very high priority to be developed as part of the completion of the management plan. Such a strategy also needs to address the similarly urgent need for adequate security in terms of lighting and patrols. ICOMOS and ICCROM are concerned, however, about the appropriateness of proposed lighting at the site, both in terms of lamps that are foreseen for the courtyard, and for lighting which appears to be planned for inside the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga. It will be important to find lighting solutions that do not become visually distracting and therefore detract from the traditional aspects of the property. The training in firefighting carried out is welcomed and further encouraged.

The draft Management Plan provides an organizational chart for site management, and includes action plans for improvement of management practices, site maintenance, preservation of intangible heritage and disaster risk management (DRM). In regard to the DRM Plan, however, it does not appear that much progress has been made on its finalization. Given the strong priority on interim DRM measures and given that the new fire equipment may still take several years to be installed, it is advised that the State Party place a strong emphasis on completing this DRM Plan as soon as possible. There is also no mention of a Tourism Development Plan.

In regard to the management framework, there are discrepancies that illustrate a need to reconsider the management structure and make sure that the management plan reflects the realities of management on the ground. For example, the State Party indicates that the current chart reflects the updated management at the property. Yet, while within the text the Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board is indicated as now acting as the site manager, the chart does not reflect this fact. Another example is the Contractor, Omega, which has been let go according to the report, is still within the organizational chart.

In terms of timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, in the light of a clearer understanding of when the main reconstruction work is to be completed, it is recommended that revised timeframes be approved by the Committee for the other corrective measures relating to the completion and implementation of the Management Plan, the development of the Master Plan and the development and implementation of a risk management strategy, for approval by the Committee.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress that has been made in installing the roof rings as part of the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, even though progress has been slower than anticipated;
4. Also welcomes the efforts made by the State Party for instituting training programmes for younger artisans and further encourages these efforts, while noting that high priority should be given to resolving cash flow problems that have impacted adversely on the workers;
5. Further welcomes the initial work undertaken on the Master Plan and encourages the State Party to continue this work, with guidance from the Advisory Bodies as a matter of high priority in the light of the urgent need to define, justify and coordinate the various development activities at the property, which currently remain separate and lack detail, and requests the State Party to halt all new development projects (except the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga) until the Master Plan has been finalized and approved;
6. Expresses its concern that risk management arrangements, encompassing fire-fighting equipment, fire management practices and security and other measures necessary to reduce risks, have still not been fully developed; urges the State Party to undertake this work as soon as possible as part of the finalization of the Management Plan, ensuring that solutions (especially in regard to lighting and other visible elements) respect the traditional aspects of the property; and hopes that the Japanese extrabudgetary project will be able to restart shortly in order to provide all necessary conditions for the success of the implementation of these activities;
7. Notes that the ICOMOS technical review recommends modifications to the fire prevention system to reduce risk and increase effectiveness, and also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, revised plans that address these recommendations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Also notes the progress made on the revised Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to update the organizational structure to take into account the Buganda Heritage Board as site manager, the existence of other committees related to the management of the property and any other changes that have been made to the structure, and to include a Tourism Management Plan;
9. In the light of a clearer understanding of when the main reconstruction work is to be completed, recommends that revised timeframes be suggested by the State Party for the completion of other corrective measures relating to the completion and implementation of the Management Plan, the development of the Master Plan and the development and implementation of a Risk Management Strategy;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;

11. **Decides to retain Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

32. 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-present

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

- 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;
- 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;
- 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
Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 7,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005, 2009 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Rise of the water table, and ensuing damage arising from changes to water table level
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment (works completed)
- Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.)
- 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.
- Encroachments within the property and inappropriate recent constructions
- Lack of engagement with local communities and other stakeholders
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/>, in which the following activities are reported:

