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ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa

10-17 July 2005

Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of the State of conservation of World Heritage properties

7A. State of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with paragraphs 190-191 of the revised *Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2005), the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties 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.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required:

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

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document contains information on the state of conservation of sixteen natural and nineteen cultural properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger. It is submitted to the committee for review as foreseen in paragraph 190 of the current *Operational Guidelines*, effective as of 2 February 2005.
2. At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee reviewed the state of conservation of seventeen natural and eighteen cultural properties. The Committee's decisions with regard to each property were transmitted by the Secretariat to the concerned States Parties for follow-up action.
3. Responses from the States Parties and new information that has become available on the state of conservation of the properties since the conclusion of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004) were reviewed and summarized by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies and are herewith presented.
4. The Committee is requested to review the reports of sixteen natural and nineteen cultural properties provided herein and take appropriate decisions in accordance with paragraphs 190-191 of the revised *Operational Guidelines* (2005), which reads as follows:

190 The Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties 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.

191 On the basis of these regular reviews, the Committee shall decide, in consultation with the State Party concerned, whether:

- a) *additional measures are required to conserve the property;*
- b) *to delete the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger if the property is no longer under threat;*
- c) *to consider the deletion of the property from both the List of World Heritage in Danger and the World Heritage List if the property has deteriorated to the extent that it has lost those characteristics which determined its inscription on the World Heritage List, in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 192-198.*

5. To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports. This format has been adapted taking into account the Decision **27 COM 7B.106** :

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

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

5. Reaffirms that the deadline to receive reports by the World Heritage Centre from States Parties is 1 February of each year. ”

6. For practical reasons, the report starts on a new page only by category and by region.

7. The standard format includes:

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

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

II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

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NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.1
28 COM 15A.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 170,000 (to implement a technical assistance mission and a rehabilitation plan).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2001

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

Insecurity, poaching, transhumance, mining, illegal fishing

Current conservation issues:

Although an invitation was received from the State Party in March 2004 to carry out a monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), the prevailing security situation prevented the mission from taking place. No further information was received from the State Party concerning the state of conservation of the property or the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the property in June 2001.

The financial support amounting to US\$150,000 approved under Emergency Assistance on by the Committee at its 25th session to enable the State Party to establish a long term conservation programme for Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park, was not implemented and the money reverted back to the World Heritage Fund. The chairperson approved US\$50,000 to implement the equipment component, with the support of the UNESCO Yaounde Office.

The World Heritage Centre received information from the European Union funded programme 'Conservation et Utilisation rationnelle des écosystèmes forestières de l'Afrique centrale' (ECOFAC), that supports a project to develop

village hunting zones in the northern region of the Central African Republic. The region, covering 85,000 km², includes Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park as well as the Bamingui-Bangoran National Park. The project has been working in the region since 2000 and although currently activities were sized down as a result of the end of the present ECOFAC phase, the new phase of the project is expected to start by the end of 2005. The project is concentrating its efforts on the establishment of village hunting zones around both protected areas, but there is a close cooperation with the park authorities and some activities directly support the management of the protected areas. Poaching is the main pressure on the World Heritage property and in particular poaching by well organized poaching gangs from Sudan and Chad. In 2001, hundreds of Sudanese poachers entered the area, massacring a large number of elephants. As reported at the 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), following this event, ECOFAC developed a new anti-poaching strategy consisting of blocking the entry of poaching caravans from Sudan and Chad into the region through mixed patrols of the game scouts together with the army. ECOFAC also hired specialist technical advisors to improve the anti-poaching capacities of the game scouts. This strategy has proved successful and a significant reduction in poaching could be observed over the last 2 years. However, several game scouts were killed in violent clashes with the Sudanese poachers since the new strategy was implemented. ECOFAC notes that the anti-poaching activities are seriously hampered by a lack of armament and ammunition. It seems that poaching by local residents is diminishing as a result of the establishment of the hunting zones, which provide alternative income. However, in certain areas local poaching is still observed and is reported to be covered by local authorities involved in the bushmeat trade. Other illegal activities reported are the illegal artisanal diamond exploitation along the rivers as well as illegal fishing activities within the property. ECOFAC also notes that real management problems remain in the property, which can not be handled by the project. ECOFAC informed the World Heritage Centre that an aerial wildlife survey of the entire northern region is planned in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society and is scheduled to take place in May-June 2005.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decisions **28 COM 15.1** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) as well as **25 COM VIII.3** adopted at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001),
3. Expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families of the game scouts who lost their lives in the anti-poaching activities to protect the values of the property;
4. Regrets that the monitoring mission to the property could not take place due to the security situation in the region and reiterates its request for IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to undertake this mission as soon as the security situation allows;
5. Commends the European Union for its ongoing efforts to conserve the property and the natural resources in the areas adjacent to the property, in particular the development and implementation of the anti-poaching strategy;
6. Urges IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to cooperate closely with the ECOFAC programme as well as other organisations active in the region to get more details on the state of conservation of the property and the urgent measures to be implemented in order to ensure the recovery of the property;
7. Further urges the State Party to establish a dialogue with the Governments of Sudan and Chad in order to prevent transborder poaching activities, as requested by the Committee at its 25th session, and to provide adequate means to the game scouts to combat poaching;
8. Requests the State Party to submit a report by **1 February 2006** on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2001 joint UNESCO/IUCN mission for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
9. Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1983

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.3
28 COM 15A.2

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 50,000 for technical co-operation.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Conflict and political instability, poaching and uncontrolled hunting, diminishing protection, human occupation, agriculture pressure.

Current conservation issues:

A report was received from the State Party dated 6 January 2005. The report noted that only the southern sector of the Park, covering 20% of its surface, is under Government control. A further 15 % is situated in the demilitarized « confidence zone », which separates Government loyalist troops from the rebel forces and the remaining 65% is under rebel control. Because of the insecurity in the rebel controlled areas, park staff based at Bouna, Dabakala, Kong, Nassian and Téhini abandoned their posts, the park offices as well as bridges in the park were damaged and patrol and surveillance equipment looted.

The State Party reports that from the 21 to 24 July 2004, the Park management authority, in collaboration with WWF, carried out a mission to review the situation in the property. This mission indicated some encouraging developments with regard to its state of conservation and reported that local communities had negotiated with the rebels to ensure the protection of the Park and the biodiversity zone of Geprenaf, which acts as a buffer zone to the Park. No deforestation was observed in the entire property, with exception of some illegal forest exploitation in isolated forest patches near 3 villages bordering the south-western part of the Park and some exploitation in the gallery forests between the biodiversity zone of Geprenaf and the Comoé River. The State Party also reports a lower rate of fires compared to previous years, due to efforts of a local NGO. The report did not provide any information on the status of the

wildlife populations in the property and mentioned that due to the proliferation of weapons entering the country, poaching may be on the increase.

The State Party noted that since February 2002, an autonomous Park management authority was created, the “Office des Parcs nationaux et Réserves naturelles” (OIPR) and a Foundation for the sustainable financing of parks and natural reserves developed. The OIPR has started recruiting staff for the entire protected area system, including the 3 World Heritage properties. For Comoé National Park, a director was appointed and new staff recruited for the southern sector, which is under Government control. It is stated that a report on the situation in the south of the park and an annual programme of activities was subsequently submitted to the Director General of OIPR, but this report was not made available to the World Heritage Centre or IUCN. Equipment for patrol and surveillance is currently being replaced and offices and lodgings rebuilt. The State Party notes that additional funding is required for these activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report of the State Party provides useful information on the current situation in the property but does not allow assessing the impact of the conflict on its integrity, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). It is clear that without full control of the Park and without the continuation of normal monitoring and patrolling activities, it is difficult to confirm the impact on the flora and fauna of the property.

Unfortunately the World Heritage Centre and IUCN have not been able to conduct the mission to the property, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), due to ongoing instability in the region. This mission will be carried out in consultation with the State Party as soon as the security situation allows in order to fully assessing the impacts of the current crisis situation.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.2, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for providing a report on the current situation in Comoé National Park;
4. Notes with great concern that only 20% of the property is currently directly under State Party control, and urges all parties engaged

in the conflict to ensure the conservation of the property;

5. Regrets that the requested monitoring mission could not take place and recommends that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN undertake the mission as soon as the security situation permits;
6. Requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2006**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
7. Decides to retain Comoé National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155/257)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.4

28 COM 15A.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 443,349 (project preparation, consultants, equipment and training). In 2003, a further US\$ 30,000 was approved for the Mount Nimba Conservation Project.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission in 1993, IUCN mission in 1994, UNESCO mission in 2000.

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

Agricultural pressure, deforestation, mining, poaching, weak management capacity, lack of transborder cooperation.

Current conservation issues:

A report was received from the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire, dated 6 January 2005. At the time of the preparation of the document, no report was received from the State Party of Guinea. No additional information was provided on the expected restarting of the exploration studies in the mining enclave for which the concession rights were acquired by the Euronimba consortium, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

The State Party of Côte d'Ivoire confirms that, since 2002, the property is no longer under Government control as the area is occupied by rebel forces. This has resulted in the suspension of all conservation activities, including the European Union funded Côte d'Ivoire Protected Areas Programme, which provided major funding for the property. For security reasons, all protected area staff were relocated to the Government controlled territory. All of the Park's equipment was looted and the Park administration buildings and guard posts taken over by these rebel forces. The State Party reports nonetheless that, due to the relative calm in the region, local communities who had fled into the Park have now returned to their camps and villages outside the Park and that, since the terrain is mountainous and difficult, illegal forest and agricultural exploitation has not been reported. However, the report notes that an abundance of bush meat has appeared on the market, suggesting increased poaching.

Although no report was received from the State Party of Guinea, information received by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN indicates that significant progress is being achieved on the Guinean side of the Nimba Mountains, as well as in the Guinean Nimba Mountains Biosphere Reserve.

UNDP confirmed the launch in April 2005 of a long-term US\$11 million Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project, entitled "Conservation of the Biodiversity of the Nimba Mountains through Integrated and Participatory Management". This project, under preparation since 2001 and supported by UNDP, the GEF, the World Heritage Centre, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the State Party of Guinea, will seek to reconcile mining and the preservation of the natural resources of the mountains, using an integrated and participatory ecosystem management approach. In addition to the FFI and GEF, Mount Nimba Management Centre (CEGEN) began implementing a project in August 2004 addressing hunting and the bush meat trade in the Guinean Nimba Mountains. This project will develop recommendations and start experimenting alternative activities with hunters of several key villages to eliminate hunting in the Reserve while responding to local dietary and economic needs. In 2004, FFI, with support from the Guinean Government, UNESCO and the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée, coordinated an action resulting in agricultural colonists leaving the Déré Forest, adjacent to the Nimba Mountains. The forest's boundary was demarcated and key degraded areas were planted with quick growing tree species. However, significant numbers of

Ivorians allegedly have now arrived from neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire to re-colonize the area, claiming it as part of Côte d'Ivoire.

Little progress has been possible in co-ordinating transboundary management because of the lack of any effective management authority for the Ivorian portion of the property. However in Liberia, with support from Conservation International and the United States Government, demarcation of the boundary of the Liberian Nimba Nature Reserve is imminent. This will be accompanied by village meetings to raise awareness of the existence of the Nature Reserve, restoration of key degraded areas, and installation of basic infrastructure and posting of staff from the Liberian Forestry Development Authority.

At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee invited the State Party of Liberia to consider an extension of the property when preparing its Tentative List. The State Party did request International Assistance in 2004 for capacity building and to prepare its Tentative List. However, the objectives of the request were not clearly focused and required reformulation. The State Party has not yet resubmitted the reformulated request.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.5**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that no report was provided by the State Party of Guinea on the state of conservation of the property and on the status of the planned mining exploration activities;
4. Commends the State Party of Guinea, UNDP, GEF, the World Heritage Centre and Fauna and Flora International for their efforts in the development and approval of project "Conservation of the Biodiversity of the Nimba Mountains through Integrated and Participatory Management";
5. Expresses its concern that the part of the property located in Côte d'Ivoire is no longer under the control of such State Party and urges all parties engaged in the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire to ensure the conservation of the property;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to report on the status of the restarting of mining activities in the mining enclave by the Euronimba consortium, including relevant information on the

potential impacts to the integrity of the property;

7. Invites the State Party of Liberia to resubmit a revised request for International Assistance to help prepare its Tentative List, and seek guidance where necessary from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests the State Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to submit by **1 February 2006** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
9. Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Virunga National Park (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1994

Garamba National Park (N 136)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Kahuzi-Biega National Park (N 137)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: N (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Salonga National Park (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1984

Criteria: N (ii) (iii)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Okapi Wildlife Reserve (N 718)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

Criteria: N (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.2
28 COM 15A.3

International assistance:

Total amount provided to the properties:

Virunga National Park: US\$ 64,000 for equipment, staff allowances and training;

Garamba National Park US\$ 157,845 for equipment and staff allowances;

Kahuzi-Biega National Park: US\$ 64,848 for equipment purchase;

Okapi Wildlife Reserve: US\$ 23,000 for the preparation of the nomination dossier of the property, guard training and camp construction;

Salonga National Park: US\$ 85,500 for project planning, infrastructure and staff training.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO missions in 1996 (Virunga National Park and Kahuzi Biega National Park) and 2000.

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

Armed conflict and political instability, poaching, deforestation, encroachment by local populations and refugees, artisanal mining, uncontrolled immigration (Okapi Wildlife Reserve), expansion of illegal fisheries (Virunga National Park).

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted its report on 23 March 2005. The report includes two page fact sheets on each of the five properties, giving information on the events that took place in 2003 and 2004, the state of conservation of the properties and efforts deployed in that period to conserve the properties. The State Party notes that the five properties are still in danger, often seriously threatened but that during the last two years all of the properties have benefited from important interventions for their protection, particularly through the UNESCO/UNF/ICCN project. This is the first time since the beginning of the conflict that the State Party was able to submit a unified official report on the state of conservation of the five properties, a sign of the gradual improvement of the political situation since the installation of the transition Government in 2003. Staff of the Kinshasa headquarters of the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature can now travel to all properties and property managers send regular reports to Kinshasa. It needs to be noted however that, although the country is formally

re-united, the political influence of the Kinshasa authorities remains limited in the east and that progress in the political normalization process has been slowing down with the approach of the election scheduled for June 2005 but likely to be postponed for another 6 months.

Unfortunately the security situation in the east remains extremely difficult, due to the continued presence of armed militias. This was again demonstrated by the recent skirmishes in the Ituri province, leading to the death of nine UN blue helmets and 50 militiamen in February 2005. In a recent report, The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) announced that close to 10,000 militiamen in the Ituri region were disarmed on a voluntary basis by the deadline of 1 April 2004, estimating the remaining armed militias in the region at 3000. However, it has to be noted that MONUC has concentrated its disarmament effort on the part of Ituri where violent clashes have taken place between Hema and Lendu tribal groups and that so far, much less disarmament has taken place around the different World Heritage properties.

In addition, the development of a unified army has also been slow, resulting in little central control over the different former rebel groups who are often involved in poaching and continue to create a climate of insecurity. Whilst members of the regular army and police force are reported to be involved in poaching activities in and around the properties, poaching by the different armed groups is probably the most serious threat to the different properties.

Whilst the State Party invited a mission to visit each of the properties, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN have been unable to undertake this mission due to the general insecurity in eastern DRC and technical difficulties in identifying an appropriate expert. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party is keen to host this mission and reiterate their willingness to carry out the mission as soon as the security situation improves.

