



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

36 COM

WHC-12/36.COM/7A

Paris, 11 May 2012

Original: English / French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-sixth session

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

24 June 2011 – 6 July

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

SUMMARY

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

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

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

The full reports of reactive monitoring missions requested by the Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/36COM>

TABLE OF CONTENT

I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS	1
NATURAL PROPERTIES.....	1
AFRICA.....	1
1. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475) ..	1
2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)	4
3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155 bis).....	9
4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63).....	9
5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137).....	9
6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)	14
7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280).....	18
8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)	18
9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9).....	24
10. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)	29
11. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573).....	33
12. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)	38
ASIA-PACIFIC.....	43
13. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167).....	43
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	44
14. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)	44
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.....	50
15. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764).....	50
16. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)	55
17. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)	55
CULTURAL PROPERTIES	56
AFRICA.....	56
18. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)	56
19. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144).....	56
ARAB STATES	59
20. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90).....	59
21. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130).....	59
22. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)	59
23. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)....	59
24. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)	59

ASIA AND PACIFIC	60
25. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)	60
26. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)	60
27. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208 bis).....	60
28. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)	64
29. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)	64
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	71
30. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)	71
31. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)	71
32. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)	71
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN.....	72
33. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178).....	72
34. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)	75
35. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658).....	80
GENERAL DECISION.....	85
36. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) ..	85

I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1997

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1761>

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 250,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2001 and April 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property on 1 February 2012. The report emphasized the willingness and political commitment for the restoration of the site, but mentions that implementation of the corrective measures is difficult due to the collateral effects of the Darfour conflict in Sudan and the recent positioning of the Ugandan rebels of the "Lord Resistance Army" (LRA) in the region. It also notes that the implementation of the project North-east Wildlife Ecosystems of the DRC (ECOFAUNE), funded by the European Union is underway and that a new project is included in the framework of the ECOFAC V programme dedicated to the protection of protected areas, covering the property and its boundaries, is soon to commence. Unfortunately, the report does not indicate if these different projects have foreseen activities intended to implement the corrective measures for the restoration of the property.

- a) *Restructuring of the Park management, for a simple and effective organization specifically dedicated to the property*

The report makes no mention of a restructuring of the management of the Park. It simply indicates that the updating procedure of the Wildlife Protection Code commenced in 2009 is on course and notes that a network of local management associations of the Village Hunting Zones (VHZ) has been established since 2010.

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

The report makes no mention of the strengthening of supervisory staff.

- c) *Increase in number and training of operational staff, essentially concerned with surveillance during this transition period, with support at the outstart from the armed forces*

The report makes no mention of support to surveillance staff. It underlines insufficient means for air surveillance. It indicates that the Central African Armed Forces intervened in support of the tracker guards and that equipment was provided to the teams in the protected areas in the north-east.

- d) *Functional zoning of the Park with a priority intervention zone to conserve to the maximum the components conveying the Outstanding Universal Value of the Park (milieu and fauna)*

The report mentions that a mapping of the Park was carried out in 2010 and has determined a new configuration. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN regret that no information has been provided on the eventual effects of this new configuration on the management of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the management strategy for the protected areas of the north-east call for a zoning of the property with a central core surrounded by a belt of VHZ. It would therefore have been useful that the State Party report include the map of this zoning, without which it is difficult to assess its impact on the status of protection of the property.

- e) *An action plan targeting the restoration of security and tranquility in this priority zone*

No information is provided on the Action Plan aiming to restore security and tranquility. Nevertheless, the report mentions the conduct of joint armed/guard missions as well as the provision of military equipment. The report also notes that a Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reinsertion Programme (DDR) has been implemented in the northern region, but does not give any details regarding its impact on the security situation of the property. It also mentions the organization of a workshop on rural conflicts linked to the exploitation of natural

resources in the northern region, without giving other details. As mentioned above, the report indicates the continuation of insecurity problems and the new threat linked to the presence of the LRA rebels.

- f) *A provisional budget adapted to these priorities, limited to the most necessary, to initiate at the outset of this phase a reflection on sustainable management*

The report gives no information on this subject.

- g) *A plan to counteract the crisis to be initiated in parallel, through concertation with the different protagonists, in particular from Chad and Sudan*

The report gives no information on this subject. Moreover, the State Party mentions the report of the Chad Republic-Central Africa-Sudan Mixed Commissions as being among the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the corrective measures.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN indicate however that the State Party has made a request for International Assistance to hold a workshop to prepare an emergency plan for the property. This International Assistance request is currently being studied by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN and comments shall be transmitted to the State Party in order to process this request.