- Measures are being taken to implement a Management Plan, comprising a table of 11 activities and projects scheduled over three years;
- A Conservation Plan has been prepared for the archaeological area in the south wall of the long side of the Great Basilica. Other components of the property, including the tomb's burial chamber, some walls of the visitor's courtyard, and the northern and double bathrooms also require conservation;
- A Board of Trustees has been formed from the ministries and stakeholders involved in the management of Abu Mena;
- Encroachments have previously been removed from the property, and the new Board of Trustees is in discussion with local populations regarding the removal of inappropriate new constructions;
- The Ministry of Antiquities has approved 'The Efficiency-Raising and Maintenance of the Groundwater Lowering Project' and is implementing it, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation. The works, which are being undertaken under contract, include purification and development of wells, and raising the efficiency of all pumps and production lines. There is also a proposal to plant hydrophilic plants to reuse and decrease the underground water;
- The State Party has issued an invitation for an Advisory mission to the property, to provide advice on appropriate irrigation and water management technologies;
- The Projects Sector of Ministry of Antiquities is preparing a conservation and capacity building plan, but requires funding for its implementation;
- The Ministry of Antiquities, in coordination with those in charge of the monastery and other stakeholders, proposes to establish a visitor centre at the property. This project has already received approval from the Ministry's Permanent Committee;
- The Ministry of Antiquities has approved modified boundaries for the property with the aim of maintaining and preserving it. The changes involve removal of two triangular areas, across a canal, neither of which contain archaeological remains and both of which are under cultivation. The area removed is approximately 4.5% of the property area. There is a suggestion that these excisions may facilitate construction of a boundary wall, which would discourage encroachments. No proposal has been made regarding the buffer zone for the property and no formal boundary modification request has been lodged.

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

The property has been on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2001; corrective measures were identified in 2006, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was determined in 2007 and, in the same year, the State Party was requested to implement the corrective measures by 2010. Since then, the attributes, which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have deteriorated, notwithstanding some remedial actions. The corrective measures have not been completed and the property has not yet achieved the DSOCR.

The Committee has been requesting the completion of a Management Plan for the property for more than a decade. The Management Plan presented most recently is a schedule of activities and projects, but does not include basic requirements for a Management Plan for a World Heritage property, such as management structure, resources, statutes, research, presentation and interpretation, or the role of stakeholders. Similarly, while the preparation of a Conservation Plan for part of the Great Basilica is welcome, what is actually required is a comprehensive Conservation Plan, which addresses all of the significant components of the property. The conservation and capacity-building plan being prepared by the Projects Sector of Ministry of Antiquities may address some of these requirements, but is currently lacking funding for implementation.

The removal of encroachments (which had occurred in 2016) is welcome, but inappropriate new constructions, which are inconsistent with OUV, remain within the property.

The 'Efficiency-Raising and Maintenance of the Groundwater Lowering' is on the one hand a positive step in addressing a longstanding and substantial threat to the OUV of the property, but also of concern in light of the previously identified unintended damage arising from changes to the water table (Decision **37 COM 7A.23**). The need for mitigation measures for the archaeological remains once the water table has been lowered and stabilized (Decision **40 COM 7A.9**) and the findings of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission that electrical pumping was unsustainable in the long term, and that associated analysis of ways to address the underlying causes of the rising water table are required. This matter should be addressed by the forthcoming Advisory mission.

The proposed visitor centre project should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties*, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has not yet submitted details of all on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica, the reburial strategy, or initiatives arising from the project for restoration and rehabilitation of the property prepared by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mena Monastery administration, for review prior to implementation, including HIAs, as requested in Decision **40 COM 7A.9**.