With the support of the Governments of Belgium and Japan, and the United Nations Foundation, UNESCO organized in September 2004 an international conference and event: "Congo, Heritage in Danger". With this event, the World Heritage Centre aimed at getting a high-level political commitment from the DRC Government for the conservation of the properties, securing financial and technical assistance for the reconstruction and management of the properties and raising the awareness of the international public opinion on the situation of the DRC World Heritage properties. The conference was attended by His Excellency Z'Ahidi Arthur Ngoma, one of

the four Vice-Presidents, several other members of the Government, as well as members of parliament and senior officials from various ministries. Speaking on behalf of the President and the DRC Government, Mr. Z'Ahidi Arthur Ngoma committed to support the action of the World Heritage Centre and its partners for the safeguarding of the five World Heritage properties and announced that the Government would take appropriate actions to evacuate armed troops and populations who threaten the integrity of the World Heritage properties; restore the integrity of the properties taking into account the concerns of the local populations through development and reconstruction projects and ensure payment of the salaries of the staff at the five properties. Major bilateral and multilateral donors (including the European Union, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, Germany, Belgium, Italy, France and the United States of America) also attended the conference, announcing close to US\$ 50 Million in support of the conservation of DRC's protected area system over the following five years. A significant part of this will directly benefit the conservation of the five World Heritage properties.

As a follow up to the conference, the World Heritage Centre has proposed to the Government to create an inter-ministerial Commission, comprising all relevant ministries such as environment and forests, land tenure, mining, defence, tourism, justice, interior and others, charged with the follow up of the commitment made by the Vice-President. This Commission has now been created under the authority of the Vice-President. It is hoped that it will enable ICCN to bring forward some of the problems the properties are facing, especially cases where a decision is needed by another ministry than the Ministry for Environment, or even by the Council of Ministers.

Okapi Wildlife Reserve

Although the Okapi Wildlife Reserve is situated in the Ituri region, it has escaped impacted from the upsurge of violence in the region, which is concentrated to the east of the reserve. As reported at the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the major threat to the property remains the increase in poaching and in particular elephant poaching perpetrated by military groups. The State Party report confirmed that military belonging to two different rebel factions (MLC-ALC and APC-ML) and the national police are engaged in intensive elephant poaching and that from June to December 2004, an estimated 17 tons of ivory was taken, accounting for 750 to 1,000 elephants. A report by the park authorities of December 2004 provided details on the military commanders and the merchants involved in the

trafficking of ivory and elephant meat. At the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), it was reported that an estimated 230 – 460 elephants were killed in the period 2002-2003. These figures together account for a quarter of the pre-war elephant population of the reserve, highlighting the seriousness of the situation. It needs to be noted that the Okapi Wildlife Reserve harbours probably the most important remaining forest elephant population of the DRC. In March 2005, IUCN received reports from the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) office of the CITES Convention in Nairobi indicating that ivory from the region is finding its way through Sudan to the Middle East and the Far East. Currently ICCN staff only control the central section of the reserve and although sporadic patrols are conducted in the other parts, rangers are unable to stop the poaching by the military operating in these areas. ICCN together with its partners are currently discussing with the highest military authorities in Kinshasa to organize a major joint operation with the military to clear out poachers from the reserve. A similar operation in 2001 had very positive results. The necessary resources to fund such an operation still need to be identified.

Illegal mining also remains a threat to the reserve. In July 2004, more than 1,000 artisanal diamond miners invaded parts of the central and western sectors of the reserve but the park authorities were able to drive them out after establishing a temporary guard post in the area. In March 2005, 226 gold miners were apprehended in the south eastern sector and 460 gold miners in the eastern sector. They were given a deadline till June to evacuate the reserve on a voluntary basis.

A more long term conservation issue is the management of the human population inside the property. When the reserve was created, local inhabitants living around the Mambassa road were allowed to remain in the reserve. A recent population survey, conducted with funding from Belgium, showed that currently, around 17,000 people are living in the reserve, including 9,000 Mbuti and Efe pygmies. This figure has been fairly stable since 1994. Efforts are underway to delimit agricultural use zones around the road and traditional hunting zones for the Mbuti and Efe and to set up a system to allow the control of immigration into the reserve. However, the same survey shows that the population in the immediate vicinity of the reserve has increased significantly in the same period, as a result of immigration from the densely populated highlands to the east of the reserve, resulting in increased pressures.

Kahuzi-Biega National Park

During the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), a report was given on the army mutiny in May 2004 in Bukavu, which resulted in a renewed occupation and looting of the park headquarters. Since then, the situation returned to normal, although the insecurity remains a serious problem in the area. The report of the State Party confirms that the park authorities were able to consolidate their presence in the areas previously inaccessible, in particular around the lowland sub stations of Itebero and Nzovu and the re-opened patrol posts of Lemera, Musenyi and Madiriri. Nevertheless, it will take a while until patrols are also effectively covering the entire lowland sector, which was out of control since the start of the war in 1998. The neuralgic corridor, connecting the lowland and highland sectors, remains however totally out of control of ICCN and is heavily encroached by farms resulting in important deforestation.

Mining remains a serious problem, especially in the lowland sector. The State Party reported that more than 10,000 miners are digging for minerals such as colombo-tantalite, cassiterite and gold inside the property. The presence of mining camps also leads to commercial hunting for food, pollution of rivers and localized deforestation. With the economic revival in the information technology industry, there is fear that the demand for tantalum will rise again very soon, leading to increased pressure on DRC resources. In this respect, IUCN reiterates its policy position that mining should not take place in World Heritage properties and its call for a complete ban on mining in all DRC World Heritage properties. It is essential to work towards a regulated coltan industry in DRC as an orderly development of the tantalum market.

Encroachment is another important issue, especially in the corridor and the southern edge of the highland sector. The State Party reported that recently park authorities were able to recuperate more than 3,000 ha of land in the park illegally sold by the local authorities during the war.

In November 2004, the Wildlife Conservation Society was able to organize a new census of key flagship species in the highland sector of the park. They identified 163 Grauer's gorillas, a significant increase compared to the last census of 2000, which found only 130 gorillas. A 1996 inventory just before the start of the war found around 240 gorillas in the sector. This is an indication that the population is recovering slowly. The recovery of the gorilla population is a clear success for the park guards, who have been trying to safeguard this remnant population,

often in extremely difficult circumstances with the support of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the World Heritage Centre. The inventory also confirmed the quasi extinction of the elephant population in the sector, which was estimated at 400 animals before the war. The disappearance of the elephant population is also leading to changes in the vegetation and thought to be one of the factors of the expansion of a vine, *Sericostachys scandens*, that is strangling the trees and resulting in the creation of a more open and degraded habitat dotted with dead trees. These open areas might also facilitate the progression of bushfires. Major bushfires, probably ignited by militiamen, erupted in the sector in July 2004 and were brought under control with the help of the local population.

Virunga National Park

The main threats to the Virunga National Park continue to be the encroachment of the protected area and the presence of armed groups in and around the park. During the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), a report was presented on the rampant deforestation of the Mikenso sector, bordering Rwanda, that started in May 2004. This sector harbours the main gorilla population of the park. The World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party on 24 June 2004, alleging that the Rwandan Defence Forces were directly involved in the deforestation of the area. Conservation NGOs also confirmed that vehicles were crossing the border from Rwanda bringing in people to cut the forest. After several interventions from UNEP, UNESCO, the European Union and conservation NGOs, the forest destruction was stopped at the end of June. WWF in cooperation with the University of Louvain-La-Neuve produced a detailed report, based on satellite images, on the impact and scale of the destruction. The report estimates that 1,480 ha were impacted: 417 ha were completely deforested, 640 ha severely degraded and 417 ha degraded. Since the destruction was halted, 20 km of dry stone wall has been built along the boundary of the park and the international boundary with the support of WWF, UNEP, the International Gorilla Conservation Programme, the European Union, the Frankfurt Zoological Society, and in cooperation with local communities, preventing further damage and crop raiding by animals.

The document presented at the last session gave an overview of the different areas that are affected by illegal encroachment. Since the beginning of the war 89,311 ha of encroached areas have been inventoried. Some areas are not yet inventoried because of the difficulty of access due to security problems. This is

especially the case for the shores of Lake Edward and the Kirokirwe area. It is also estimated that at least 60,000 people settled within the property and 5,778 permanent houses have been inventoried within the park limits. Through the UNESCO programme and with funding from the Government of Belgium, WWF has undertaken a comprehensive programme to work with the local populations in evacuating the encroached areas. The programme has been a major success and so far an estimated 40,000 people agreed to leave the park, recuperating 65,353 ha of encroached land. The World Heritage Centre recently signed a new agreement with WWF to step up these efforts. Under this agreement, a detailed inventory of encroachment on the shores of Lake Edward, the Tongo area and the Kirokirwe region will be prepared and on the basis of these results negotiations will start to evacuate at least one of the studied areas. The project will also prepare an updated version of the park border by establishing geographical coordinates for each section of the border. To accompany these efforts, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the German Agro-action with funding from the European Union are setting up projects around the property to provide for alternatives for the people willing to leave the property. Although the work ahead is still extremely important and challenging, it is encouraging to note that important progress was made in addressing this serious threat to the property.

The presence of armed groups also remains a serious threat to the property and to the security of the park staff. All military camps mentioned in last year's report are still present in the park. Efforts by ICCN to get the major camp at Nyaleke, in the northern sector of the park, relocated outside the park have not been successful so far. It is hoped that the commitment made by the Vice-President at the September 2004 conference to evacuate troops from all properties will lead to some progress in this field. The park also continues to harbour different insurgent groups from Rwanda and Uganda. According to ICCN staff, almost 100 park guards have been killed since the start of the war. As recently as 15 April 2005, a guard was killed in an ambush by Interahamwe militias in the Rwindi sector. The State Party report also mentions violent clashes that took place in Kanyabayonga in December 2004, resulting in intensive poaching in the central sector.

It also has to be noted that support for the Virunga National park has increased significantly since the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). As announced in the September conference, major funding for the management

of the property is provided by the European Union, through WWF and the Zoological Society of London. The European Union is also providing funding for development and reconstruction activities around the park. The Frankfurt Zoological Society has also started a major intervention, preparing a new management plan for the property and re-training the park staff. These activities complement the on-going activities by the International Gorilla Conservation Programme and WWF in the gorilla sector and the support provided by the UNESCO/UNF/ICCN programme.

Garamba National Park

The situation in the Garamba National Park continues to deteriorate. At the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), a dramatic increase in poaching since July 2003 was reported, bringing the endemic northern white rhino, the flagship species of the property, to the brink of extinction and severely reducing the population of elephants, endemic Congo giraffe and other wildlife. The State Party report indicates that since the beginning of the war, elephant numbers have reduced from 15,000 to 4,000 and numbers of the endemic Congo giraffe from 200 to less than 60. The dramatic decline of the rhino population was confirmed through a new aerial survey in July 2004, counting only 15 individuals in the park, and evidence of a further 2 in the surrounding hunting reserves. A similar survey in April 2003 counted 30 individuals and in August the same year 22 individuals, indicating a rapid decline since mid 2003. Following these results, a stakeholder meeting was organized in Nairobi, gathering representatives of ICCN, partners and donors already supporting the property such as the International Rhino Foundation, Frankfurt Zoological Society and the World Heritage Centre as well as new partners interested to support the property such as Fauna and Flora International, African Parks Foundation and the World Bank. The meeting developed a new emergency strategy to stop the poaching in the southern sector of the park and save the northern white rhino from extinction in the wild. Conservation partners committed a total of US\$ 1 Million for the first year of implementation of the strategy, including almost \$ 300,000 by the World Heritage Centre (as part of the UNF project, the Belgian support for community conservation and the support mobilized under the Italian Funds-in-Trust). The meeting also agreed that if the decline of the white rhino could not be stopped before the end of 2004, the translocation of a small group to a safe area had to be envisaged. In September 2004, the European Union announced, during the UNESCO conference on the DRC World

Heritage properties, that it would support the emergency plan by providing experts' advice and training services to improve anti-poaching operations. The experts have a long experience in dealing with severe poaching and also developed the anti-poaching strategy for Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park.

In spite of all these efforts, so far it has been impossible to stop the poaching activities. The main reasons seem to be the level of organization of the Sudanese poachers, who are battle hardened and very well armed, the low morale of the park guards, the complete lack of well functioning fire arms and ammunition, the lack of appropriate training of the guard force to tackle these levels of poaching, ethnic tensions within the guard force as well as tensions between ICCN and its partners and disorganization of the ICCN staff after years of isolation. In addition to this, there is no control of the international border by the Congolese regular army. Nine new rhino carcasses were found during 2004. A survey conducted in November only detected four rhinos in the park and evidence of a further three in the hunting reserves. Although this survey was conducted during the long grass season, making its results less reliable, these figures indicate the seriousness of the situation. In March 2005, the park warden reported evidence of 12 rhinos remaining in the property and surrounding hunting reserves, although some double-counting might have been included.

There is a clear risk that at the current rate of poaching, the northern white rhino might become extinct in the wild by the end of this year. The potential for reintroduction is also extremely limited, as the Garamba population is the last known population in the wild and there exists ten individuals in captivity, from which only three are breeding but genetically related. Faced with this situation, the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group sent a letter dated 9 November, 2004 to ICCN, urging them to propose the translocation of a small group of five rhinos to a safe place. A plan for a possible translocation was developed and submitted by ICCN to the Ministry for the Environment. After consultation with IUCN, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 23 December, 2004, expressing support for the proposed emergency action and urging the State Party to take a decision as quickly as possible. From 10 to 15 January 2005, a mission headed by the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group, in which the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the different NGO working in Garamba were represented, visited Kinshasa, and had meetings with several high level government officials including two of the four Vice-

Presidents, to discuss the translocation proposal. The mission was informed that the Government would approve the proposal, a position later confirmed by Vice President Zaidi Ngoma in a meeting with a representative of the World Heritage Centre on 14 February. However, after the announcement of the translocation, opponents to the action were able to rally a large number of politicians against the decision. At the time of the preparation of this report, no official decision has been taken but it seems highly unlikely that the Government will approve the translocation, given the political opposition and in view of the upcoming elections. The commotion on the translocation led also to local protests and to increased insecurity at the property, forcing the different NGO's to suspend their activities in the property, including the payment of bonuses to the field staff, and pull back their expatriate staff.

It needs to be noted that the presence of the northern white rhino, together with the important populations of elephants and other species such as the endemic Congo giraffe, were the main justification for inscribing the property on the World Heritage List in 1980, thus the conservation status of the species should be a priority for the State Party and the international community. If the northern white rhino becomes extinct, it might be necessary to re-evaluate the outstanding universal value of the property.

Whilst the State Party invited a specific mission to Garamba in late February 2005, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN were unfortunately unable to undertake this mission due to the prevailing security situation in the area. The State Party is encouraged, as a matter of urgency, to consent to the translocation of at least five northern white rhinos to Kenya, noting that while in situ conservation would be the preferred option, the present prevailing conditions in Garamba can no longer guarantee the protection of the species. The State Party is also urged to take all necessary measures to stop the poaching. More specifically, the State Party should secure the international border with Sudan and supply the park staff with adequate armament and ammunition to face the current poaching threat. ICCN and its partners are urged to work together constructively to find solutions to the current crisis at the property and to re-start conservation activities as soon as possible.