Conclusion

As mentioned in the preceding report, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that based on the ECOFAC/MIKE aerial inventories of 2010, the property has lost its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity, and therefore meets the criteria for removal from the World Heritage List. However, there still remains a potential for the regeneration of the OUV of the property based on the relict pockets of biodiversity and exchanges with neighbouring zones and that this potential is very fragile. Therefore, they note that this should be confirmed by a detailed inventory followed by a reactive monitoring mission.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that based on the report submitted, it is not possible to conclude whether progress has been achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures. They draw the World Heritage Committee's attention to the information gathered by IUCN from various experts who agree in describing an extremely critical situation in the state of conservation of the property (illegal activities, uncontrolled transhumance, corruption, poverty, insecurity).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the importance of the urgent implementation of the corrective measures and recommendations contained in Decisions **34 COM 7A.1** and **35 COM 7A.1**, notably the preparation of an emergency action plan to safeguard the OUV of the property within a priority zone of reduced size, and seek funding for its establishment. They welcome the request for International Assistance to organize the workshop to develop this action plan and consider that this workshop should be organized without delay. They recommend that during the workshop, discussions should include the feasibility of regenerating the OUV of the property under the present conditions of insecurity.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Thanks the State Party for the confirmation of its political willingness to restore the property, but notes the absence of concrete information in the State Party report, on the*

implementation of the corrective measures and their impact on the safeguarding of the property;

4. *Expresses its strong concern regarding the continuation of insecurity problems in the property due to the colateral effects of the Darfour conflict in Sudan, but also the recent positioning of the Ugandan rebels of the “Lord Resistance Army” (LRA);*
5. *Reiterates its extreme concern with regard to the probable disappearance of almost all the flagship species of large animals in the property due to poaching and the impact of transhumance cattle, which could bring to question the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed;*
6. *Takes note of the fact that there remains a potential, but a very fragile one, for regeneration of the populations of wildlife from the relic pockets of biodiversity adjacent to the property;*
7. *Strongly urges the State Party to prepare an emergency action plan based on the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009) and the orientations described in the conclusion of the present report;*
8. *Warmly welcomes the request for International Assistance to organize a workshop to develop an action plan and considers that the workshop should discuss the feasibility of regenerating the Outstanding Universal Value of the property under the present conditions of insecurity and should be urgently organized in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
9. *Calls upon the States Parties of Chad and Sudan to cooperate in the preparation of a common conservation strategy, combat poaching and the management of transhumance;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the results of the workshop and preparation, funding and implementation of the management emergency plan for the safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;*
11. *Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*
12. ***Also decides to retain the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1983

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2003

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4336>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050>

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 97,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities. Rapid Response Facility: USD 30,000 for an intervention mission in the park in 2010.

Previous monitoring missions

June 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

On 19 January 2012, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property which describes progress made in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) and the additional corrective measure adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011). The report notes that the application of corrective measures is supported by the implementation of two projects: the "PARC-CI" project (*Projet d'Appui à la Relance de la Conservation des Parcs et Réserves*) with funding of USD 2.54 million from the GEF / World Bank, and the "*Opération transitoire de sécurisation du parc National de la Comoé*", financed by the Ivorian Government. The property also received 16.4 million CFA francs from the Rapid Response Facility (RRF). In addition, IUCN received reports indicating the possibility that a French debt relief fund could enable sustainable funding for the park. The report indicates that with the end of the post-election crisis, State authority over the property has now been restored. However, the State Party points out that the post-election crisis engendered loss of material and archives, and the looting of offices. Inadequate financial and material resources and damage incurred between 2002 and 2011 have further threatened the security of the property. The report notes the following efforts to implement corrective measures:

- a) *Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures*

The State Party reports on the implementation of the temporary surveillance strategy developed in 2009. Thus, with the support from the two projects and the RRF mentioned above enabled the acquisition of equipment, the training of specialized agents, and a wide-ranging patrol. During 2011, three patrols consisting of four teams of 75 officers were deployed for ten days both inside and outside the property. These patrols were conducted by the Ivorian OFFICE OF Parks and Reserves (OIPR) with the support of Côte d'Ivoire Republican Forces and seven village auxiliaries; they apprehended 7 poachers, 6 gold diggers, 11 12-caliber rifles, 8250 12-gauge cartridges, bags of smoked fish and smoke-dried meat, and 686 planks of timber. In addition, 13 cattle ranchers were driven out of the park. Infrastructure rehabilitation work in Bouna and Gawi is being undertaken to improve the working conditions of the patrols. The report notes however the loss of a quantity of equipment during the post-election crisis, and only one surveillance troop transport vehicle is currently available.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with satisfaction that the normalization of the socio-political situation of the country and the availability of funding has enabled the initiation of efforts to improve security within the property. However they believe that with three 10-day patrols, surveillance coverage remains extremely limited in view of the huge pressure on the property.

The World Heritage Centre received two reports of surveillance missions of the OIPR carried out in January and February 2012. These reports indicate the presence of numerous signs of poaching and transhumance over the entire property, and in addition to transhumance, gold panning and the presence of crop fields were also observed. At the same time, the reports note extremely low densities of wildlife (no sightings during the January 2012 mission, a few sightings in the middle of the park during the February 2012 mission).

- b) *Restore, as a matter of urgency, the integrity of the property, by removing cattle from the park and addressing agricultural encroachment*

The report notes that following the normalisation of the socio-political situation in the country, two missions to evict cattle ranchers were organized. In addition, with the support from the RRF, four information and awareness-raising sessions were held with, as main result, the voluntary departure of a hundred cattle ranchers settled in the property since 2003. The administrative authorities organized two meetings with all the stakeholders including infiltrated ranchers and planters. Thus, an unspecified date was set to fully clear the park. It was agreed that funding will be sought to undertake agro-pastoral improvements in transhumance corridors on the outskirts of the park. The State Party also reports that in the framework of the implementation of residency measures, with the support of the RRF, local NGOs and nearby radio stations have organized activities to raise public awareness.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that an aerial survey of the wildlife and flora made in March 2010 by the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) and the OIPR, with support from the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) revealed that 90% of the total population of mammals present within the property were domestic animals and that cattle grazing was responsible for a significant degradation of the ecosystem of the property.