The State Party should determine an appropriate buffer zone and formally submit a revised modification of the boundaries of both the property and buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Continues to express great concern regarding the state of conservation of the property and the low level of implementation of the recommended corrective measures;*
4. *Notes that the State Party has submitted a schedule of management actions and projects, but urges it to prepare a comprehensive integrated Management Plan for the property;*
5. *Also urges the State Party to proceed with comprehensive implementation of the corrective measures, to protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, with particular attention to the Management Plan and the following issues:*
 - a) *Preparation of a conservation plan for the entirety of property, which includes a condition survey and the identification of priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,*
 - b) *Removal of inadequate new constructions and the creation of facilities to allow for religious uses in areas outside the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;*
6. *Welcomes the 'Efficiency-Raising and Maintenance of the Groundwater Lowering' project, but reiterates its request that the State Party undertake an analysis of ways to address the underlying causes of the rising water table and elaborate a project to*

address them, as well as mitigation measures for the archaeological remains once the water table has been lowered and stabilized;

7. *Also notes that the State Party has invited a technical Advisory mission to the property to provide advice on appropriate irrigation and water management technologies;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit a revised modification of the boundaries of both the property and buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed visitor centre, which has particular regard to potential impact on the OUV of the property, and is prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for all other on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica, the reburial strategy, and initiatives arising from the project for restoration and rehabilitation of the property prepared by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mena Monastery administration, for review prior to implementation;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
12. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

34. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2 (subject to the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism)

37. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

38. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

39. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

40. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

41. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) (C 287)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

42. Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) (C 1433)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2012-present

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

- Degradation of the architectural complex of the Church of the Nativity
- Development pressure
- Tourism pressure

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6244>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6244>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved:1 (from 2014-2016)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted USD 723,000 from Italy (Emergency Action Plan 1997-1998; Conservation and Management Plan 2006-2010).

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Degradation of the architectural complex of the Church of the Nativity
- Development pressure
- Tourism pressure
- Housing
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Water (rain/water table)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission visited the property in September 2016 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1433/documents>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (available at the same address) on 30 January 2017. Progress on conservation issues related to the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports as follows:

- *Progress with restoration of the roof of the Church of the Nativity:* The repair of the roof trusses and the replacement of the roof coverings and rainwater disposal goods were completed in April

2016. At the request of the State Party, the mission took place before the scaffolding was removed in order to allow access to inspect this work. Restoration work of other priority areas including the narthex, external stone façades, internal wall plastering, and wall mosaics interventions were completed in 2015 and 2016 and the overall work is due to be completed in 2019, subject to funding. Of the four corrective measures, three have been completed - a full investigative survey of the historic timbers and lead work of the roof, identifying the age and historical significance of the various component parts; detailed project specification for the roof repairs, and undertaking and documenting the roof repair project, including stabilising the vaults of the Narthex. The Conservation Plan has however not yet been completed. A draft of a Conservation Plan based on a table of contents suggested by the ICOMOS Advisory mission has been compiled by the Presidential Committee for the Restoration of the Church of the Nativity. Following the successful approval of an International assistance request to support the preparation of a Management and Conservation Plan, a contract has been made with Ramallah UNESCO Office for its implementation;

- *Other projects:* The Advisory mission discussed two proposed major projects for a Manger Square Tunnel and Manger Square Village, a commercial outlet with associated car park and recommended that both projects should be halted until a traffic management plan and a sustainable urban mobility plan, have been put in place, and solid justifications for their need have been made, following which an assessment of their potential impact should also be undertaken. The State Party confirms that it welcomes the Advisory mission's recommendations and will act accordingly.

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

The Advisory mission confirmed that work on the conservation of the roof of the Church of the Nativity and of the narthex has now been completed with high technical standards – and the church is now in sound condition as regards the primary factors leading to its decay.

Although the report gives a good record of the works that have been undertaken, there is nevertheless still a need to bring this data together as a single synthetic document for the future, to set out the historical and physical evidence on which conservation work was based, the justifications for the decisions made, and the precise work undertaken to minimise interventions to the historic fabric, especially the very earliest fabric.