Salonga National Park

In 2003 and 2004, the Wildlife Conservation Society, with support of the CITES/MIKE programme, US Fish and Wildlife Service and WWF, conducted the first comprehensive survey of key species, covering almost the entire southern sector and two thirds of the northern sector of the 36,000 km² park. The survey teams found evidence of human activity in virtually all parts of the park. In spite of its isolation, the park is actually quite accessible through the extensive river system. Commercial poaching is the main activity, but also illegal fishing activities and some illegal wood harvesting were noted. Several permanent villages exist within the park boundaries. Elephants seem to be the first victims of intensive poaching, and the species has been eliminated from large areas of the park, although some strongholds still exist. The inventory work confirms that the park harbours important bonobo populations although localized in certain areas, especially the southern part of the southern sector and in the north-western part of the northern sector. It is thought that this uneven distribution is the result of ecological differences.

Since the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), support for the conservation of the park has increased significantly. So far, activities were concentrated on research, with some support for conservation activities through the UNESCO/UNF/ICCN programme and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. In 2004, WWF started a major conservation programme with funding from the European Union and the USAID funded the CARPE programme. This has already allowed for the opening of two new patrol posts. A first on-site meeting of all organizations supporting the park was held in Monkoto in November 2004. It is hoped that with the increasing support to the property, it will be possible to increase conservation operations and cover a larger part of the total area.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.3 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Reiterates its serious concern about the continuing threats to the five World Heritage properties in DRC, especially encroachment and extraction of natural resources, including mining, poaching and ivory trafficking by armed groups, including elements of the regular army, the national*

police and former rebel troops that are awaiting demobilisation or integration into the national army;

4. Expresses its utmost concern about the continued poaching in the Garamba National Park, that might lead to the imminent extinction of the northern white rhino in the wild and jeopardize the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List;
5. Commends the DRC management authority ICCN and especially its dedicated field staff, UNESCO and its partners in the project "Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict", as well as other organisations cooperating with ICCN for their on-going efforts to protect the integrity and the World Heritage values of the five properties;
6. Thanks the Secretariat for the organisation of the international conference on the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties in September 2004, and the Governments of Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the United States of America, the European Union, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Foundation for their support announced for the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties;
7. Expresses its appreciation for the clear commitment expressed by the State Party during the international conference on the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties, as well as with the installation of an inter-ministerial follow up committee under the presidency of the Vice President;
8. Urges the State Party to implement immediately the measures announced at the international conference on the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties to guarantee the integrity of the properties, in particular the evacuation of all armed troops from the properties;
9. Further urges the multilateral donor agencies and bilateral donor governments to honour their commitments pledged at the September 2004 meeting towards the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties;
10. Strongly urges the State Party to take all necessary measures to secure the Garamba National Park and implement the northern white rhino survival strategy developed by ICCN with support of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group consisting of improving in situ conservation of the species

as well as the translocation of a limited number of specimens to a safe location;

11. Regrets that the monitoring missions to Kahuzi-Biega National Park, Virunga National Park, Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Garamba National Park could not take place due to the security situation in the region and reiterates its request for IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to undertake these missions as soon as the security situation allows;
12. Requests the State Party to submit **by 1 February 2006** an updated report on the state of conservation of the properties, the status of the northern white rhino in the Garamba National Park, mitigation measures taken to prevent its extinction and progress made in securing the integrity of the DRC World Heritage properties for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
13. Decides to retain the Garamba, Salonga, Kahuzi Biega and Virunga National Parks and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1978

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.3
28 COM 15A.4

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 149,307 (for technical assistance and training).

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission in 1996, IUCN/UNESCO mission in 2001.

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

Encroachment; increasing human population within the park; declining populations of *Walia ibex* and Simien Fox; deforestation and soil deterioration.

Current conservation issues:

A report was received from the State Party, dated 25 January 2005. The report provides details on the progress made in relation to the four benchmarks set by the Committee at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) for removal of the

property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) The realignment of the Park's boundary to exclude the villages along the boundary was undertaken in 2003 and 2004. The demarcation of the boundary through the installation of permanent beacons, the production of a detailed map of the boundaries as well as the legal gazetting are planned to be carried out in 2005;
- b) Mesarerya and Lemalino Wildlife Reserves have been integrated within the park and their mapping and re-gazetting is to be finalized in 2005;
- c) The report states that as a result of concerted efforts of the Regional Government and all other stakeholders, the population of *Walia ibex* has more than doubled in the last ten years and is currently estimated at least 500 animals whilst the population of Simien Fox increased to 53 individuals. The report stresses that the *Walia ibex* population estimate was established through an independent survey conducted by the Centre for Development and Environment of the University of Bern, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Amhara Region Agricultural Research Institute. However, the Canid specialist group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) has raised concerns over the reported numbers of Simien Fox and questions whether these are the result of an increase in population or improvements in methodologies of counting. IUCN is currently reviewing the methodologies used in assessing the population status of the two animal species through its SSC network and will report to the Committee at the next session;
- d) The State Party reports that no progress was made with regard to the significant reduction of the human population within the park requested by the Committee, despite efforts to enrol the villagers in a voluntary resettlement programme and that villagers are unwilling to resettle in the lowland, where land is available. It is proposed that employment opportunities are created outside the park for the majority of the people, providing non farm income and that options are identified for those remaining in the park to ensure that no damage is done to the ecosystem.

Although considerable progress was made towards achieving the first three benchmarks set by the Committee, little progress was made on the issue of the human population within the property. The World Heritage Centre has

received a request for Technical Cooperation from the Amhara National Regional State with the objective to develop an alternative livelihood strategy as a first step to find other ways to address this issue. At the time of the preparation of this document, additional details on the budget breakdown were requested from the State Party.

The State Party's report further noted that efforts are underway to re-align some portions of the Debarq-Mekane Birhan rural road to minimize negative impacts. Even though re-alignment of the road is still pending, strict road-impact mitigation measures are reported to have been carried out by the Park office and the Austrian Government-Supported Project in collaboration with Woreda and Kebele-level stakeholders. Efforts are also underway to encourage sustainable development in the buffer zone and areas around the park, as the prevailing poverty seems to be one of the main reasons for the pressure on the park resources. Activities on agricultural intensification, soil conservation, reforestation, livestock development in order to combat overgrazing, community based tourism development and the enhancement of the capacities of community institutions are implemented in the area mainly through the Ethiopian-Austrian integrated development project. The project also has supported the development of park infrastructure and has supplied equipment to the park staff.

Recent proposals to develop a tourist lodge in a potentially sensitive area at the border of the park have been brought to the attention of IUCN. It is informed that the authorities have chosen a site where water availability is low and is likely to impact further on an area that is already ecologically fragile. IUCN recommends that an environmental impact assessment should be undertaken to assess if such development is appropriate, what potential impacts it could have on the World Heritage property and if other options may exist.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.4, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party and in particular the Amhara National Regional State Government for the considerable efforts undertaken to improve the state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in addressing the issues requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);

4. Takes note of the State Party's concern that the reduction of the human population within the park is very difficult to achieve under the prevailing conditions, despite efforts to initiate a voluntary resettlement programme;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to develop an alternative livelihood strategy to address this issue and invites the State Party to complete its request for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund;
6. Recommends to undertake the following additional steps:
 - a) map the extent of the agricultural encroachment within the park and monitor the level of encroachment annually,
 - b) restrict use of the area by domestic livestock,
 - c) undertake a household by household census of the people living within the Park,
 - d) continue the policy of zero tolerance of domestic dogs,
 - e) set up a system to continuously monitor the human population in the property,
 - f) consider strategic extensions to the park or its buffer zone to ensure that no further increase in agriculture, livestock and human populations occur;
7. Requests the State Party to continue to cooperate with the Canid specialist group of IUCN's Species Survival Commission as well as other organizations (such as WildCODE, the Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Ethiopian Universities) to survey the population of Simien Fox at the property;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to the property to assess progress and review the possibility of removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session in 2006;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2006** a report on the progress towards the achievement of the benchmarks set by the Committee for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger as well as additional recommendations by the Committee and to provide information on the development of a tourist lodge in the property;

10. Decides to retain Simien National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

6. Air and Tenéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1991

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1992

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.4
28 COM 15A.6

International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$ 143,250 (in particular US\$ 108, 250 for the projects within the rehabilitation plan).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

1998 UNESCO mission.

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

Political instability and civil strife, management constraints, ostrich poaching.

Current conservation issues:

During its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee reiterated its concern that no report had been provided on the theft of the vehicles financed under the World Heritage Fund and on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan for the property. The State Party addressed a letter to the World Heritage Centre on 7 December 2004, with a copy of the report prepared by the Ministry for National Defence of Niger, in which it was stipulated in particular that the vehicles had been stolen from their legal owners, on 19 March 2002, following an armed assault. No report was provided on the state of conservation of the property.

The mission requested by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003) to evaluate the implementation of the rehabilitation plan had had to be postponed because of organisational difficulties and security reasons. At the time of preparation of this document, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are organising this evaluation mission, in cooperation with the State Party. The outcome of this mission, which should take place before the 29th session, will be presented during the Committee session, and a revised draft decision could be proposed to take account of the conclusions.

Furthermore, IUCN and the State Party are collaborating on the implementation of the project financed by the Global Environment Facility, which focuses on the Air and Tenéré Natural Reserves (RNNAT) and its associated areas (Tabelote, Timia, Tintelous and Iférouane), constituting 20 million hectares of the Biosphere Reserve, including the seven million hectares of the World Heritage site. The current preparatory phase of the project proposes a 12-year project focused on halting the degradation of Saharan ecosystem lands of the northern part of Niger through an integrated local development and decentralisation process.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.6** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), as well as Decision **27 COM 7A.5** adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Notes the information in the report provided by the State Party concerning the stolen vehicles;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the rehabilitation plan;
5. Congratulates the State Party, the Global Environment Facility, IUCN and other organisations involved in organising the project for the Air and Tenéré Natural Reserves and requests the guarantee that the implementation phase of the project will include a programme for the rehabilitation of the property which takes account of the recommendations of the IUCN / World Heritage Centre mission;
6. Decides to maintain the Air and Tenéré Natural Reserves on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
7. **Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1981

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.6

28 COM 15A.7

International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$ 241,297 (Emergency Assistance for the purchase of equipment and training).

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2000.

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

Invasive species; hydrological changes due to the construction of the dam.

Current conservation issues:

At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee requested the State Party to invite the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake an evaluation mission to assess all the problems described in the report provided in 2004, as well as to evaluate the seriousness of the threat posed by the proliferation of *Typha australis* and other invasive aquatic species. In a letter dated 5 April 2005, the State Party invited the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake this mission in May 2005 to review the situation of the property with a view to its possible removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The results of this mission will be presented at the 29th session of the Committee and a revised draft decision could be proposed to take account of the conclusions.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.7** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Urges the State Party to facilitate the organisation of the joint UNESCO/IUCN mission, which will enable recommendations to be made to limit the proliferation of the *Typha australis* and other invasive species
4. Decides to maintain the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

8. Ichkeul National Park (Tunisia) (N 8)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: N (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.8

28 COM 15A.9

International Assistance:

Total amount provided for the property: US\$ 100,000 (US\$ 50,000 for technical cooperation and training activities and US\$ 50,000 as Emergency assistance in 2002).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission in 1999, IUCN/Ramsar mission in 2000, IUCN mission in 2002.

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

Dam construction resulting in changes in the hydrological regime, vegetation and disappearance of bird populations.

Current conservation issues:

An annual scientific monitoring report prepared by the management authority, "Agence nationale de protection de l'environnement (ANPE)", was submitted by the State Party in March 2005. The report provides a detailed description of the current state of conservation of the property and describes progress in the implementation of the scientific monitoring programme which was set up to assist in the rehabilitation of the park following the decision by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003).

Following the favourable climatic conditions in winter 2002-2003 and the resulting positive impacts on the property, as reported to the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), another winter of ample rain and water supply in 2003-2004 helped continue the rehabilitation of the ecosystem.

The State Party notes that:

- a) 120 million cubic metres of water was released from the dams in 2003 - 2004, that is the annual amount recommended for the rehabilitation of the property, which helped prolong the benefits of the extremely wet season the previous year;

- b) The level of water was subsequently maintained at an appropriate level for at least half of the year, resulting in very low levels of salinity (6 g/l during the 4 winter months) representing normal winter levels.
- c) Nearly the entire surface of the marshes was flooded at the end of January 2004, with persistent flooding over all the lower areas of the marshes for at least 6 months.

The maintenance of these favourable ecological conditions has been followed by the continued regeneration of some of the vegetation. The lower salinity has created the necessary conditions for the germination of the pondweeds (*Potamogeton pectinatus*) for the second year in a row, reaching the same coverage as in 1993. Wintering and breeding aquatic birds are also reported to return, although far from reaching the numbers before the dams were constructed. The report also confirmed the reappearance of eels.

The State Party also notes that the preliminary results of the winter 2004-2005 are encouraging with approximately 120 million cubic meters of water being released from the dams by the end of January 2005, the level of water already reaching 2 m and the level of salinity already as low as 4 to 5 g/l.

Since the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party was able to complete the work to install automatic sluice gates at Tinja, as recommended by the 2000 mission, to better manage the water flow to the lake. ANPE has developed an inter-annual management programme for sluice gates, in order to balance the different ecological requirements (guaranteeing low but variable salinity levels and appropriate water level for water birds and fish migration).

The report of the State Party does not provide information on the progress achieved in the preparation of the participatory management plan and the establishment of an autonomous and permanent management structure for the property, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). The State Party did not either provide a clear commitment on the status of Ichkeul National park as a "net consumer of water" and on an average annual release of 80 to 120 million cubic metres of water into the lake as requested by the Committee at its 27th and 28th sessions.

The ongoing efforts of the State Party to rehabilitate this World Heritage property and the second consecutive year of favourable climatic conditions have allowed this ecosystem to begin recovery. The monitoring and research work carried out by ANPE is important and should be

continued in order to ensure the full rehabilitation of the property.

A significant factor in the rehabilitation efforts so far has been the confluence of dam releases, favourable climatic conditions and the reparation to the sluice. IUCN reiterates that in order to ensure that regeneration is maintained, a guarantee is required from the State Party that in the case of a year of low rainfall, the recommended amount of water will still be released from the dams. Focus now also needs to shift towards month to month management of the sluice and of the human activities within the park, especially grazing. These are issues that should be addressed in the management plan for the park. Bird populations, while increasing, remain significantly lower than values at property declaration, and the range of species present is also less diverse. This can be expected to improve as the marshes and lake regenerate and such a lag time is normal in rehabilitation processes.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29COM 7A**,
2. Recalling its Decisions 28 COM 15A.9 and 27 COM 7(a)8 respectively adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, China) and its 27th session (Paris),
3. Takes note of the progress achieved in the ecological restoration of the property, as detailed in the scientific monitoring report submitted by the State Party;
4. Notes that the last two hydrological years (2002-2003 and 2003-2004) have provided very favourable climatic conditions for the rehabilitation of the park, allowing an adequate release of fresh water from the dams and resulting in the beginnings of the recovery of the ecosystem;
5. Commends the State Party for its commitment for the recovery of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to report on the status of the management plan for the park and on the process of development of an autonomous and permanent management structure which would ensure an efficient implementation of this plan for the park;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to confirm officially its commitment to an average annual release of 80 to 120 million cubic metres of freshwater into the Ichkeul National Park, in view of consideration by the Committee, based on the outcomes of a

monitoring mission, of the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. Requests the State Party to report on the progress made on the conservation status of the property by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006
9. Decides to retain Ichkeul National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

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

*Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage
in Danger:* 1992

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27COM 7A.9
28COM 15A.10

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 165,000 (for equipment purchases, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities). In 1997 the Committee approved a rehabilitation plan prepared by the Government of India and agreed to provide, in principle and in a phased manner, a maximum of US\$ 235,000 for its implementation.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

IUCN missions in 1992 and 2002.