- c) *Develop and launch the implementation of a management plan based on the model management plan established for the national network of protected areas*

The State Party indicates that a development and management plan has been elaborated and will be finalized by an international expert, who will also produce a three-year emergency plan. The results should be approved and made available in February 2012. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the management plan had not yet been submitted by the State Party at the time of this present report. In addition, they also recall that the Committee had requested the State Party to set up a revised zoning for the

property which takes full account of its status as World Heritage Property and Biosphere Reserve.

d) Extend the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property

The State Party indicates that the control of the entire park is now effective following the installation of all the major military commands in the Central, North and West zones. Thus, since October 2011, the agents of four sectors have returned to their workstations. Because of accommodation difficulties, the State Party had planned that the agents of the Kong sector would only return to their base in January 2012. A total of 90 agents, including managers, supervisors and enforcement officers, of which 77 surveillance officers and 12 office agents, are deployed at the headquarters of the Zone Directorate and in the different sectors of the property. An expert in park surveillance was recruited for the implementation of the surveillance strategy.

e) Evolution of species of wildlife populations and mining exploitation

The State Party provides no information on the current status of the populations of flagship species of the property, but its report indicates that it plans to conduct an aerial survey in 2012. IUCN has received reports indicating that an inventory was underway at the time of writing the present report, in March 2012. The results of this inventory should be provided to the World Heritage Centre prior to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), had requested the State Party to confirm officially that no mining exploration license covering the property has been granted. They note that the State Party has still not provided any information on this matter.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), had expressed grave concern over the fact that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property was severely compromised and had insisted that urgent measures be taken to restore the wildlife, flora, and the ecosystems within the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the normalization of the socio-political situation has enabled the resumption of the management activities throughout the property (now entirely under State control), but are however concerned about the difficulties faced by the State Party as a result of impacts of the post-election crisis.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the results of the inventory which appear to be foreseen March 2012 should enable the assessment of the current status of the OUV. They consider that with the normalisation of the situation, a three-year project to rehabilitate the property with clear and achievable goals must be urgently prepared in order to implement a strategy for restoring the integrity of the property. They believe that the emergency plan should focus on an urgent resumption of control of the property and focus first and foremost on the rampant poaching and the evacuation of livestock and agricultural encroachments. IUCN notes in particular that its Protected Areas Programme in Central and West Africa (PAPACO) is ready to support this process. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend to the World Heritage Committee to encourage the State Party, as soon as the rehabilitation project has been developed, to mobilize the necessary funds for its implementation and to launch an appeal to the international community for this purpose.

With a view to restoring security within the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend to the World Heritage Committee to request the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation and the status of the OUV, update the corrective measures which will form the basis of the rehabilitation project, and develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. They consider that the property should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger until its integrity is

restored and the reestablishment of populations of key wildlife and flora in the property has been demonstrated.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Notes with satisfaction the normalisation of the socio-political situation of the country and the restoration of State authority over the property as reported by the State Party;
4. Reiterates its utmost concern that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property appears to be seriously compromised and considers that a census of the populations of key species and indications of poaching and other threats such as the straying of cattle and agricultural encroachment is necessary to assess the status of Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
5. Requests the State Party, with the support from IUCN, to develop a three-year project to rehabilitate the property with clear and achievable goals, and encourages the State Party to mobilize the necessary funds for its implementation;
6. Appeals to the international community and donors to support the implementation of the requested rehabilitation project;
7. Urges the State Party to strengthen efforts to implement the corrective measures, in particular by strengthening surveillance to eliminate poaching, as well as evacuating livestock and agricultural encroachment on the property, to restore wildlife and flora within the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN mission to assess the state of conservation and the status of Outstanding Universal Value, update the corrective measures which will form the basis of the rehabilitation project and develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to officially confirm that no mining exploration license covering the property has been granted;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, on the results of the inventory of March 2012, on the implementation of the revised corrective measures, and on the mining issue, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
11. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report by the State Party of Guinea not received)

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are to be read in conjunction with Item 36 of the present document.

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of complementary information from the State Party)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1980

Criteria
(x)

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

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

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

- a) Adverse refugee impact ;
- b) Irregular presence of armed militia and settlers at the property ;
- c) Increased poaching ;
- d) Deforestation.