There appears to have been some lack of liaison between the documentation side of the project and those deciding on how repair should be carried out. In spite of surveys and dendrochronological analysis, the mission was unable to obtain a clear answer to the fundamental question as to whether the form and some parts of the fabric of the present roof are of 6th century date, or whether they reflect one of the later periods of rebuilding. Given the extreme importance of the church in relation to the early history of Christianity, a clear understanding of how its fabric relates to this history is crucial. The retrospective statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) states that: "*This church [the original one] is overlaid by the present Church of the Nativity, essentially of the mid-6th century AD (Justinian), though with later alterations. It is the oldest Christian church in daily use*". It is clearly necessary to be able to understand, as precisely as possible, which parts are from the 6th century and which reflect later alterations.

A Conservation Plan, as requested by the Committee, is needed to bring together this data, to document precisely what was carried out and why and to set out the evidence on which the decisions were based to ensure minimal intervention in the historic fabric and to allow an understanding of where new material has been introduced. The Plan should also and set out the over-arching conservation policies for all those working on the building, to guide past and future interventions, in relation to the attributes of OUV.

The rationale and documentation for more recent work on mosaics, plaster, and architraves should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The mission also considered that the absence of a Management Plan for the property needs to be addressed as a priority, as a great deal of work has already been done to improve paving and signage, and repair buildings flanking the road, but this has not been undertaken within any agreed framework.

A Management Plan needs to be prepared to set out clearly the management system and to define policies/strategies for development and all other facets of management such as interpretation, access, tourism, traffic management, risk preparedness, etc. It is noted that an International Assistance of USD 30 000 has been recently granted to the State Party to prepare this Management Plan.

Two proposed large projects for a Manger Square Tunnel and Manger Square Village outlet could have the potential to impact adversely and irreversibly on the property. They need further research and justification in relation traffic management and urban mobility, as well as independent Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), before a detailed assessment can be made. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt further progress on these projects and compile necessary supporting documents and submit these with plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions have been made, in line with para 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

On 21-22 March 2017, a Workshop on the management of Cultural Heritage in Palestine was held in Amman, organized by UNESCO Office in Ramallah and attended by two ICOMOS experts. Discussions were held on the management challenges of the property in terms of threats and pressures from inappropriate development, the need to revitalize the social and commercial fabric of the historic core of Bethlehem, and the need to strengthen the current management structure. The property is already starting to respond to these challenges through the development of new management strategies.

In conclusion, it is commendable that the main thrust of the DSOCR has been reached in terms of the church roof now being conserved, and as three of the four corrective measures being achieved. However, the fourth corrective measure, development of a Conservation Plan, is yet in the planning process and major projects are being envisaged within the property prior to the completion of the conservation plan, and of the property's management plan. Therefore, it is recommended that the property be kept on the List of World Heritage in Danger until the fourth corrective measure is successfully completed.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 74.14**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);*
3. *Commends the State Party on the successful completion of the conservation works of the roof and of the narthex of the Church of the Nativity and notes that the church is now in sound condition in relation to the primary factors leading to its decay;*
4. *Also notes that three of the four corrective measures have been completed and that the remaining one, the development of a Conservation Plan, is being planned;*
5. *Requests the State Party to complete the Conservation Plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, along with details of recent work on mosaics, plaster, architraves, stone pillar, etc.;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit a resume and analysis of all evidence relating to the age of the roof fabric in order that there is a clear understanding as to whether any material survives from the 6th century AD and if not what of the dates of the surviving fabric in relation with the conservation works undertaken;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to complete the development of a Management Plan and also submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Notes with concern that the proposed projects for a Manger Square Tunnel and a Manger Square Village commercial outlet and car park could have the potential to impact adversely on the property; and requests furthermore the State Party to halt further work on these projects and compile the necessary justification and independent*

Heritage Impact Assessments and submit these to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any irreversible commitments are made;

9. ***Finally requests** that the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
10. ***Decides to retain the Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

43. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

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

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved 1 (2016)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- New constructions within the property's boundaries