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

Insurgency related threats resulting in destruction to park infrastructure and depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

Current conservation Issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), an IUCN/WHC mission visited the property in April 2005. A detailed report will be available for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session.

The mission noted:

- a) that on ground conservation action has commenced after the signing of an agreement between the Bodo people and the Government of India and the formation of the Bodoland Territorial Council. Specifically, action has recently commenced in rebuilding guard posts and infrastructure in the park. The mission inspected an ecotourism initiative being developed by the Bodo villagers of Kokilabari on the eastern fringe of the Manas World Heritage property, in co-operation with the Silguri based Help Tourism and Ashoka Holidays. This is a very positive initiative that aims to involve villagers in park management and specifically the control of poaching, but requires close coordination with and

supervision by the park authorities. It is noted that nearly 150 poachers surrendered their *gaziman* (handmade guns) recently to take up forest conservation and tourism activities;

- b) the insurgency appears to have had significant impacts on the forests and the wildlife populations of the park, particularly rhino, tiger and swamp deer populations. However this will need to be verified through a comprehensive baseline survey;
- c) the level of control of the park is significantly less in the western part of the park (Panbari Range) and impacts from the removal of timber were noted;
- d) that concerns still exist regarding the timely release of funds from the Assam State Government, although it is anticipated that this will be addressed by a recent ruling by the Supreme Court of India that funding must be released by the State Government within 15 days of its receipt from the Central Government.

The mission underscored the need for the State Party to initiate a dialogue with the Royal Government of Bhutan to progress the possibility of a transboundary World Heritage property, especially as Bhutan has ratified the *Convention* in 2001. It was noted that the approval of the UNF supported World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India (WHBPI) was in its final stages which would contribute to enhancing the conservation status of the property, as several recommendations of the Committee have been taken into account in the preparation of this programme.

The mission also established a number of recommendations to accelerate the recovery of the property, of which the most crucial are detailed in the draft decision and which can be used as benchmarks to measure progress for eventual consideration for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.10, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Welcomes the cessation of conflict at this property and the positive measures undertaken by the State Party to improve its conservation status, including ecotourism initiatives in Kokilabari which involve the*

Bodo people and the re-building of park infrastructure;

4. *Notes that the impacts of the conflict still exist, in particular in relation to wildlife populations (rhino, tiger and swamp deer) and timber removal in the Panbari Range;*
5. *Urges the State Party, in view of the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, to meet the following benchmarks identified by the mission:*
 - a) *accelerate efforts to re-build park infrastructure;*
 - b) *take prompt measures to fill vacant positions within the park;*
 - c) *ensure timely release of funds to the park, in compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling; and*
 - d) *undertake a comprehensive wildlife survey in the park, which could act as a future baseline for monitoring recovery of the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party also to work with the Royal Government of Bhutan to have the contiguous Royal Manas National Park inscribed on the World Heritage List as a transboundary property; and to expedite its approval of the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme of India that has provision for crucial support for conservation of the property;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit a report by 1 February 2006 on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2005 monitoring mission and in particular on the results of the status survey of wildlife in the park and progress in re-building of park infrastructure, including a time-table for its completion, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;*
8. *Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1979

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1993

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.11
28 COM 15A.11

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

None

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

Urban development, alterations of the hydrological regime, agricultural pollution.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report dated 27 January 2005 which provides an update on efforts in addressing previously identified threats to the integrity of the property.

In relation to alterations of the hydrological regime and impacts from adjacent urban growth, it is reported that new federal appropriations for 2005 include approximately US\$138 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) and associated restoration projects. The State Party reported that the State of Florida recently announced an initiative fund to accelerate elements of CERP, and a commitment of more than US \$1.5 billion. The State Party noted that the United States Congress authorized a project to address park restoration needs along the eastern boundary of the national park. Specifically, this project is intended to slow and limit water loss from the park through ground water seepage, and to restore more natural water flows and levels. It is reported that on 23 December 2004, the President of the United States signed Public Law 108-483 authorizing the exchange of certain lands in Everglades National Park as a crucial step in the implementation of this restoration project. The State Party also reports an increase in the numbers of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows, an endangered bird that is considered as an indicator species of biological recovery: numbers rose from 3216 birds in 2003 to 3584 birds in 2004.

The State of Florida and the park authorities have carried out significant efforts to monitor water quality entering the park and there is regular reporting on nutrient pollution from agricultural activities, in an effort to reduce phosphorus levels in waters discharged into the Everglades. In addition, the State of Florida recently announced plans to accelerate petitions under the CERP, including the possible addition of 18,000 acres of additional storm water treatment areas upstream of the park.

The State Party reported a general lowering of water salinity and reductions in the sizes of algae blooms due to increased fresh water entry into Florida bay through localized rainfall and through drainage from more northern areas of the park. This suggests that attempts to restore water flows through the extent of the park, once they are made operational, will be effective in helping to restore the ecological balance of the bay.

IUCN was informed that the National Research Council has urged federal and state agencies to accelerate acquisition or protection of land crucial to the recovery of Florida's Everglades before it becomes developed or too expensive.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7A and having noted the conclusions of Document WHC-05/29.COM/11A,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.11 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Notes the detailed report by the State Party provided on 27 January 2005 on the progress made on the different programmes to restore and conserve this property;*
4. *Commends the State Party for efforts made in enhancing the state of conservation of Everglades National Park and for securing additional financial resources to address the threats to the property;*
5. *Invites the State Party to prepare an updated report by 1 February 2006 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006, describing further the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the property, and steps and benchmarks proposed, in collaboration with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to guide the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
6. *Decides to retain Everglades National Park on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

11. Sangay National Park (Ecuador) (N 260)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1983

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage
in Danger: 1992

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.13
28 COM 15A.13

International Assistance:

Total amount provided for the property: US\$ 58,500 (for equipment, community awareness building and staff training).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

IUCN missions in 1989, 1994 and 1999.

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

Poaching, illegal livestock grazing, encroachment along the park's perimeter, unplanned road construction.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), IUCN undertook a mission to the property from 20 February until 2 March 2005. The mission reviewed the implementation of the recommendations from the 1999 mission to the property, and reports significant improvements since the last monitoring mission. The report notes that sections of the park experiencing any sort of human intervention (hunting, mountain climbing, livestock) are less than 2 or 3% of the entire area and that all the factors that led to inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger have either been addressed or affect only a very small percentage of the total World Heritage property or the park's buffer zone. It needs to be noted that at the time of inscription, the park covered a total area of 271,925 ha. In 1992 the park boundaries were extended to the south to encompass a total of 502,065, but the World Heritage property was not extended. Thus, the World Heritage property now encompasses about 54% of the park.

On the different threats, the monitoring mission came to the following conclusions:

- a) The construction of the 117 km Guamote-Macas Road, 8 km of which pass through the park, is now being carried out by the

Army Corps of Engineers following rigorous international environmental standards (ISO 9001 and 14001), including mitigation and restoration measures;

- b) While there are still low levels of hunting and livestock grazing around certain areas at the park border, these are insignificant and are not threatening the values for which the property was listed;
- c) While illegal timber harvest continues at low levels in a few sections of the park buffer zone, none is taking place within the property itself;
- d) Relations between the park administration and other stakeholders are increasingly positive, and no threats were detected from new colonization, oil/mineral exploration or extraction.

It is therefore recommended that future interventions should focus on management effectiveness and sustainable financing, as a follow up to the IUCN/UNESCO/UNF "Enhancing our Heritage" project that aims to improve management effectiveness in World Heritage properties. The mission noted that this project has shifted park management focus to a more strategic level and contributed to significant success in terms of raising public awareness. The positive change in environmental concern and management, specific mitigation measures, and regular evaluations of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Ministry of Public Works was reported as highly impressive and exceeding Ministry of the Environment requirements. The mission further found that the administration of Sangay National Park had in recent years suffered severe budget and personal cuts but states that at the same time a more coordinated response to conservation and the management of the property had developed in provinces and municipalities, the Army Corps of Engineers and a number of other stakeholders.

The 2004 report of the Enhancing Our Heritage Project notes further improvements in the management of the property, including revision of how the conservation of the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List are better addressed by the park's management objectives, using a broadly inclusive process involving government, NGOs, scientists, indigenous and local communities. A new management strategy has been prepared for the park, involving the management agency, NGOs and the National Environmental Fund (FAN). This plan has been presented to the Ministry for approval and includes a funding strategy, which identifies the financial needs to implement the three year strategy.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.12 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party with the progress made in addressing and minimizing the threats to the property, including the mitigation of the environmental damage of the Guamote-Macas road;
4. Urges the State Party to commit to adequate and sustained budget and staffing for the management of the property;
5. Recommends that the State Party work closely with the “Enhancing Our Heritage” project and the Fundacion Natura to further implement the new management strategy and identify the necessary funding for it ;
6. Requests the State Party to submit a report by **1 February 2006** on the progress in the implementation of the management strategy and measures taken to ensure adequate levels of funding and staff for the management of the property;
7. Decides to remove Sangay National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

12. Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1992

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1996

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.14
28 COM 15A.13

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: US\$ 190,025 (for technical cooperation and training).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

IUCN missions in 1995 and 2000, IUCN/UNESCO missions in 2003.

Current conservation issues:

Based on the recommendations of the 2003 mission, the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) established a series of benchmarks to be met in order for the property

being removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and called for on-going monitoring of progress on reaching these benchmarks. It requested that an evaluation mission be carried out in early 2005 to assess whether the property could be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 29th session in 2005.

Monitoring by IUCN during 2004 and early 2005 revealed that some progress in reaching the benchmarks had been made, specifically the relocation of the last families living inside the core zone and the elimination of a decree on the extraction of dead wood. Other issues still need to be redressed, in particular the declining integration of the work between NGO's and Government, and illegal wood harvesting by local communities. IUCN further notes that a reduction of the protected area staff by 50% seriously compromises the property's capacity to deliver results. A new forestry law is being reviewed by the Honduran Congress, which includes structural changes likely to affect the property.

The State Party requested that the mission contemplated for early 2005 be postponed to the end of the year. Given the limited progress on the 2003 benchmarks UNESCO and IUCN decided to postpone it until evidence that progress had been made was provided.

The property is participating in the UNESCO – UNF project “Enhancing our Heritage: Monitoring and managing for success in natural World Heritage properties”, which is contributing to reaching the said benchmarks.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29COM 7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.13 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that little progress has been made towards reaching the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, set by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
4. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress made towards attaining the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the state of implementation of the remaining recommendations made by the 2003

IUCN/UNESCO mission, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;

5. Decides to retain the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

13. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.15

28 COM 15A.14

International Assistance :

In 2000, US\$ 40,000 for Technical Cooperation, and US\$ 20,000 for Training activities.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in May 2004.

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

- Absence of national legislation for cultural heritage protection;
- Absence of delimitation and protection measures for the buffer zone of the property;
- Management plan not yet updated;
- Serious degradation of nearly 2/3 of the mud-brick constructions.

Current conservation issues:

Following the conclusions of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS evaluation mission in May 2004, the Committee, in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**, encouraged the State Party to implement a number of measures that would enable the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in 2007. These measures included setting up a national mechanism for cultural heritage protection, the establishment of a buffer zone around the property, an update of the management plan, and the continuation of conservation actions for the protection of the last vestiges of mud-brick construction. The Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee visited the site in November 2004 to evaluate the state of conservation, and was informed of the preparation of the cultural heritage law that would be submitted to the Parliament for vote. He seized the opportunity of this visit to remind the Benin authorities of the urgent need to implement the measures that had been recommended by the Committee, and reported on his visit to the President of the Republic of Benin.

On 10 March 2005, the State Party submitted a request for international assistance to implement the recommendations of the Committee's Decision **28 COM 15A.14**. The requested financial assistance will enable the State Party to carry out the delimitation of the buffer zone and to sign a municipal decree regulating development and construction around the property, to evaluate the management plan which had expired and to organise a technical expert mission. This technical mission, composed of specialists of mud-brick heritage conservation, will develop the future conservation project for the last vestiges of mud-brick construction. The State Party intends to invite the Getty Conservation Institute, CRATerre-EAG and the World Heritage Centre to participate in this mission.

Furthermore, from 5 to 13 April 2005, the World Heritage Centre organised a technical assistance mission in the framework of the cooperation agreement between Italy and UNESCO, aimed at alleviating the site from its endangered situation. The objective of this mission was to assist the State Party in developing a project for the promotion of sustainable tourism, with a view to increasing income and financing some of the costs for the maintenance and conservation work. The project proposal will be submitted to different funding institutions.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.14**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Encourages the State Party to pursue the search for funding in order to implement all the measures defined by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
4. Invites the international community to support the State Party in its efforts towards removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Decides to maintain the Royal Palaces of Abomey on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

14. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: C (ii), (iv), (v)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1990

State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.16
28 COM 15A.15

International Assistance:

In 1989, Preparatory Assistance of US\$ 5500 for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger; in 1991, Technical Cooperation assistance of US\$ 45,000; in 1996, Technical Cooperation assistance of US\$ 40,000.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

World Heritage Centre mission in January 2004, July 2004 (with ICOMOS) and February 2005.

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

- No delimitation and protective measures for the buffer zone of the property;
- No management plan;
- Urban development pressure;
- Flooding risks and waste management problems.

Current conservation issues:

From 14 to 16 February 2005, a World Heritage mission went to Timbuktu to participate in a Round Table meeting organised by the State Party on conservation issues of the city of Timbuktu. The mission made the following observations:

- a) Implementation of Emergency assistance granted in 2004 following the flooding of the city in 2003:

On the recommendation of ICOMOS, a summary strategic conservation plan was prepared in July 2004, thanks to financial support from the Italian Government. This plan contains a number of recommendations and rules that should be taken into account when implementing emergency assistance. The border fountain was repaired and once again provides drinking water to the Sankoré Mosque quarter. One of the 50 dwellings was rebuilt and will serve as a model for the other houses. The restoration of three mosques is underway. All work should be finished by August 2005.

- b) Impact of technical missions financed in the framework of the UNESCO-Italy cooperation agreement:

To date, the Italian technical missions organised since 2002 have enabled:

- (i) the detailed inventory of 16 mausoleums inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

- (ii) the provision of assistance to the cultural mission of Timbuktu and the imams of the three mosques to energetically re-launch the conservation activities on the site, re-mobilising involvement of the community of the old city;
- (iii) the collection of a wealth of documentation on the site (summary conservation plan, technical reports, aerial photographs, socio-economic surveys, etc.);
- (iv) an architectural survey of the inhabited zone around the Sankoré Mosque;
- (v) the preparation of a project document for the rehabilitation of the old city of Timbuktu which was submitted to the Italian Government.

The mission noted with satisfaction that the endangered state of the property had been alleviated. However, the State Party had still to take legal and administrative measures for the delimitation of the buffer zone and obtain a clear vision of the entire ensemble, in particular by means of a management/rehabilitation plan, which would help to preserve the character of the old city. Thus, the Mali authorities would perceive that any project to asphalt the ringway around the old city could have a negative impact on the authenticity of the site.