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

A draft has been developed during the 2009 reactive monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>), but the indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4081>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 68,870

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for the DRC World Heritage properties (DRC Programme) financed by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Italy and Belgium (2001-2005): approximately

USD 300,000; (2005-2009): USD 300,000; (2010-2012): USD 350,000. Financial support (USD 30,000) in 2008 granted by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for the rehabilitation of a control post at Itebéro.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme. December 2009: IUCN/World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Presence of armed groups, lack of security and political instability rendering a large part of the property inaccessible to the guards;
- b) Attribution of mining permits inside the property;
- c) Poaching by armed military groups;
- d) Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park;
- e) Illegal mining and deforestation.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property on 2 February 2012, with information concerning the efforts employed in the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) *Evacuate the armed groups from the property and extend the area of surveillance to the whole property*

The State Party recalls the military operation of the MONUSCO (United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC)), Amani Leo, Kimya I and Kimya II, to neutralize the armed groups active in the Kivu region, and confirms that these operations have had a positive impact on the occupation of the property by the armed groups. These operations have enabled an increase in the area of surveillance of the property and all the sectors except a few pockets in the inaccessible and obstructed zones. The report provides a detailed description of the surveillance operations and the protection of the Park and informs that in 2011, 27.22% of the extent of the Park had been covered by patrols. The maps presented show a fairly good coverage of the Tshivanga sector (53%) and the Itebero sector (42%). Coverage of the Lulingo sector is rather poor (23%), but it should be noted that it has not been covered since the creation of the Park until the creation of a new station in 2008 in Lulingo and of a sub-station in Kasese in 2011. Surveillance activities have also recommenced in the Nzovu sector (where the station was abandoned after an attack in 2009), but the coverage remains poor. It is almost inexistent in the corridor between the highland and lowland altitudes. The report makes mention of aerial patrols of the Park and scientific expeditions that have enabled the gathering of data to make assessments of the least affected places.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the progress achieved in the coverage of the property but also that the report does not provide information on the frequency of patrols in the sectors covered.

- b) *Close down all the illegal mining extraction operations within the property and officially cancel all the mining concessions encroaching on the property*

In its report, the State Party recalls that in 2010 the Government had suspended mining operations throughout the eastern part of the country which had resulted in the closing down of mining sites in the Park, in both the highland and lowland altitudes. However, the report indicates that a few isolated mining sites are still observed in areas located near camps or military bases. The report notes that the German Cooperation has opened a bureau in the east of the Congo that is attempting to identify the characteristics of minerals originating from

the protected areas, which would enable a better monitoring at the level of the trade posts recently installed by the State.

- c) *Evacuate the ecological corridor and initiate measures to restore plant species and connectivity*

The State Party indicates that no decision has been taken at the national level to cancel the occupation rights of the ecological corridor, illegally granted by the services of land rights and the cadastre. However, the report notes that progress has been achieved in the evacuation process of the ecological corridor through concertation with the farmers. The report further notes that through these actions disagreements between the farmers of the Bitale block and the Park have been resolved, and that the parts seized by the farmers have been restituted to the Park and that a participatory demarcation of the Park boundaries has been carried out. The report notes that with this success a similar action shall begin for the Kalubwe-Mulume Munene block. The State Party informs that the natural restoration in the part of the Park that was recuperated in 2010 is underway. The report also notes the progressive and natural reconstitution of the forest in the Mpuse sector (secondary mountain forest). This measure is accompanied by an intensification of patrols in this sector to discourage any attempt of return by the populations. The report further notes the restoration of the bamboo forests.

- d) *Develop, in a participatory manner, and implement a zoning plan to resolve the issue of the villages in the lowland sector, while maintaining the values and integrity of the property*

The State Party informs that consultations with the communities living alongside the Mumbili and Nkolo trail in the Park, are ongoing and that proposals shall be submitted in a few months to the Directorate General for a final decision. These consultations are the result of a study carried out in June 2010 with IUCN assistance, that foresee a zoning of the Park with a relocation of some villages in the perimeter of the property, the establishment of some zones of permanent human occupation and zones of sustainable use inside the property. The report notes that these populations are currently displaced peoples due to insecurity in their zone of origin and presently living in the villages of Nzovu, Lulingu, Shabunda and Kalonge.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that it is very important to ensure that the options identified guarantee the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

- e) *Continue the efforts to reactivate surveillance mechanisms, while ensuring control of the whole Park*

As mentioned above, the State Party indicated an increase in the area of surveillance of the Park. The report also notes the establishment of a map with squares to better orient the guards and ensure that the whole of the property is under control. Furthermore, a Management Plan of the infrastructures is being developed in which the strategic places for the location where the guard posts shall be determined. The report indicates nevertheless that the staff, appropriate equipment and access trails in the sectors still remain a problem in ensuring effective control.

- f) *Complete and approve the Management Plan for the property and ensure the means for its implementation*

The State Party indicates that the first phase of the implementation of the Management Plan of the KBNP has just been completed (2009-2011) and that an evaluation is ongoing.

- g) *Species inventory*

The report notes that the inventory of the sectors located in the lowland altitude has not yet been carried out, but that contacts have been made with the specialized NGOs to examine the feasibility of such a study. It indicates that this inventory has also been inscribed in the action plan for the conservation of the great apes in the eastern part of the DCR.

The report informs of a 10% increase in the number of gorillas in the families being monitored, from 126 to 139 individuals. The report confirms previous reports mentioning a small residual population of elephants in the Tshivanga sector.

h) Limit local traffic to only the part of Road RN3 crossing the property, ensure the means for control, and envisage a ring road around the property should the route towards Kisangani reopen

The report notes that work for the rehabilitation of the section crossing the property has been completed respecting environmental standards. Traffic control is carried out by means of barriers at the entrance and exit of the Park but should be reinforced. Teams have been established to assess the environmental impacts of the road on the bush meat commerce and the manufacture of charcoal. The report also mentions that currently the traffic remains minimal given that the rehabilitation of the Hombo – Walikale section (that connects to Kisangani) is not yet envisaged. The report also mentions that an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the ring road around the Park has been carried out.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the importance of foreseeing the ring road around the Park in the event of the envisaged Hombo – Walikale section and recommend that the EIS be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by IUCN.