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Limited progress has been made in implementing the key corrective measures adopted in 2015 to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
- A timeframe for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures has been proposed and submitted. This timeframe may be refined once the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) is finalized. The corrective measures and thus the DSOCR are planned to be achieved within a period of 10 years, or 2026 ("Dismissal of plans to build a 'Wall' along the property, or within its surroundings," is not defined within the timeframe: the State Party observes that this corrective measure is essentially beyond its control);
- The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, in cooperation with the Battir municipality, the UNESCO Office in Ramallah, and related stakeholders, began preparations for the MCP in November 2016, with completion anticipated in July 2017. The State Party advises that the adopted corrective measures will be integrated into the MCP;
- The State Party highlights the locally funded "Battir 2020 Initiative," which aims to implement sustainable cultural activities and tourism infrastructure, and summarizes a half-dozen rehabilitation projects supported by the Battir Municipality and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
- Funds are being sought for a number of initiatives, including a comprehensive project developed by the UNESCO Office in Ramallah, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Battir Municipality, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), entitled "Safeguarding, Rehabilitation, and Promotion of the Agro-Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir";
- Submissions of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are anticipated for the Water Supply and Sanitation Improvements for West Bethlehem Villages Project and for the wastewater treatment plant for Battir and Hussan, should these projects proceed beyond the conceptual stage.

The State Party requests that the property be retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

The State Party has outlined a number of positive efforts made during 2016 to improve the state of conservation and protection of the inscribed property. Notable achievements include developing and submitting a proposed timeframe for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures; and commencing preparations for the MCP, with its completion anticipated in July 2017. Positive efforts also include the local "Battir 2020 Initiative," which thus far has resulted in some maintenance, conservation, and/or rehabilitation of parts of the agricultural terraces, traditional irrigation systems, and abandoned buildings and shops, as well as engagement of the local community and increased awareness and promotion of the property.

Limited progress, however, has been made in implementing the key corrective measures adopted in 2015 to achieve the DSOCR. Moreover, the timeframe for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures could be seen as long, stretching over the period of a decade to the year 2026. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to review the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures to determine whether an accelerated pace for some of the key measures is feasible.

Internal and external socio-cultural and geo-political factors and a lack of funding have hampered the State Party's ability to move forward on important projects that affect the state of conservation of the property, such as the establishment of an adequate sewage system to improve water supplies and sanitation. It is recommended that the Committee again request the State Party to put in place, as

soon as possible, a robust management system with adequate staff who can advance the projects needed to allow sustainable management of the property – regardless of whether external funding is achieved.

On 21-22 March 2017 a Workshop on the Management of Cultural Heritage in Palestine was held in Amman, organized by UNESCO Office in Ramallah and attended by two ICOMOS experts. Discussions were held on the management challenges of the property and the team in charge of developing the management plan explained that there is a need for a strong engagement of the locals – both residents and stakeholders – in the management to accelerate and optimize the process of management planning.

Considering the above-mentioned information, it is thus recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the timeframe submitted by the State Party for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and encourages the State Party to review this timeframe to determine whether an accelerated pace for any of the key corrective measures is feasible;*
4. *Commends the State Party for commencing preparations for the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), the completion of which is forecast for July 2017, also encourages the State Party to envisage additional means in order to reinforce the engagement of local residents and stakeholders, and reiterates its request that the adopted corrective measures be adequately integrated into the MCP;*
5. *Also reiterates its request for the State Party to put in place, as soon as possible, an effective management system for the property and its buffer zone and, until the MCP is established and operational, to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*
7. ***Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 50 below.

44. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 21)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

45. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

46. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 20bis)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

47. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

48. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1229)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

49. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

50. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

52. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

53. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

56. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia, Federated States of) (C 1503)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2016-present

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

- Management system/Management Plan
- Management activities (Overgrowth of vegetation, Stonework collapse)
- Storms (Effects of storm surge)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition

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

In progress

Corrective measures identified

In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2017)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 120,000 for the preparation of a nomination file and the management plan for Nan Madol by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2016:

- Legal framework (Legislation LB392 not yet passed and implemented)
- Management system/Management Plan (Management system not extended enough; Lack of a risk preparedness strategy and a comprehensive tourism strategy in the Management Plan)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition (Need to remove silt from the waterways without jeopardizing possible cultural layers on the sea floor)
- Hyper-abundant species (Overgrowth of vegetation)
- Storms (Effects of storm surge; collapse of stonework)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, in accordance with the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), when the property was simultaneously inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents>, informs on the following:

- New Legislation: Work is continuing to pass and implement Legislation LB 392 to create a Nan Madol Historic Preservation Trust, with ownership and management under traditional oversight by the Nahnmwarki Chief with a Board of traditional authority. The adoption of the Law has been postponed to April/May 2017;
- Management: The State Party is in the process of hiring professionals for the management of the property and it is anticipated that a designated property manager trained in cultural heritage will assist in improving the current management plan and in developing a conservation plan, a risk preparedness strategy and a tourism strategy;
- Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR): To augment national resources, advice has been offered by international partners in France, Japan and the United States of America (USA). An archaeologist from France has visited and submitted a report. A team from Japan was due to visit in February and one from the USA thereafter. The three combined reports will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It is suggested that these reports will help to define the draft DSOCR to be agreed by the Reactive Monitoring mission in 2017;
- The State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2017;
- UNESCO Recommendation on Museums: A museum committee has been formed and is working on developing a museum master plan. This committee is actively seeking funding to support the construction of a museum.

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

The support offered by the international partners (France, Japan and the USA) is welcomed. The report submitted by the archaeologist from France has provided a valuable overview of the challenges to be addressed in relation to archaeological remains, but details have not yet been provided on the scope of the work of the other two teams. In addition, an International Assistance request for the initial cleaning of the overgrowth of vegetation and to draft a Conservation Plan for the property was approved on 21 March 2017.

It will clearly be essential to receive all three reports and consider them before the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee visits the property. The DSOCR will need to be based on clear

assessments of the archaeological resources and their structural stability, as well as on an outline Conservation Strategy and an outline Master Plan showing how the major conservation project might be phased over many years. Once such details are in place and the resources needed for this major project have been identified, further support will need to be garnered from the international community to help deliver this extensive and highly complex multidisciplinary project. It will also be desirable that this project be carried out slowly over several years and with as much involvement as possible of local expertise, so that the potential offers for training and promotional benefits can be fully utilised.

While the DSOCR should reflect the long timeframe required to stabilise the extensive stone remains, it should define a stage when a degree of stability combined with a clear road map which could allow the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been reached, even though more work will still need to be undertaken before the overall project is completed.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7A.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.22**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);*
3. *Welcomes the support extended by the international partners (France, Japan and the United States of America) in offering expert resources to the State Party to work on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes that the State Party will submit a consolidated report to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, on the outcomes of the three visits by international experts;*
5. *Also notes that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in 2017 and considers that this mission must have the benefit of the report of the international experts;*
6. *Further notes that the mission will consider a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and that this should aim to reflect both the long timeframe needed for the major project to stabilize the extensive stone remains, and the need to define a point at which the main threats have been mitigated to an acceptable degree before the overall project has been completed;*
7. *Regrets that work on adopting legislation LB 392 has been delayed until April/May 2017 and urges the State Party to make progress on this matter so that a Nan Madol Historic Preservation Trust can be set up and become operational;*
8. *Notes furthermore that efforts to appoint cultural heritage staff are ongoing, but that progress on developing management, conservation, risk management and a tourism strategy will only be achieved once a property manager has been appointed, and also urges the State Party to proceed with this appointment as soon as possible;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;*

10. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

57. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add (late finalization of the mission report)