ICOMOS indicated that the management and rehabilitation plan would recommend a sustainable conservation and development approach for the World Heritage property, and reinforce the following actions: organisation of regular maintenance of the site, organisation of training programmes for craftsmen and masons, development of a cultural tourism strategy, involvement of the residents, development of a realistic approach to sanitation issues, and finally, the development of risk prevention in the event of other floods. ICOMOS also considered that financial and technical support for a project of a minimum of 5 years is necessary in order to put in place a management and rehabilitation plan that would permit the old city to develop in a sustainable manner.

Moreover, on 15 April 2005, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party informing it of the steps currently being taken with Timbuktu Municipality. They concern the strengthening of legal measures for protection around the property by means of a decree delimiting a buffer zone of about 26 hectares. This zone includes the old city and will be the

focus of a sectoral urban plan in accordance with the national decrees in force. The delimitation plan of the buffer zone, as well as the draft Municipal Order has been transmitted to ICOMOS. The afore-mentioned letter informed the World Heritage Centre that, in 2006, the Mali authorities plan to submit a request for the extension of the property to include the totality of the old city. With regard to past achievements and future projects, the State Party wishes the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2005 onwards.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.15**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Noting the results of the mission carried out by the World Heritage Centre, the results of the implementation of Recommendation **28 COM 15A.15**, the measures undertaken for the legal reinforcement of protection around the property, and the impact of the technical missions financed in the framework of the UNESCO-Italy cooperation agreement,
4. Also noting the wish of the State Party for the property to be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger,
5. Congratulates the State Party for all the efforts that have been made to significantly improve the state of conservation of the property;
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the project to submit a proposal for the extension of the property to the entire city of Timbuktu in 2006;
7. Recommends that the State Party make a complete inventory of the old city of Timbuktu which would be useful for the extension proposal;
8. Invites international partners to submit the project for the rehabilitation of the architecture of Timbuktu;
9. Decides to remove Timbuktu from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criterion: C (iii)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2004

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.41

International Assistance:

Technical Co-operation (US\$24,320 in 2002) for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the property, ongoing activity.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

ICOMOS mission, 23 to 27 February 2004.

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

- Ruins damaged by sea erosion; collapsing monuments;
- lack of clear boundary of property and buffer zone; population pressure;
- no participation of community;
- unclear management systems leading to inactivity; old legal framework.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received in October 2004 from the French NGO Chantiers Histoire & Architectures Médiévales (CHAM), a report on their three-year semi permanent work programme at the Kilwa Kisiwani property. The programme for the restoration and enhancement of the property, with a view to develop tourism in the region, started in 2002, upon the request of the Tanzanian Ministry for Tourism and Natural Resources through the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' 'Priority Solidarity Fund' (FSP). The programme is part of the joint partnership of Tanzania, Japan, France and UNESCO for the development of the Kilwa Kisiwani World Heritage property started in 2001 and amounting to US\$ 1,438,000.

The World Heritage Centre noted that besides the work-training project, the programme activities for the development of the property and of tourism include: the establishment of a visitor centre and museum; the construction of boat jetties; conservation awareness events for the local population; reinforcing legislation to protect the monument; training site guides and a research programme.

The World Heritage Centre further noted that the global aims for the property's development are: to stimulate sustainable development in the region through promoting tourism leading to job creation, improvements in services and infrastructures and a rise of local living standards; to preserve and present the archaeological, architectural and historic material; to improve visitor facilities, site interpretation and educational tools on the site

and to increase and ensure wide-ranging diffusion of knowledge and research about the sites' history. CHAM further aims to transmit technical know-how in the preservation and maintenance of historic monuments among the local population; to train the site manager and work supervisor (district officers), in technical, administrative and financial aspects for site management so that they can continue the work effectively after the termination of the project; to consolidate the most threatened architectural features and control the deterioration of the remains of the monuments through restoration work and to make the property more accessible and understandable to visitors.

The World Heritage Centre received in March 2005 for its comments drafts of the Management Plan, the Tourism Master Plan including draft promotional materials, as well as a report on the intangible aspects and the proposed extension to include Kilwa Kivinje. These reports will be submitted by the State Party in their final form at the time of the 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the State Party is putting many efforts in establishing plans for the conservation, proper management and sustainable development of the site involving the local community as well as the international donor community. The final documents could facilitate the involvement of interested donors in the continued need for support for the urgent conservation works at the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.41**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts undertaken to establish a Management and Conservation Plan and a Tourism Master Plan for the site, and invites the State Party to submit the final documents;
4. Notes with appreciation the continued support provided by the Governments of France and Japan to address some of the problems facing this property;
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the Management Plan and Tourism Master Plan for the protection, conservation and development of the site;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the state of conservation of the

property including follow up action on the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;

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

ARAB STATES

16. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1982

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15A.16

27 COM 7A.17

International Assistance:

Total amount (until 2005): US\$ 91,731

Previous monitoring mission(s):

September 2002

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

Natural degradation due to sea salt, shore line and wind erosion, and to vegetation with roots seriously affecting archaeological remains;

Deterioration of the archaeological vestiges following serious acts of vandalism (destruction, theft, waste dumping, etc);

Increasing and uncontrolled urbanisation on the outskirts of the site and the buffer zone, anarchic constructions, constant land disputes with owners or public and private operators;

Unsuitable restoration techniques;

Open drains of the colonial city crossing the site to the sea;

Weak service capacities in charge of the conservation of the site.

Current conservation issues:

In January 2005, referring to the decisions made by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party sent a report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress achieved in carrying out the recommendations made following the inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2002. This report contained the following information and documents:

1. A copy of the cadastral map of the commune of Tipasa. ICOMOS pointed out that the photocopy transmitted was of too poor quality to judge whether it responds to the Committee's requirements concerning the «buffer zone», or the presence on the site of any buildings.

2. A census of the ownership of the occupied spaces in the Saint Salsa Necropolis to the east, and in the Alexandria Necropolis to the west, was carried out, thanks to the cadastral map. Of a total of 74 families identified, 48 are owners and 26 are illegal occupants. Action will be undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and the Wilaya within the framework of legislation and regulations in force concerning the relocation, expropriation, evacuation or acquisition of real estate buildings by the State.

3. A copy of the registration form of a technical study to set up a Plan for the Protection and Presentation of the Archaeological site of Tipasa and its Protection Zone (PPSMVA), launched by the Agence Nationale d'Archéologie de Protection des Sites et Monuments Historiques (ANAPSMH) in the framework of regulations for public market. This study should provide the required basis for the elaboration of yearly management plans for the site. This technical sheet mentions that the elaboration of the PPSMVA of Tipasa, in conformity with the Executive Decree No. 03-323 of 5 October 2003 containing modalities for the development of the PPSMVA, will cost 3,950,000 Algerian Dinars, and the temporary and permanent work in the framework of the project for the implementation of emergency measures and development for the site are estimated at 10,000,000 AD. The Council of Wilaya has attributed an additional 2,150,000 AD for sanitation work and repair of the tourist itineraries of the site. As stated by ICOMOS in its evaluation of the report, there is no mention of the adoption of a legal text on "the protection and presentation of the archaeological sites and their buffer zones", and the establishment, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, of a plan governing the construction, urbanisation and land use of the site of Tipasa.

4. A copy of a document testifying to the attribution of 2,843,843.28 AD for the recruitment of 23 prevention and security agents for the archaeological site, the Museum and the Royal Mausoleum of Mauritania.

5. A copy of a document attesting to the attribution of 2,510,741.90 AD for the restoration of the Museum at Tipasa and the installation of a security and electronic surveillance system.

6. A copy of the document attesting to the creation, jointly with the Hydraulic Authorities, of a project entitled « Underground evacuation system in the protected zone of the archaeological site of Tipasa». This project aims to divert the passage of the hybrid network

(sanitation and rain water) outside of the listed site.

The report also mentioned that the ANAPSMH is a public establishment of an administrative nature without administrative and financial autonomy. It is organised in 15 archaeological districts divided amongst the 43 Wilayas. Its operating budget amounts to 200,000,000 AD.

The final report of a training workshop for preventive conservation of the mosaics of Tipasa, organised in December 2004 by the Cultural Heritage Directorate in collaboration with the Central Institute for Restoration in Rome (CIR), funded under the World Heritage Fund, was received by the World Heritage Centre. Eight Algerian participants were able to benefit from this training.

In its report, the State Party requested the assistance of the World Heritage Centre in designating an expert to participate with the working group set up by the Ministry of Culture, in the examination of all the phases of the studies for the plan for the protection and presentation of the site of Tipasa.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.16**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party on the steps taken to improve the protection of the site, but considers, nonetheless, that additional and ongoing actions are necessary to ensure total protection of the site;
4. Urges the State Party to pursue its efforts for the protection of Tipasa by implementing the measures still required for the application of all of the recommendations of Decision **28 COM 15A.16**, in order to enable the Committee to consider the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Invites the State Party to submit a request for international assistance in the required format, for an expert to be made available to the Ministry of Culture to participate in the examination of all phases of the plan for the protection and presentation of the site of Tipasa;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the above

recommendations for study by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006 ;

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

17. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criterion: C (iv)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger: 2001

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15A.17

27 COM 7A.18

International Assistance:

In 2001, technical co-operation (Ancient Thebes and Abu Mena): US\$ 14,000.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

September 2002, UNESCO mission of an expert in hydrology.

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

Raising groundwater level, lack of consolidation, engineering and management measures.

Current conservation issues:

Two reports were submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO: *A report about the state of the monumental area of Abu Mina*, submitted in December 2004 and *A technical report concerning the project of decreasing the underground water levels in the monumental area of Abu Mena* (2 pages), submitted in January 2005.

The first report (which is undated) recapitulates in three pages the measures taken since the site was discovered in 1905 to address the problems associated with the rising underground water level. These problems have become more acute since 1990, and recognition in 1998 of the severity of the situation led to the initiation by the Supreme Council of Antiquities of a comprehensive analysis of the site and proposals for its solution. The project was put out to tender without response. Meanwhile, again quoting this report, 'the level of the underground water which threatens the monumental area of Abu Mena is still increasing as some monumental hills in the area collapsed.' This is accompanied by a poor photocopy of a map with a legend in Arabic referring to the 1956 decree of national registration of the site.

Attached to this report is a paper entitled *On the water problems at Abu Mina* by Peter Grossman (whose affiliation or qualifications are not stated) dated 12 November 2004, which sets out two alternative approaches to the problem: the first involves the digging of a series of shafts linked below ground by tunnels from which the water could be pumped, thereby lowering the water table by 1–2m (inadequate in the view of the author); the cheaper and more effective alternative would be to stop any further supply of water from a much larger area around the archaeologically sensitive area (entailing paying compensation to those farmers who would lose their land).

The second report (which is also undated) briefly summarizes twenty 'works' (including, *inter alia*, financial estimates) to be undertaken within a period of three years, which provide a minimal response to the Committee's request for an Action Plan to solve the problem of the rising groundwater.

However, these reports, complementing the alarming report received from the State Party in February 2004 and presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), increase the fears about the loss of the outstanding universal value for which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List and its integrity, and add to the criteria which led to its inscription on the World Heritage List in Danger. Should the situation continue to deteriorate and should no concrete action be taken by the State Party as regards the implementation of the recommendations, the Committee could envisage, according to paragraphs 192 to 198 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the possibility of removing the site of Abu Mena from the World Heritage List in the future.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM. 7A**,
2. Recalling Decision 28 COM 15A.17 taken at its 28th sessions (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Takes note with concern of the information provided by the State Party and expresses its concerns over the deterioration of the property caused by rising groundwater levels and other threats;
4. Urges the State Party to adopt long-term and sustainable measures with all the concerned national institutions, along the lines of the recommendations contained in the UNESCO Mission Report of 2002 and the Committee's

Decisions 27 COM 7A.18 and 28 COM 15A.17;

5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, in co-operation with the State Party, to undertake a mission to the property in order to assess the situation – both in terms of the state of conservation of the archaeological remains and in terms of the hydrological issue – review the proposed project, and determine the necessary steps towards the implementation of the above recommendations;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2006, a report on the progress made in implementing these recommendations for the examination of the Committee at its 30th session of 2006;*
7. *Decides to retain Abu Mena on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2003

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 8C.45
27 COM 8C.46
28 COM 15A.18

International Assistance:

2003: US\$50,000 approved for technical co-operation (only 5,000 US\$ used).

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

November 2002.

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

Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project (interrupted for the time being);

Fragile mud brick structures;

Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Current conservation issues:

As reported at the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), a Preliminary work plan for an assessment mission to the site was prepared in order to develop an emergency conservation plan as well as the basis for a management plan of the site. However, the implementation of this activity had to be delayed, due to the current security constraints. The amount remaining

under the International Assistance Request was returned to the World Heritage Fund at the end of the previous biennium, the building of the dam which had justified the emergency request being halted. In October 2004, the State Party submitted a new request, in the form of a letter in Arabic, which did not correspond either to the standard format or to activities foreseen under technical cooperation in the *Operational Guidelines*. A new Assistance Request is under preparation by the State Party.

UNESCO has developed a large programme for cultural heritage preservation in Iraq, to which the World Heritage Centre contributes partially. Thanks to a donation from the Czech Republic to the World Heritage Fund, US\$ 30,000 were allocated to the purchase of photogrammetric equipment. In addition, a US\$ 100,000 contribution from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation allowed the World Heritage Centre to organize a training workshop in Amman, Jordan, in September 2004, in order to introduce ten Iraqi specialists to the concepts and procedures of the *Convention*. Two additional workshops are due to take place in 2005 to develop a complete Nomination File for the site of Samarra.

At the time of drafting this document, no report from the State Party has yet been received.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.18** taken at its 28th sessions (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes with concern the security situation in Iraq; which is notably causing delays in the implementation of activities for the conservation of Ashur;
4. Encourages the State Party to establish, as early as possible, a site management coordination unit, which will be responsible for any action to be undertaken on the property;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare a Conservation and Management Plan for the site, possibly through an International Assistance Request, and, should the situation permit, with international expertise;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue assisting the responsible Iraqi authorities;
7. Further requests the State Party to report, by **1 February 2006**, on the progress made in implementing the above recommendations,

for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006 ;

8. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1993

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.20
28 COM 15A.20

International Assistance:

From 2001 to 2003: US\$ 121,918.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

2002 and 2003, international expertise

December 2004, World Heritage Centre

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

Deterioration of the traditional urban fabric; loss of integrity and authenticity; socio-economic degradation.

Current conservation issues:

Within the framework of the International Assistance Request submitted by the Yemeni authorities and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), a Stakeholders' meeting was organized in December 2004, aiming at widening the consultation at the local level, at bringing together decision makers, representatives of the civil society, and international experts. The presence of the Minister of Culture and of the Director of the World Heritage Centre during parts of the meeting highlighted its importance and strengthened the position of the local authorities as well as their will to act in favour of the old city. It is expected that the impact of this meeting and of its recommendations will generate a number of activities towards the rehabilitation and economic revitalization of the city, which is in a very serious state of deterioration.

A Report on the State of Conservation of the Historic Town of Zabid, prepared by the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), was received by the World Heritage Centre in February 2005. As concerns the general state of conservation, this

report declares that 'compared with the previous UNESCO reports from 2001 to 2003, the situation has not really changed.' It does predict, however, that the sewerage project will be completed by October 2005, that studies on the storm-water drainage and leveling of the streets and squares have been completed and that implementation of the works is due to start in April 2005. Restoration work is under way on a number of monuments (Bab El-Qurtub Gate, Al-Ashaer Mosque, Citadel). The local branch of GOPHCY is drafting a comprehensive action plan, due to be submitted for official approval before summer 2005, to solve the problem of illegal constructions by means of a long-term compensation scheme and the removal of such violations within the public spaces of the city.