The report also mentions infrastructure work foreseen, notably the rehabilitation of the Tshivanga station with the construction of offices and a guard camp and the construction of guard posts. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the need to transmit to the World Heritage Centre information on the planned constructions in the Park, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important progress reported by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, notably the evacuation of the armed groups from the property and the extension of the area of surveillance, the closing down of a large number of artisanal mining operations in the property and the resolution of illegal occupation in Bitale.

However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee expresses its concern with regard to the lack of progress concerning the cancellation by the Government of the land rights granted illegally in the property by the Mining Service of Land Titles and Cadastre, as well as the mining concessions encroaching on the property attributed by the Mining Cadastre. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the opinion that the World Heritage Committee should request the State Party to initiate a dialogue at the political level with the State services that are indispensable for the successful implementation of these corrective measures.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the importance of ensuring that the identified zoning options guarantee the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and deem it important to submit these options for consideration to the World Heritage Committee before any decision is taken.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that the progress achieved by the managers of the property is very encouraging but share the conclusion of the State Party report that the work still to be achieved remains important. They underline once again the need to carry out without delay an inventory of the lowland sectors. Only with the availability of reliable data on the main populations of wildlife will an assessment of the true state for the Outstanding Universal Value and the establishment of a timetable for the rehabilitation of the property be possible. They consider that the property should be maintained on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the reinforced monitoring mechanism be applied.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalls Decision **35 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes with satisfaction the important progress reported by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, notably the evacuation of the armed groups from the property and the increase in the area of surveillance, the closure of a large number of artisanal mining operations in the property and the resolution of illegal occupations in Bitale;
4. Notes with concern the absence of progress accomplished concerning the cancellation by the Government of land rights illegally granted in the property by the Land Titles and Cadastre Service as well as the mining concessions encroaching on the property granted by the Mining Cadastre;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to initiate a dialogue at the political level with the services of the State (Ministry responsible for the Cadastre and Land rights, Ministry for Mines, Provincial authorities) to reinforce efforts for the implementation of the updated corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), and particularly the immediate cancellation by the Government of land rights illegally granted in the property as well as mining concessions encroaching on the property, in conformity with the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration;
6. Takes note of ongoing discussions with concerned populations on the zoning of the property and requests the State Party to ensure that the identified zoning options guarantee the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that they are submitted for consideration to the World Heritage Committee before any final decision is made;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out as soon as possible a survey of the main populations of wildlife in the lowland sectors of the property to enable an assessment of the state of the Outstanding Universal Value and establishment of a timetable for the rehabilitation of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2013**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an updated situation of the mining concessions and land rights granted on the territory of the property, progress accomplished in the resolution of the problem of illegal occupation of the ecological corridor and in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
9. Decides to maintain the Reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property;
10. Also decides to retain the **Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1997; previously inscribed between 1984 and 1992

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

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

- a) Increased poaching;
- b) Irregular presence of armed militia and settlers at the property.

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

A draft was prepared during the 2010 reactive monitoring mission (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>) but indicators need to be quantified on this basis of the results of the main mammals censuses.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 365,870

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for the DRC World Heritage properties (DRC Programme) financed by the United Nations Foundation (UNF), Italy and Belgium (2001-2005): approximately USD 400,000; the Rapid Response Facility (totaling USD 60,000) training of guards and more recently replacement of communication equipment. Within the framework of the Third Phase, 450 000 USD have been allocated by the Spanish Government for the site.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2012, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property. The report indicates that the presence of Ugandan rebels of the « Lord Resistance Army » (LRA) continue to perturb security, even though the number of attacks has diminished in comparison to previous years. The presence of the rebels complicates the management of the property, particularly as regards the anti-poaching measures, as well as the implementation of the corrective measures. Despite these difficulties, the following efforts have been achieved in implementing the corrective measures:

- a) *Take urgent measures at the highest level to halt the involvement of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) in poaching activities*

The report states that official action has been undertaken by the General Directorate of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to resolve this issue. The report notes that the Chief of the General Headquarters of the FARDC has formally instructed the Commander of the military region in this respect, but indicates that a number of undisciplined soldiers continue to carry out poaching activities.

- b) *Ensure that the ICCN guard force is correctly equipped, in particular with adequate arms and ammunition*

The State Party indicates that the guards for the site of Garamba are equipped with material without providing more detailed information. The report notes that the guards lack mapping equipment and ammunition and recall that this situation is a cause for concern, with important risks to the guards when on patrol. No new mapping equipment has been received since 2007, whereas the existing equipment is often of bad quality. Mixed patrols are organized with the FARDC for the surveillance of the insecure areas.