The Urban Conservation Plan elaborated by UNESCO experts still misses some components, notably the implementation of the inventory. In the meantime, the Ministry of Public Works has finalized an Urban Development Plan which provides for a one km buffer zone, an articulation zone, and an area for the development of a new urban settlement on the north-eastern side of the city. This Plan has been adopted by means of a decree and it has to be completed with the detailed Conservation Plan within six months from the adoption of the decree (April 2005).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.20** taken at its 28th sessions (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party on the progress that it has made over the past year in the halting of illegal constructions,
4. Regrets while appreciating the adoption of the Urban Development Plan, that it does not integrate the urban regulations drafted for the historic core nor the Conservation Plan;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to complete and adopt the Conservation Plan;
6. Encourages the State Party to define, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, an Action Plan for the socio-economic revitalization of the city, thus helping in the safeguarding of the heritage, in implementing the recommendations of the Stakeholders' Meeting;
7. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress

made on the implementation of the above recommendations, for the Committee's examination at its 30th session in 2006.

8. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2002

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

Year of inscription of the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2002

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.21

27 COM 8B.2

28 COM 15A.21

International Assistance:

2003: US\$100,000 Emergency Assistance for the enhanced conservation and management of the property.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO Experts/Division of Cultural Heritage mission (February-March 2004)

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

Political instability; leaning of the Minaret; local infrastructural requirements; lack of management plan.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 5 March 2005.

The report informed that the Governments of Switzerland and Italy provided significant financial support for the emergency consolidation and restoration of this property, through projects implemented by UNESCO. The Government of Italy also provided US\$ 50,000 for the elaboration of a management plan for the property. The latter activity, however, could not be completed due to security concerns in the area of Jam.

In autumn 2004, however, additional protective gabions were laid down along the riverbanks of the Jam Rud in order to reinforce the protection of the Minaret's foundations against water infiltrations. UNESCO, moreover, is preparing a partial permanent consolidation of the base of the Minaret by means of stainless steel cables, in close cooperation with the Italian firm ALGA. To enable this delicate intervention in this particular context, ALGA aims to adapt the equipment and the intervention techniques used for the circling of the leaning Tower of Pisa. The intervention shall be executed as soon as the technical proposal is finalized by ALGA.

Concerning the construction of a road and a bridge at this property, no major operational activities have been executed since the last UNESCO monitoring mission in 2004, upon a ban on all UN missions to Afghanistan related to the parliamentary elections in October 2004. The State Party has received the technical report and recommendations prepared by the UNESCO mission on the issue of the road, but apparently no action could be taken. Activities in Afghanistan are slowly resuming, and a UNESCO expert mission to Jam is now foreseen in May 2005 to initiate the preparation work necessary for the consolidation of the base of the Minaret.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.21, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Encourages the State Party to construct an alternative footbridge across the Hari River in order to enable access of the villagers from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley, following the recommendations of the UNESCO mission in February 2004;
4. Urges the State Party, with assistance from UNESCO and the international community, to continue the on-going efforts for the structural consolidation of the Minaret;
5. Requests the State Party, with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate a site-management plan, taking into account the relevant provisions of the Operational Guidelines (2005);
6. Further request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the state of conservation of this property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

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

Year of inscription of the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 8C.44

27 COM 8C.45

28 COM 15A.22

International Assistance:

2003: US\$ 100,000 Emergency Preparatory Assistance

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Regular UNESCO missions are sent in the framework of a large extra-budgetary project.

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

Consolidation of the cliffs and niches; absence of a site management plan; lack of a long-term on-site monitoring system; demining.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 5 March 2005.

In line with the recommendations of the Second UNESCO/ICOMOS Expert Working Group on the Preservation of Bamiyan held in Munich in December 2003, major extra-budgetary activities have been implemented by UNESCO in cooperation with the donors for the conservation of this World Heritage property.

A bilateral financial contribution of approximately one million euros was granted from 2002 to 2004 by the Government of Germany, through ICOMOS Germany for the safeguarding of Afghanistan's cultural heritage, notably for the preservation of the fragments of the statues of the Buddha in Bamiyan and of traditional buildings in the Bamiyan Valley. The conservation of the fragments of the Great Bhuddas has been initiated, and ICOMOS wishes to complete the work during 2005.

The amount of US\$ 1,815,967 was granted in 2002 by the Government of Japan for the safeguarding of the property. Thanks to this contribution, the first phase of the emergency consolidation of the cliffs and niches has been finalized and the preservation of mural paintings has started. A Third Expert Working Group Meeting for Bamiyan, organized by UNESCO and the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRIICP) of Japan took place in Tokyo in December 2004. For the first time, experts were able to use Carbon14 dating technology to ascertain the age of the two Buddha statues, as well as of the mural paintings: the Small Buddha was shown to date from 507 AD, the Great Buddha dates from 551 AD and the mural paintings were dated between the late 5th and

early 9th century AD. The experts agreed on the need to pursue the activities undertaken during the first phase of the project, which focused on emergency measures, and emphasized that longer-term measures are urgently required for the second phase to ensure the continued preservation of the property.

A Preliminary Master Plan for the property, which identifies cultural zones and buffer zones upon archaeological investigations, has been submitted by NRICP of Japan to the State Party and to UNESCO in July 2004. This Preliminary Master Plan, with its proposed guidelines, would become the basis for the site-management planning of the property.

A project for the construction of a Cultural Heritage Training Centre, initiated by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, through its grant of US\$ 446,381 in 2003 and a complementary contribution of US\$ 90,000 through three years' earmarked funds to the World Heritage Fund, is being implemented with UNESCO's support foreseeing its inauguration in June 2005. This Training Centre foresees to employ the local population and to bring in expertise for heritage conservation and to organize capacity-building activities for the national and regional experts.

The State Party, moreover, has purchased land and started the construction of the surrounding walls of a museum of Bamiyan, which would eventually cover an area of 11,000 square metres. In the meantime, archaeological investigations have also been carried out by the University of Strasbourg, in cooperation with the French Archaeological Mission in Afghanistan (DAFA).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.22**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for its dedication for the safeguarding of the property;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to review the Preliminary Master Plan prepared by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (NRICP) of Japan and to assist the State Party in developing a comprehensive Management Plan based on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and in line with the principles set out in the Operational Guidelines (2005);

5. Invites the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed technical information on the large-scale local museum under construction within the property and clarify its relation to the Cultural Heritage Training Centre in Bamiyan;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the state of conservation of this property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**22. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)
(C 241)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

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

Year of inscription of the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.23
28 COM 15A.24

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2005): US\$92,370.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO experts mission (June 2004)

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

Lack of management mechanism; lack of building and land-use regulations; rural poverty; tourism development pressures.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 29 January 2005.

Following the recommendations of UNESCO expert missions in 2002 and 2003, the construction of the Aneundi suspended bridge, which had caused the inscription of the site on the World Heritage List in Danger, was halted. At the end of 2004, the State Party had apparently completed the by-pass road to prevent heavy traffic from entering the core area of the property, which had been indicated by the Committee as the precondition for the resumption of the works on the bridge. At present, the State Party is preparing the traffic regulations and final designs for the landing of the bridge and the erection of barriers to deter heavy traffic from the core area of the site, as requested by the World Heritage Centre to allow

the completion of the bridge. Another foot-bridge was dismantled in 2004.

The preparation of an integrated site-management plan for the property is under way, with support from the World Heritage Fund. The State Party has made efforts to establish a serious dialogue with stakeholders at all levels, notably at the first Stakeholders Workshop held in June 2004 with assistance from the World Heritage Centre, which brought forth significant insights concerning the values of the important cultural landscape and long term management requirements. A document containing an outline of the Management Plan, prepared by the University of New Delhi, School of Planning and Architecture, has been received by the Centre as part of its contract with the Archaeological Survey of India. The Centre provided its comments by letter dated 11 April 2005.

These comments drew the attention of the State Party to the need to re-orient the scope and structure of the Management Plan, currently conceived as a study on the possible ideal management of the property rather than as the description of an actual system operating on the ground. In this respect, ICOMOS emphasized in particular the need to develop any Management Plan in close consultation with the authority charged with its implementation and recalled that a clear distinction should be made between the operations that the designated Management Authority can implement, monitor and control, and the overall management system (including legal and planning frameworks) in which the Management Authority functions. Now, such authority in Hampi (the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority) has apparently just been legally established in March 2005, and did not appear to have taken part in the elaboration of the draft management Plan.

ICOMOS further comments that a Management Plan should ensure protective response to the World Heritage values recognized at the time of the inscription of the properties, and recommends that any changes to the understanding of the property (value as a cultural landscape, re-thought criteria, new statement of Outstanding Universal Value, redefinition of boundaries, etc) be brought forward by the State Party for review by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Committee at the earliest opportunity.

In the framework of the project implemented with funds from the World Heritage Fund, a review meeting shall be organized around the end of July 2005 in Hampi. This will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the above issues and bring forward the preparation of an effective

Management Plan for the property. In addition, a UNESCO expert technical mission is foreseen in late May 2005 in order to undertake, in cooperation with the State Party and the Management Plan team, a technical capacity-building of local experts on the methodology of heritage inventorying and development of building regulations.

The construction of a large commercial complex and traffic interchange node, adjacent to the core area of the property, had also been halted since June 2004 following the recommendations of a UNESCO mission. The World Heritage Centre has corresponded closely with the State Party in an effort to revise the plan of the structure and minimize its impact on the integrity of the landscape. The State Party has indeed modified the plan and submitted a revised, less intrusive version of the complex, which has been scaled back close to 50% of its original size. At the same time, the State party has requested the consent of the Centre for the resumption of the works, taking into account the need for alleviating the pressure caused by commercial activities near the Temple, preventing traffic from entering the core area of the property as well as the legal and financial commitments made with the contractor in charge of the project.

While recognizing the great efforts made by the State Party to respond to the criticisms on this proposed commercial complex, ICOMOS believes that this project should not proceed until the Management Plan is completed and the fit of this project within the provisions of the completed plan are fully and properly assessed. Indeed, the completion of the Management Plan and the establishment of effective control on the development within the property should be seen as the benchmark against which to measure the progress made by the State Party in removing the potential threats that had justified the inscription of the property on the World heritage List in Danger.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.24, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the great efforts made in response to the recommendations of the various UNESCO missions and advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and notably for having established a management authority for the property;*

4. Requests the State party to submit for examination of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies the required documentation for the resumption of the Anegundi Bridge, notably the traffic regulations on the by-pass road and the erection of traffic barriers banning heavy vehicles within the core area of the property;
5. Invites the State Party to consider the possibility of withholding the construction of the commercial complex until the Management Plan is finalized and fully operational;
6. Requests the State Party to continue the efforts to develop a Management Plan for the entire property, based on the Statement of the Outstanding Universal Value and taking into account the comments from the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, the final draft of the Management Plan together with a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
8. Decides to consider the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger upon evaluation of the content of the above-mentioned progress report at its 30th session in 2006
9. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2004

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.55

28 COM 14B.56

International Assistance:

2004: US\$ 50,000 Emergency Assistance
US\$ 500,000 Japan Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO.

2005: US\$ 300,000 Italian Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO.

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

Earthquake

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Several UNESCO missions during 2004

Current conservation issues:

Since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger, an International Steering Committee for the safeguarding of Bam (ISC) was established, including representatives from UNESCO, the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO), ICOMOS and ICCROM. The first meeting of the International Steering Committee was held in Rome, on 28 September 2004, to review the short and long-term priority for the conservation of the property, and discuss the possible scope and objectives of an International Meeting to be organized in Rome with the support of the Italian Government. In the meantime, the UNESCO Teheran Cluster Office was able to mobilize the amount of US\$ 500,000, through the Japan Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO, to provide technical assistance and training for the conservation and rehabilitation of the property.

The second session of the ISC took place at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on 3 December 2004, in the presence of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. An observer from Italy attended the meeting to define the details of the International Meeting to be organized in Rome. The ISC defined the main areas for which project proposals needed to be prepared in view of the International Meeting, including the elaboration of a comprehensive Management Plan, the rehabilitation of the *qanat* system, and the development of a general policy for the treatment of the archaeological remains within and around the Arg-e-Bam Citadel.

A capacity-building Workshop on World Heritage Nominations was held in Bam from 20 to 21 January 2005, with the participation of a World Heritage Centre's consultant. The visit provided an opportunity to review the pending issues related to the Nomination file of Bam and its Cultural Landscape. The following four main aspects were identified, from a World Heritage perspective, which would require attention by the State Party:

- a) The Nomination documentation submitted in 2004 describes only a small portion of the property actually inscribed by the Committee, which took its decision based on a map prepared by the State Party following the recommendations of the ICOMOS expert that evaluated the property. The property

described in the text of the Nomination submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in fact, refers to a 81-hectare site with multiple buffer zones and primarily oriented towards the City. The property actually inscribed by the Committee, on the other hand, is a cultural landscape of 2,300 hectares;

- b) The final boundary of the site is not yet fixed, as the State Party is still considering the possibility of making minor adjustments to the boundary of the cultural landscape;
- c) A Management Plan based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and reflecting the area actually inscribed has not been prepared;
- d) The criteria and indicators for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have not been defined.

In April 2005, the Italian authorities approved a contribution of US\$ 300,000 in favour of the organization of the above-mentioned International Meeting on Bam and for the subsequent implementation of a conservation activity at the site. The Meeting shall take place in Rome, from 10 to 11 May 2005, with the participation of several international experts, and shall review the progress achieved in Bam and discuss several project proposals elaborated by the Iranian authorities, among which one to be implemented through Italian support.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29 COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 14B.55** and **28 COM 14B.56**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Requests the State Party, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, to address the issues identified during the Workshop held in Bam in January 2005, and in particular:
 - a) to develop a Management Plan, reflecting the extent and values of the World Heritage property, in close coordination and integration with other existing planning framework and all concerned institutions and stakeholders;
 - b) to prepare an up-dated version of the Nomination File so as to match the perimeter and the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, and including

the above-mentioned Management Plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre;

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with ICOMOS and the State party, to define the criteria for the possible removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger and present them in its report on the state of conservation of the property for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations, as well as on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
6. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

24. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

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

Year of inscription of the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.52
28 COM 15A.25

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$ 332,775 (including US\$ 20,000 in 1999 for the preparation of an inventory of 120 buildings in Bauddhanath Monument Zone).

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre High Level Mission (19-22 February 2003).

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

Encroachment of urban fabric due to development, lack of coordinated management.

Current conservation issues:

Following the request of the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), The World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 1 February 2005, as well as proposals for the redefinition of boundaries.

The report stressed how the international Technical Workshop of May 2004 for the conservation of this property, organized by

UNESCO in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology of Nepal, had provided an opportunity to gather all stakeholders and discuss conservation issues for the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage property and identify measures to safeguard the value of the site. Following the International Workshop, and with a view to implement its recommendations, the State Party organized a National Workshop to organize the work of three thematic task forces focusing on legal policies, conservation issues and community involvement. These three working groups meet each month at the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu to monitor progress.

This was followed by the establishment of a High Level Governmental Committee, which drew up a 2-year Action Plan based on the recommendations of the above-mentioned International Workshop. This Action Plan, which includes specific activities targeting legislative improvement, management coordination, capacity-building, community awareness-raising and identification of operational projects, is awaiting cabinet adoption for financing.

A UNESCO Chair for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage was established in September 2004 at the Khwopa Engineering College in Bhaktapur, aiming to establish a Master's course in Heritage Conservation by the academic year 2005-2006. A Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project was also carried out for Changu Narayan Monument Zone by Finn-Map with financial support of the Finnish Government, where the students of Khwopa College received training in GIS.

In the summer of 2004, the World Heritage Centre supported the elaboration of an inventory undertaken by the University of Venice as well as the identification of policies and measures to prevent the demolition of traditional houses in Patan Monument Zone. This inventory was meant to contribute to collecting the information required by the State Party to respond to the Committee's request to redefine the boundaries of the property.

As a follow up to a survey of the seven Monument Zones of the property with financial support of the Government of Germany, moreover, a publication called "Conserve! Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Site Potential Areas for Cooperation" was prepared, which generated wide interest from the public.

The report prepared by the State Party also included extensive information on the state of conservation of each Monument Zone and, when appropriate, proposals for the modification of their boundaries.

As invited by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Centre assisted the State Party in identifying and supporting a technical advisor for the national and local authorities to provide professional expertise, from March to June 2005.

The ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission, requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), was undertaken from 15 to 20 March 2005, in order to examine whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the Kathmandu Valley as such had been retained or lost. This was done through visits to each of the seven Monument Zones and taking into account the report prepared by the State Party.

In Hanuman Dhoka, Pashupatinath and Baudhanath, the Mission recommended the reduction of the core zones, as proposed by the State Party, in consideration of the partial erosion of the traditional urban fabric. Considering the very minor loss of traditional urban texture in Bhaktapur and Swayambhunath and the intactness of the setting of Changu Narayan, the Mission recommended maintaining their perimeters as proposed by the State Party. For Patan, the Mission felt that further documentation was required in order to assess the degree of deterioration of the heritage significance, which is currently being finalized by the State Party. In conclusion, the Mission found that the World Heritage property had retained its overall Outstanding Universal Value, under the original criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi), but that this was threatened as long as an effective management system is not put in place. The Mission suggested as well that the name of the World Heritage property might be changed, upon recommendation of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), into "Historic Monument Zones of the Kathmandu Valley", to more adequately reflect its character and nature.

The Mission also noted the urgent need for the establishment of an integrated Management Plan harmonizing and strengthening the various systems in place at the seven different Monument Zones. Such Management Plan should be combined with appropriate building regulations and technical specifications that would take into account the legitimate needs for changes, typical of a living city, while ensuring that the minimum conservation requirements are observed. It was felt by the Mission that the development, through a participatory approach, of such Management Plan and building regulations would constitute the benchmark against which to measure the progress made by the State Party towards the safeguarding of the World Heritage property in view of its possible

removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Dutch Government, the World Heritage Centre aims precisely at assisting the State Party in the elaboration of this Management Plan, in consultation with ICOMOS, with a view to hopefully completing it by the summer of 2006. A risk management programme will be incorporated within this initiative through training, public awareness raising and policy-level advocacy.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.25**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the great efforts made towards the conservation of the property;
4. Congratulates the State Party for the work achieved on the redefinition of the boundaries, and encourages it to request formally a “minor modification” to the boundaries of the property according to the procedures established in the Operational Guidelines (paragraphs 163-164) for the examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
5. Further encourages the State Party to complete the categorized inventories in the seven Monument Zones and implement swiftly the two-year Action Plan developed by the High Level Governmental Committee;
6. Requests the State Party, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to establish an integrated and comprehensive Management Plan for the entire property and to develop appropriate and realistic building regulations to control change of the built stock around the main monuments within the World Heritage property;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress achieved on the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
8. Decides to retain the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1981

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2000

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.24
28 COM 15A.26

International Assistance:

Total amount (1981-2004): US\$ 165,000

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

Urban pressure; Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism (including legislation); Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human and financial resources; Transfer of custody.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission in September 2000.

Current conservation issues:

The amount of US\$ 50,000, approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in June 2004 as Emergency Assistance for the property, was decentralized to the UNESCO Office in Islamabad and used to carry out urgent measures for the stabilization and conservation of selected deteriorated structures of the Shalamar Gardens, as well as for the restoration of their original landscaping. In addition, the UNESCO Office in Islamabad is using funds from the Getty Grant Programme for a baseline survey and documentation of selected structures.

The World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party on 29 January 2005. The report explains what provisions exist for buffer zones in the current legislation for cultural heritage, and confirms that the management authority for the property has been transferred to the Punjab Government (Department of Culture), with effect from August 2004.

The State Party reports as well on a number of significant steps which have been taken for the safeguarding of the property since the transfer of management authority, thanks mostly to the financial support of the Norwegian Government through a Joint UNESCO/Government of Punjab project. The following main results were achieved:

- a) The re-hanging of the endangered historic ceiling of the Shish Mahal Hall was

successfully accomplished in April 2004, as a result of a cooperative effort between international and national conservators. Following the stabilization of the ceiling, a new roof is being installed over the Shish Mahal, which will ensure safety against water seepage and provide enough space for regular cleaning and maintenance of the decorative ceiling. The threat to this monument, which had been one of the reasons for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000, has been therefore removed.

- b) The establishment of building-crafts workshops, i.e. for fresco, pietra dura, mirror work and tile mosaic, with a view to ensuring the condition of 'sustainability' laid down by the donor agency.
- c) The first draft of a Master Plan for the Lahore Fort, to be completed in October 2005 and submitted to the competent authorities for approval and funding.

Other minor conservation works have been accomplished or are in progress.

With regard to the above-mentioned report of January 2005, ICOMOS commended the strong efforts of the national authorities and its various partners, UNESCO, Getty Conservation Institute and the Government of Norway, to put in place a series of well co-ordinated and strong integrated initiatives for the conservation of the Shalamar Gardens and the Lahore Fort.

However, ICOMOS stresses the importance of fully responding to a number of questions for which the Committee asked for further information in its decision of the 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), and which remain unanswered:

- a) The Committee asked the State Party, "in collaboration with ICOMOS, to examine the heritage values of the Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort to redefine the protective core and buffer zones of the property". The State Party's comments on buffer zones suggest however the limits within Pakistani Law of what can be done to improve the effectiveness of buffer zones, in particular giving the shifting of responsibility from Federal to Provincial level.
- b) The Committee in addition asked that the State Party "take all steps to ensure the establishment of an effective site management authority for the protection of the property, and inform the Committee of the effects that a change of custody of the property from national to provincial levels has had and will in the future have on the conservation of the property."

ICOMOS, furthermore, notes that the State Party's comments on the shift of responsibility from one level of government to another are ambiguous, and not clear with regard to the expectations for future management of the site. At the same time, nothing is said about efforts to establish an overall site Management Authority.

According to information collected by the World Heritage Centre during a Sub-regional Workshop on the Follow-Up to the Periodic Reporting in South Asia, held at Lahore from 11 to 17 April 2005, the Government of Punjab has recently taken a number of important decisions to strengthen the protection of the property, both at the Shalamar Gardens and at the Fort.

Concerning the Shalamar Gardens, the actions decided include:

- a) the diversion of the Great Truck Road and the acquisition and subsequent demolition of 106 houses to create a larger buffer zone respectively on the southern and eastern sides of the Shalamar Gardens;
- b) the consolidation and conservation of the remains of the water tank which had been demolished in 1999 (event which had contributed to the decision by the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of the World Heritage in Danger); and
- c) the implementation of important drainage works to mitigate the impact of waste water and salts on the perimeter walls.

At the Lahore Fort, the actions foreseen include:

- a) the implementation of conservation works on selected buildings according to a Master Plan to be finalized in October 2005;
- b) the pedestrianization of the southern road of Azuri Bagh and the shifting of the Rim Market, as well as
- c) the closure of the Great Truck Road to heavy traffic, to alleviate the pressure on the property.

Substantial financial allocations have apparently been made towards the implementation of the above works. In response to a request from the Norwegian authorities, moreover, the Government of Punjab has also expressed its intention to allocate permanently a share of the revenue from entrance fees of the two monuments for conservation works on the property.

It would appear, therefore, that the transfer of management authority from the federal to the Provincial level sparked a renewed sense of ownership and commitment from the part of the responsible authorities in Lahore with immediate

tangible benefits for the conservation of the property. However, as noted by ICOMOS, there remain some uncertainties on the overall implications of the shifting of responsibilities from Federal to Provincial level. In particular, it is not clear what procedures exist for the central authorities of the State Party to ensure that the appropriate standards of conservation are applied by the provincial institutions responsible for the day-to-day management of the property, and what is the process for designating and regulating land use of buffer zones. This needs to be urgently clarified by the State Party, especially as it seems that the same approach might be adopted for other properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, such as Taxila.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15A.26**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the significant and positive steps undertaken for the safeguarding of the property, and notably for having ensured the stability of the ceiling of the Shish Mahal;
4. Requests the State Party, in consultation with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, to:
 - a) submit to the World Heritage Centre copies of the final Master Plans developed in the framework of the on-going Project for the safeguarding of the World Heritage property;
 - b) approve the Master Plans for the Shalamar Gardens and the Lahore Fort and provide the necessary regular financial and human resources for their implementation;
 - c) develop a single, comprehensive Management Plan for the two sites composing the property, integrating information on the new institutional set up for their conservation, on the revised boundary and buffer zones as well as on all the activities envisaged within the framework of the Master Plans elaborated for the Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort;
5. Further requests the State Party to clarify the rationale and management implications (including buffer zone identification and protection in compliance with accepted standards of conservation) of the shift from Federal to Provincial authorities with respect

to the commitment of the State Party to preserve the values for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations and requests of clarification, and on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
7. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1995

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2001

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.25
28 COM 15A.27

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$ 153,200.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

September 2001, IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission.

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

Lack of an effective site management authority and adequate legislation, absence of a finalized strategic site management plan, diminishing interest of the Ifugao people in their culture and in maintaining the Rice Terraces, lack of human and financial resources.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre in December 2004 together with the Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

The report submitted by the State Party summarized the progress achieved on the programmes for the conservation of the Rice Terraces, being funded from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and through the international assistance received from the World Heritage Fund. It also proposed a project on "Eco-cultural Tourism to Conserve and Enhance the Cultural and Natural Landscape of the Rice Terraces".

With funding support from NCCA, projects were carried out to address the challenges identified in the previous Master Plan. These include water management, agricultural management, watershed management, hazard management, transport development, spatial restructuring and tourism development, cultural enhancement and livelihood development.

The Conservation Master Plan, developed with assistance from the World Heritage Fund, seeks to reverse the current deterioration of the property. It also includes the conservation and management of other clusters in the rice terraces chain proposed for inscription. The work plan draws from and is primarily based on the ten-year updated Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan that was developed and formulated parallel to the development of the Conservation Plan. The updated Master Plan provides the overall framework, directions and strategies as well as the indicators to measure the effectiveness of interventions for the restoration and preservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces covering the period 2003-2012. It is also reported that plans exist to expand the property.

The Plan also includes prioritized actions in four main areas: Land Management; Indigenous Knowledge Systems; Agriculture and Forestry, and Eco-tourism, which are to be developed into project proposals for national/international assistance.

The Plan also incorporates the proposed statutes for a permanent and effective management structure and system for the conservation and management of the Rice Terraces endangered World Heritage property, involving all levels of administration from international institutions to local communities, with the General Stakeholders Conference as the highest policy-making body operating through the Ifugao World Heritage Conservation Council (IWHC). These emerged from a number of consultation meetings, including the six-day Review and Stakeholders Workshop which took place in March 2004. The individual projects are meticulously formulated. For instance, Eco-tourism is well covered in a comprehensive programme, with emphasis on strengthening institutional capacity and providing training for local guides and indigenous communities.

The Secretariat, however, was informed that the Ifugao Rice Terraces Cultural Heritage Office (ICTCHO), established in early 2003 by the Provincial Government of Ifugao and in principle responsible for the implementation of the above projects, might no longer be in existence as an entity, considering that national government funding support from NCCA was terminated.

ICOMOS congratulates the State Party and UNESCO on the formulation of this Plan, which should serve as a model for comparable mixed cultural and natural properties in other countries. Its success will be dependent upon two factors: the commitment and cooperation of local communities and the availability of adequate funds for its implementation. It hopes that the State Party will provide the Committee with annual progress report on the implementation of the Plan.

It is however a matter of some concern to ICOMOS that this Master Plan, although dated June 2004, did not reach either the World Heritage Centre or ICOMOS until early 2005. It feels, moreover, that there should be another joint UNESCO-ICOMOS-IUCN expert mission to the property in order to assess the actual feasibility of the Conservation Master Plan at the site level.

Both the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies received information in September 2004 indicating that the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) had expressed interest in assisting the State Party in the preservation and conservation of the property, whilst supporting the people of Ifugao through alternative livelihoods. A socio-economic study was conducted in the Ifugao Province with the aim of addressing the livelihood component. Subsequently, a Workshop was held focused on the viability of a hydropower plant as a local resource project most likely to generate funds for the conservation of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras.

At the request of the State Party, a UNESCO reactive monitoring mission will be organized to the property from 30 May to 5 June 2005 to enable the mission to assess the impact of a proposed hydropower plant project on the heritage values of the property. The mission may also participate in a National Workshop on Philippine Heritage Sites' Conservation, in particular the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, to be organized by the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO. The findings of this mission will be presented to the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

IUCN welcomes the efforts of the Japanese Government in assisting in the conservation of the property. IUCN is of the view that the proposed hydropower plant would be useful and helpful, only when placed within the appropriate cultural, environmental and economic context. IUCN is satisfied that both the 5 year plan and Conservation Master Plan emanate from recommendations of the joint IUCN /ICOMOS mission of 2001 and notes that there is a strong

commitment to address the problems identified by the mission and which led to the property being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The present approach addresses many of the original concerns of the 2001 mission and acknowledges the role of the indigenous people of the region in decision-making. However, IUCN is concerned that the Plan does not address the need for strong land use controls over tourism development, and further notes that the Plan lacks clarity on financing mechanisms. In order to create action on the ground, it is recommended that the State Party move from planning to implementation as quickly as possible. The State Party should also determine specific benchmarks that can be agreed by the World Heritage Committee as relevant in measuring progress towards eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. IUCN recommends that the State Party should not embark on plans to enlarge the property until existing problems have been effectively addressed and the property removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Further, the idea of a twinning programme put forward in the recommendations of the 2001 mission should be pursued, particularly in exploring the benefits of twinning the property with some other World Heritage Terrace Cultural Landscapes such as the Cinque Terre in Italy.

Finally, IUCN recommends that any hydropower development be subject to a comprehensive environment impact assessment (EIA) to mitigate adverse impacts on the World Heritage Property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.27**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in addressing concerns raised by the IUCN/ICOMOS mission of 2001;
4. Encourages the State Party to further pursue the idea of a twinning programme recommended by the mission of 2001 in consultation with the Italian authorities;
5. Recommends to the State Party that the proposed hydropower plant be subject to a comprehensive environment impact assessment so as to ensure that its impact on the heritage values of the property is minimized;
6. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the State Party in involving local communities and stakeholders in every stage of the conservation and management processes;
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to guarantee the long-term provision of the necessary human and financial resources to ensure a functioning site management authority, which can implement the Conservation Master Plan as quickly as possible;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN to undertake an expert mission to the property in 2006 to assess the steps taken by the State Party to follow-up on the 2001 mission recommendations and the feasibility of the Conservation Master Plan at the site level;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, including proposed benchmarks for the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
10. Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

27. Butrint (Albania) (C 570 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1992. Extension in 1999

Criterion: C (iii)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1997

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.26

28 COM 15A.28

International Assistance:

In 1997, the Committee allocated an Emergency Assistance of US\$ 100,000, of which an amount of US\$ 47,000 was used for the implementation of the immediate actions proposed in the report of the October 1997 mission. The remaining funds of US\$ 53,000 have not been allocated as considerable delays were encountered with the implementation of the first part.