- c) *Undertake, if possible in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improve the security situation in the region*

The State Party informed that the efforts of disarmament and improving security for the communities living around the Garamba National Park are carried out in collaboration with the MONUSCO, the site guards and elements of the FARDC. The report notes that the results of these actions are very satisfactory, but no quantitative data is provided on the number of arms seized and population disarmed. It should also be noted that in 2011 during patrols, the Park guards recuperated nine children who had been kidnapped by the LRA rebels.

- d) *Renew contacts with Sudan to strengthen transboundary cooperation with Lantoto National Park*

The State Party indicated that this measure is one of its priorities, but is waiting for favourable conditions before renewing contacts with the Sudanese of the Lantoto National Park. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that a regional project covering South Sudan and the Bili-Uere Protected Area in the DRC is being prepared by the Wildlife Conservation Society, could be an opportunity to improve and relaunch collaboration between the two institutions.

- e) *Ensure that a team of at least 200 operational guards are available following the rapid pensioning off of elderly guards and replacement of guards not fulfilling the required qualifications*

The State Party informed that 140 guards were operational, and that it has planned for the recruitment of 50 new units for 2012. 30 guards are awaiting the finalization of their briefing file for retirement.

- f) *Gradually extend the surveillance area to include the total area of the Park and at least 20% of the hunting grounds, by 2015*

The State Party indicated that the surveillance area of Garamba National Park and the hunting grounds has been extended due to the regular aerial patrols of these areas, as well as the opening up of routes within the Park. In 2011, for the first time in ten years a few patrols have crossed Garamba and 80 km of surveillance routes have been opened up in the northern part. Two mixed patrols reached the boundary with south Sudan, a zone that had not been monitored by ground patrols since the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This extension to the surveillance of the property will have a positive impact in reducing poaching activities but unfortunately, quantitative information is

not mentioned in the report. The report also makes no mention of quantitative information on the coverage of the property and the hunting grounds, nor reduction in poaching.

- g) *Establish a conservation strategy for the hunting grounds (DC) so they may fully play their role of buffer zone, and in view of their importance for the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property*

The State Party indicated problems of security in the hunting grounds linked to the presence of the LRA. Patrols have been organized to the north of the hunting grounds of Gangala na Bodio and to the west of the Mondo Misa hunting grounds, but the hunting grounds of the Azande remain inaccessible due to insecurity. No information is provided on the establishment of a conservation strategy in the hunting grounds.

- h) *Strengthen community conservation activities to improve relations with the local communities*

The State Party informed that a school has been built in Nagero and that a hospital is under construction, with support of the Spanish Government. Environmental education activities are provided to schoolchildren as well as visits to the Park. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party has accomplished important work with the communities as they have obtained the withdrawal from the gold mines in the chimpanzee area. They have also noted that thanks to conservation activities and community conservation programmes, the populations have not returned to the Park.

- i) *Finalize and approve the Management Plan for the property and ensure the means for its implementation*

The report makes no mention of the Management Plan for the property. The 2011 report made mention that the draft Management Plan (2011-2015) had been finalized and submitted to the Directorate General of ICCN for comment and that its approval was foreseen towards the end of 2012.

- j) *Wildlife status*

The report notes that in the zones covered by the Park guards, no trace of White Rhinoceros had been found, but that the Azande hunting ground and the northern part of the Park where favourable ecosystems existed for rhinoceros, were currently inaccessible due to problems of security.

The report makes no mention of the aerial inventory of wildlife that was originally foreseen in 2010, but which had been delayed several times due to financial constraints and technical difficulties. This inventory is now foreseen for April 2012. The World Heritage Centre received a report from the NGO African Parks Garamba concerning an ongoing ecological monitoring study on elephants with support from Spain through UNESCO. Five elephants have been equipped with electronic collars and their position is followed by satellite. The results demonstrate the importance of the hunting grounds of Azande and Gangala na Bodio, where the elephants spend a part of the dry season and confirm their importance for the integrity of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the importance of confirming the status of the Northern White Rhinoceros that justified the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. They note that the Specialist Group for the African Rhinoceros of the the IUCN Species Survival Commission consider that the Northern White Rhinoceros is probably extinct in the DRC, and they no longer consider the DRC as a State that is part of the distribution for the sub-species. They note that at the global level only 4 individuals remain, in Kenya, that are still capable of contributing to the reproduction of the sub-species. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN confirm the importance to carry out urgently an aerial survey of the populations of large mammals. This type of inventory will provide not only crucial data for the finalization of indicators for the Desired state of conservation, for the removal of the property

from the List of World Heritage in Danger, but also demonstrate whether the populations of wildlife are stabilized.

The report mentions also the rehabilitation by the MONUSCO of the route between Aru (Ugandan frontier) and Dungu, crossing the Gangala na Bodio hunting grounds and passing 4 km distance from the central station of the Nagero Park. This rehabilitation will benefit the population and also open up the property, facilitating Park logistics, but also risk encouraging the illicit traffic of bush meat and ivory. In order to combat this illicit trade, the report notes the need to install control points on the road. The report notes that the timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures mainly depends upon a significant improvement of the security situation in the region.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important progress made by the State Party in the implementation of certain corrective measures, but also note that the persistence of pockets of armed groups continue to render difficult the management of the property, especially the anti-poaching efforts. They consider that a more detailed and quantitative report should be provided to assess the reported progress. They recall the commitments undertaken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, in respect of strengthening the operational capacities of the ICCN, notably by ensuring the availability of mapping equipment for surveillance activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the urgent establishment of an inventory of large animal populations is crucial in order to quantify the impact of the corrective measures on the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value. This data is also essential for the finalization of the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the important funding mobilized for the conservation of the property, notably by the European Union and Spain, that demonstrate the importance that the international community accord to this site, and which appear to be achieving satisfactory results. However, they consider that insecurity in certain hunting grounds due to the persistent presence of armed groups continues to disrupt the implementation of the corrective measures. They therefore recommend the maintenance of the reinforced monitoring mechanism for this property.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the progress in the implementation of the corrective measures but requests the State Party to provide a more detailed and quantitative report to enable the Committee to assess the reported progress;*
4. *Regrets that the persistence of pockets of armed groups continue to render difficult the management of the property and especially the anti-poaching efforts, and that the lack of mapping equipment continues to cause important risks to the guards when on patrol;*
5. *Recalls the commitments undertaken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, notably to reinforce the operational capacities of the*

ICCN, and also requests that mapping equipment for surveillance activities be made available;

6. Reiterates its concern regarding the probable extinction of the Northern White Rhinoceros in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and considers that, unless there is proof that the sub-species still survives in the DRC, the State Party should consider other options for the conservation of the animals remaining in Kenya in consultation with the African Rhino Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, with a view to the possible future reintroduction of the sub-species within the property, crossed or not with the southern white rhinoceros;
7. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Strongly urges the State Party to urgently carry out a survey of the large mammal populations to quantify the impact of the corrective measures on the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value and also requests the State Party, based on the results and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to update the required timetable, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update of progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. Decides to continue the application of the reinforced monitoring mechanism for the property;
11. Also decides to retain **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1996

Criteria
(x)

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

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/33COM/decisions/>

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/33COM/decisions/>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
A three-year time frame (2009-2012) was proposed by the 2009 monitoring mission.

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

International Assistance
Global amount granted to the property: USD 3,000
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount provided to the property: Conservation Programme for the DRC World Heritage properties ("DCR Programme") funded by the UNF, Italy, Spain and Belgium. Phase I (2001-2005): approximately USD 250,000, Phase II (2005-2009): USD 300,000, Phase III (2010-2012): USD 350,000.

Previous monitoring missions
1996 and 2006: World Heritage monitoring missions; several other World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DCR Programme; 2009: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

At the last session, the World Heritage Centre noted that recent information had been received from the managers of the property concerning the poaching networks within the Reserve. This information indicated the status of the different armed groups operating from mining sites in the southern part of the Reserve, involving elements of the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC). The involvement of these elements was clearly demonstrated on 1 May 2011, when a lieutenant of the FARDC as well as two military spokespeople from Kisangani, were arrested with 60 pieces of ivory weighing a total of 137 kg.

On 2 February 2012, the State Party submitted a brief report on the state of conservation of the property. This report does not provide information on the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The report confirms the armed poaching problems and increased insecurity in the adjacent southern sectors of the Reserve. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the numerous reports showing an increase in poaching and insecurity, notably in the south-east part of the Reserve, located in the region under the control of the military authorities of Kisangani. In view of this situation, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter on 8 November 2011 to ICCN expressing its concern and requesting more information on the wildlife populations in the property. To date, no response to this letter has been received. According to information received recently by the World Heritage Centre, the situation has greatly deteriorated since the State Party report : all the south-eastern and south-western parts of the Reserve appear to be invaded by Simba rebels, in possession of heavy weapons, notably rocket launchers

and machine guns. These groups are primarily interested in killing elephants and reopening the small-scale mines.

The State Party report provides the following indications on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures.

- a) *Continue efforts to resolve problems of large-scale poaching in the south-west peripheral area of the property, and involving the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC)*

The State Party recalls the good cooperation with the FARDC military stationed in Bunia, and notes that numerous patrols have been carried out since last September. This enabled the stabilization of large wildlife mammals in certain parts of the Reserve, the seizing of 5 war weapons and 11 hunting rifles, about 200 kg of ivory and elephant meat. Thus, 12 poachers were arrested and transferred to the military courts of Bunia, as well as 5 illegal gold miners to the civil courts.

However, the State Party underlined the refusal of the Misangani military to halt armed poaching and increase insecurity in the southern peripheral sectors of the OWR. The World Heritage Centre received a copy of a letter from the Director General of the ICCN addressed to the Ministry of Defence, in which the activities of the militia in the south-west of the Reserve are described, notably the involvement of certain officers of the military region of Kisangani. In this letter, the Director General requests the support of the army to organize mixed patrols to combat this threat. The World Heritage Centre has not been informed of the action taken in respect of this letter. However, according to the most recent news, at the time of this report, the Simba rebels had taken control of a part of the Reserve and still enjoyed the support of some high-ranking military elements in Kisangani.

- b) *Officially cancel all the artisanal mining rights as well as those encroaching on the property, granted by the Mining Cadastre*

The State Party informed that the artisanal mining sites have remained closed due to the repression of all reported violations. According to new information received by the World Heritage Centre, the situation has changed, as the Simba rebels are once again occupying all the mining sites in the southern part of the Reserve.