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

UNESCO/ICOMOS missions in 1997, 2001, 2003 and UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission in March 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

Looting; lack of adequate protection, management, and conservation of the site; Lack of management mechanisms and tourism pressure; poor state of conservation of the property and insufficient implementation of the recommendations of the joint missions.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a report on the property, dated 8 February 2005 by the site management authority.

The joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission, as requested by the Committee visited Butrint in March 2005. The Round Table concerning the preparation of a management plan took place from 28 to 29 March. The full report of the mission is available at whc.unesco.org/.

The mission visited the property to assess the current state of conservation and to evaluate the extent to which the recommendations of the two UNESCO/ICOMOS missions of 2001 and 2003 and the respective Committee decisions have been followed up. The members of the mission met with the Minister of Culture and had a series of meetings with the site manager, relevant authorities and concerned stakeholders. The mission obtained information from the Butrint

Foundation and the representatives of institutions and other stakeholders concerned with the site.

The property was included in the List of World Heritage in Danger following the civil unrest and the instable situation at the property of spring 1997. At that time the site museum was looted and equipment was stolen from the property. When the property was put on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the property had no management authority, no management plan and no adequate protection system. These issues were among the reasons for retaining Butrint on the List of World Heritage in Danger, though some of the original reasons for this listing no longer exist: the looting stopped at the end of the 1990s; the site has a manager, dedicated staff and a management plan that is being updated; legislation and management regime are in place, and both have considerably improved since the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger List. As a result of all those positive changes, and considering that the conditions that have justified the danger listing of the property no longer prevail today, the mission recommends its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with paragraph 191 (b) of the *Operational Guidelines* (2005). The competent authorities of the State Party have expressed no objection to that proposal.

The mission specifically noted that a management plan for Butrint (2000-2005) has been prepared by the Butrint Foundation in cooperation with the Butrint Office. The Plan was based on extensive consultation and involvement of all stakeholders, local, national and international, with a series of workshops in Saranda on various aspects of the management of the site. This plan has not been officially adopted and cannot be considered either as a practical and efficient working tool. An update version is currently under preparation taking also into account the RAMSAR Management Plan. The mission underlined that legislation and management regime are all in place, and both improved considerably since the inscription of the property.

The site manager intends to have the current management plan (2000-2005) undergo an update process as part of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded Coastal Zone Management and Cleanup Project in Albania, as from September 2005. This update process will address all issues relevant to the conservation and management of the site and also the issues that prevented official adoption of the current management plan.

Furthermore, the mission underlined the need for the State Party to continue its efforts towards the improvement of the general situation of the site while finalising the overall Management Plan and ensure its adoption. The State Party should make every effort towards the creation of conditions that are conducive to obtaining synergy between the various institutions involved in the site in the preparation of the Management Plan and also to ensure rigorous control of the site management and to prevent any illegal development in the property.

While the members of the mission agree on the principle of recommending deletion from the List of World Heritage in Danger, there is no unanimity on the timing and the modalities of this action: whereas some members propose a deletion with immediate effect, other (including the mission leader) hold the view that it should be considered for removal by the Committee in 2006 only, on the basis of a further assessment report to be prepared prior to the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2006.

Therefore, two options for a Draft Decision are submitted to the World Heritage Committee:

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.28, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the submission of the up-date report and for the organization of the Round Table as requested;
4. Acknowledges the considerable efforts by the State Party to contribute to the improvements of the state of conservation of the site, its gradual return to normal and its legal protection;
5. Endorses the recommendations made by the UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission of March 2005 and calls upon the State Party to give appropriate attention to their timely implementation;
6. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) to ensure that the Management and Conservation Plan of the property be finalised, if necessary with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Round Table 2005, approved by the relevant authorities of the State Party and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

- b) *take all necessary measures to prevent any illegal development or inappropriate construction in the property;*
- c) *ensure that strict control is exerted on the site management and that the relevant legal provisions of the 2003 Law on Cultural Heritage are applied;*
- d) *consider inviting a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission in 2007 to assess the implementation of the Committee's decisions and submit a report on its finding;*

Option 1:

7. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed implementation report on the issues above as well as a copy of the updated Management Plan by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006, in order to review the possible deletion from the List of the World Heritage in Danger;
8. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Option 2:

7. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed implementation report on the issues above as well as a copy of the updated Management Plan by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
8. Decides to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

28. Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2000

Criterion: C (iv)

Year of Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2003

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.59
28 COM 15A.29

International Assistance:

1998: US\$ 15,000, Preparation of the nomination dossier for the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Maiden Tower;
2004: US\$ 14,800, Updating and preparation of

detailed plans and maps of the Inner City of Baku (Icheri Sheher).

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission (CLT/CH) to Azerbaijan, 23 February-1 March 2002; UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, 18-22 October 2002; UNESCO mission (Assistant Director-General for Culture), 21-25 January 2003; UNESCO mission, 22-23 April 2003; ICCROM mission, 10-14 November 2003; UNESCO mission to participate in the Round Table, 6-8 October 2004.

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

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

Current conservation issues:

From 6 to 8 October 2004, the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan organised a Round Table in Baku on safeguarding the World Heritage property, attended by the national and municipal authorities, scientific institutions in Azerbaijan, site managers, NGOs, World Bank Azerbaijan and the World Heritage Centre. The stakeholders noted that demolition and inappropriate urban development continues, despite a presidential decree in 2003 to halt uncontrolled development within the property.

The Round Table recognised the urgent need to establish a safeguarding strategy for the property and agreed that this should include the development of a comprehensive management plan which addresses safeguarding measures, conservation issues, development control a tourism management as well as archaeological research, community involvement and promotion of the property. In addition, the Round Table recognised that future conservation activities should be based on the inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating the physical conditions as well as the methodologies of renewal within the World Heritage property, and therefore requested the relevant institutions to compile existing information and establish a comprehensive inventory. The State Party identified the World Bank as a possible donor with regard to the preparation of a management plan. Furthermore, the Round Table further endorsed the Action Plan for safeguarding the World Heritage property which has been revised to take into account the recommendations of the Round Table.

By a letter of 15 February 2005, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan is now managing the state historical-architectural reserve "Isherisheher", thus replacing the Baku City Executive Power and the Ministry of Culture.

In February 2005, the Azerbaijan Republic Scientific Research and Project Institute for Restoration of Monuments "Azerbarpa" completed a project to update or prepare detailed plans and maps of the Icheri Sheher - Walled City of Baku, which received financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The Advisory Bodies are currently evaluating the results of this project.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the State Party had not submitted the state of conservation report as requested by Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.29**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Takes note of the outcome of the Round Table and the change of the body responsible for the administration and management of the World Heritage property;
4. Encourages the State Party to foster coordination amongst all stakeholders and notably between the national and municipal authorities;
5. Regrets that the State Party did not provide a state of conservation report by 1 February 2005 as requested;
6. Requests the State Party to compile existing information and establish an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating the physical conditions as well as the rehabilitation methodologies within the World Heritage property;
7. Strongly urges the State Party to elaborate a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, development control and tourism management in order to ensure the future preservation of the property;
8. Further encourages the State Party to continue to work in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other stakeholders particularly in

implementing activities outlined in the Action Plan;

9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;*
10. *Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

29. Cologne Cathedral (Germany) (C 292rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

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

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 2004

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.63

28 COM 15B.70

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

ICOMOS-UNESCO mission 22 November 2003, UNESCO site visit on 18 August 2004.

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

Urban development pressure through high-rise building project impacting on the visual integrity of the Cathedral as a landmark.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2005 an update report on the state of conservation of the property as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). By letter of 30 March 2005, the World Heritage Centre was informed that the City of Cologne has requested a mission to the property before the Committee session. Referring to the Committee's discussions at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Centre pointed out that the recommendations by the joint UNESCO-ICOMOS mission in November 2003 continue to be valid, and would now have to be implemented by the concerned authorities. Furthermore, it had to be expected that the authorities had presented all relevant aspects of their implementation and planning strategy in the update report. Furthermore, the City of Cologne presented its case, including in-depth discussions with all parties involved, at the Conference in Vienna on "World Heritage and Contemporary

Architecture", which took place from 12 to 14 May 2005. The results of this conference will be presented at the 29th session of the Committee in 2005.

ICOMOS stated that the updated report of January 2005 by the State Party does not show new facts, considering that the City of Cologne has not fulfilled any of the recommendations formulated by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission of 22 November 2003, but rather continues the original high rise building concept. ICOMOS considers that the situation has deteriorated, given that the construction of the first high-rise building (RZVK building), which led to the inscription of Cologne Cathedral in the List of World Heritage in Danger, has now been completed and a cluster of four more high-rise buildings is planned to be added. Consequently, the serious concerns stressed in the mission report and the statement of ICOMOS International of 10 May 2004 (Statement of ICOMOS on the "Report to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on the Cologne Cathedral Heritage Site", City of Cologne 2003/2004) remain valid.

ICOMOS further notes that the State Party's report rightly points out the outstanding role of the Cathedral, of which the repair and maintenance by the Cathedral Workshop can be considered exemplary. There are also the commendable efforts to improve the area around the Cathedral, especially the "Domplatte" with the underground parking lot, presently improved by work on the northern stairways.

However, concerning the following relevant points for the inscription in the List of World Heritage in Danger, the report does not indicate any progress but rather leaves unsolved questions:

- a) *Buffer zone:* The State Party's report indicates "to provide details as to the establishment of a buffer zone" (p. 3). However, mention of "varying height limits" in the past decades and the statement that a "planned buffer zone will cover the panoramic view over a length of 4000 metres" while no revised version of a buffer zone has been provided officially yet, which would have to make reference to the historic centre on the left bank as well as to the bridge and the right bank. Through press releases, it is known that work on a buffer-zone is under discussion.
- b) *Height planning scheme for the left-bank City Centre:* The new height planning scheme was presented to the public shortly after the visit of the Mayor of Cologne to UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 8

December 2004. The height development in the old part of the city will be raised from 20 to 22,5 metres; furthermore, in certain streets buildings of up to 40 metres are meant to be erected, and in certain ring roads buildings of 60 metres will be added. ICOMOS notes that, under these circumstances not only additional impairment of the visual integrity of the Cathedral but also of Cologne's famous Romanesque churches is of concern. Experts to whom the new height planning scheme was presented on 14 December 2004 gave a critical evaluation of the height development in the old town and demanded "to assess the potential impact of tall buildings on the Romanesque churches and other significant architectural sites in the vicinity".

- c) *State of planning on the right bank:* Disregarding the continuing threat to the visual integrity of the World Heritage property, reference is made to the "slim tower on the site of the LVR Community" (RZVK-Hochhaus), due for completion in September 2005, and also to the progress of plans for four additional towers: a building license for the tower to the east of the railway station "will be submitted in the summer of 2005". However, it has to be noted that for two towers there is no investor yet. The report offers options with "alterations to the ground-plan" and a "height review" and invites the World Heritage Committee "to take part in the process". ICOMOS is particularly concerned about the fact that the City continues its plans for a cluster of high-rises as a counterpart to Cologne Cathedral, participation in plans which, if at all, have only been slightly corrected, seems problematic from ICOMOS' point of view.
- d) *Visual impact study:* A university professor of the RWTH Aachen has been requested to evaluate the visual impact study (made August 2003), a study which to ICOMOS is highly doubtful. The result of this evaluation will be presented at the Conference on "World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture" in Vienna, Austria (12-14 May 2005).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.70**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),

3. Notes that the State Party has provided a detailed report on the current situation at the property also indicating that the requested visual impact study is currently being carried out;
4. Further notes the results of the Vienna Conference on "World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture" (May 2005) in Document WHC-05/29.COM/5;
5. Recalls the urgent need for a clear designation of a buffer-zone that takes into account the protection of the visual integrity of the property as requested by its last session;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party reconsider current building plans as to their visual impacts on the World Heritage property and that any new constructions should respect the visual integrity of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a comprehensive report on the situation and actions taken to implement the decisions of the Committee, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
8. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

Criteria: C (i) (iii)

Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage
in Danger: 1986

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.27
28 COM 15A.30

International Assistance:

Total amount: US\$ 78,650

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

None

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

Risk of desintegration and destruction of structures, surfaces and decorative art caused by humidity produced by rising water levels in the aquifer of the property; Delay in the legislative procedure for Draft legislation No. 3807 concerning the illegal occupation of the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone.

Current conservation issues:

On 31 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre received from the State Party the state of conservation report describing the actions taken since 1999 by the Government and the National Institute of Culture (INC) to resettle the squatters in the archaeological zone of Chan Chan. On 1 July 2004 Resolution No. 518 of 14 June 1967, which delimitates the protection zone of the archaeological site of Chan Chan, became National Law. Furthermore, on 1 July 2004 Draft Legislation No. 3807 was approved and became Law No. 28261, which officially established the formation of a multi-sectorial Commission presided by the INC and comprising of the Regional Government of La Libertad, the Municipal Government of Trujillo and other stakeholders. Its main objective is to take the necessary actions to relocate the farmers from the archaeological site. The commission officially substitutes the previous task force created for the same purpose. It was further explained that the constant vigilance of the police has avoided new invasions in this area.

On 9 November 2004, the World Heritage Centre received an Emergency Assistance request for US\$ 100,000 for the site, which included a

demand for funds to complete the emergency works started by the State Party in the previous year. It also included a request for developing an international seminar and expert meeting concerning techniques to control the rise of the water level. After evaluation, and on the advice of ICOMOS, it was decided to postpone the seminar for later re-consideration and give priority to the emergency works with a grant of US\$ 30,000.

Additionally, the World Heritage Centre received an extended report explaining the results of the first phase of emergency actions undertaken in the archaeological complex. These include a reduction of the water level inside the Huachaque of Tshudi Ceremonial Palace from 1.70m to 1.48m. Today the water level continues to decrease. The works also included the reinforcement and stabilization of the foundations and structures for the main buildings and the architecture surrounding the Huachaque of the Tshudi Ceremonial Palace. All works were carried out combining the use of traditional materials and techniques, as well as new engineering skills.

ICOMOS also reviewed a progress report on the actions taken for the conservation of the property and commented that the hydrological problems at Chan Chan are now being tackled in a positive and systematic fashion. It commended the State Party for the vigorous action that it is taking to protect and rehabilitate this World Heritage site.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7A**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.30**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Noting the comprehensive information on the state of conservation provided by the State Party,
4. Commends the State Party for the actions taken to protect and preserve the World Heritage site of Chan Chan Archaeological Zone, in particular the progress made with regard to reducing the water level at the property,
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the process of resettlement of illegal occupants and farmers from the property, as well as on the results obtained within the framework of the International Assistance provided under the World Heritage Fund, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;

6. Decides to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

JERUSALEM

**31. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls
(property proposed by Jordan)
(C 148rev)**

See Document *WHC-05/29.COM/7A Add.*