The report notes no progress achieved in respect to the cancellation of the rights granted by the Mining cadastre, notably the prospection permits already granted and contiguous to the OWR like the ones of Kilo Gold in the north, south and west, Richard Wynne in the north, Rio Tinto in the west and Congo United Mineral.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received a map showing all the concessions and mining exploitations granted by the Mining cadastre in and around the property. This map clearly shows that certain concessions are contiguous to the boundary of the property, others are largely or even entirely located within the property. The World Heritage Centre also recalls that to date no response has been received to the correspondence addressed by the Director of the World Heritage Centre dated 29 November 2010 concerning the state of mining exploitation rights granted by the Government within the territory of the property.

- c) *Take measures to mitigate impacts linked to the increase in traffic in the OWR and in particular secure the necessary technical and financial means to contribute towards the implementation of the system to control immigration and strengthen the surveillance and anti-poaching mechanism*

and

- d) *Legalize and upscale the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, and secure the right to close the RN4 to traffic at night and to establish a toll system*

The State Party informs of the establishment of a strategic guide for mobile patrols as well as training for specialized teams for road patrol. The report notes that the visit and passage

control system has been extended with the opening up of two additional posts (one in the east and the other in the centre) and considers that these measures have had a positive impact. They have contributed towards a reduction in the circulation of prohibited products such as bush meat. However, the report indicates that the measure for the closure of the RN4 to night traffic within the property continues to be an issue of non-cooperation by the provincial government.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the passage control toll system appears to be fairly effective and that unregistered passages have been reduced by about 50%. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN also note the efforts undertaken to monitor immigration. However, in certain localities the problem of illegal installations and unregistered visits persists. They recommend that measures be taken to reinforce the system and that it is extended to the north-east of the Reserve. They reiterate the importance of the closure of the RN4 to night traffic to make the control system more effective. They recall that immigration control in the property is primordial in reestablishing the integrity of the site.

- e) *Finalize and approve the Management Plan for the property, with the creation of an integral protection zone with the status of national park*

The State Party notes that the draft Management Plan is currently being reviewed by a group of experts for comment and recommendations, before being submitted for approval by the ICCN Directorate General. The plan includes a proposal for an integral conservation zone in the centre and the south-west of the Reserve representing about 25% of the territory of the property. In addition, 27 agricultural areas are demarcated and 22 subsistence hunting areas have been mapped out with the participation of local communities. The report considers that zoning could be finalized in 2013. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the progress achieved in the demarcation of hunting and agricultural areas compatible with the conservation of nature, notably around the RN4. They recommend to extend these efforts towards the north-eastern part of the OWR, where the economic activities (hunting, agriculture) are not yet regulated. They note that the monitoring of the forest survey by teledetection has enabled the assessment of the level of deforestation to 0.2% of the total surface of the property from 2005 to 2010.

- f) *Integrate the activities of the Immigration Control Committees (CCI) and the Local Monitoring and Conservation of Natural Resources Committees (CLSCN) in the management activities of the subsistence zones (agricultural and hunting areas), for which the management modalities must be indicated in the Management Plan*

The report of the State Party submitted in 2010 already mentioned that the CLSCN, body created to ensure the management of the subsistence zones, was now the only contact point representing authority responsible for the management of the Reserve as regards resource management issues.

- g) *Continue the efforts to strengthen and revitalize the surveillance mechanism and make it more effective*

The State Party indicates that the surveillance system is operational and was able to rebuff the invasion of the south-east sector by armed groups. The report also indicates the reestablishment of security in the western zone. Unfortunately, developments occurring since the reception of the report sent by the State Party indicate that all the south-eastern and south-western part of the Reserve is now in the hands of the Simba rebels.

- h) *Requests the State Party to halt the illegal traffic of timber, minerals and ivory across its north-eastern frontier*

The State Party indicates in its report that the main problem involved in halting the illegal traffic of ivory is the continued increase in the price of ivory on the international market.

- i) *Prepare and implement a zoning plan of the forest areas that border the property to protect it from negative impacts of unsustainable forest exploitation*

The State Party provides no information in its report concerning this measure.

j) Wildlife Survey

In its report, the State Party considers that there is a tendency towards the stabilization of large wildlife mammals, but it does not provide any quantitative data. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the report makes no mention of the results of the wildlife inventory carried out in 2010 and 2011, the results of which were being analysed last year. As mentioned at the 35th session, the preliminary results indicate a reduction in the population of certain ungulate species, with the exception of the okapi. The number of elephants has not increased but has remained stable. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that it is important to submit the results as soon as possible to enable the evaluation of progress in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider the deterioration of the security situation in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, at the time of preparing this report, to be extremely worrying. The total loss of control of all the south-eastern and south-western parts of the Reserve, the invasion by the Simba rebels, the increase in organized and commercial poaching of elephants and the reopening of the artisanal mines in this part risks cancelling out any progress achieved over the last five years. They note the refusal of the military authorities of Kisangani to halt poaching activities, as indicated in the State Party report. These reports also demonstrate the involvement of certain military authorities in poaching and artisanal mining activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned by the absence of progress in the cancellation of the artisanal mining rights encroaching on the property, granted by the Mining Cadastre, despite national legislation. They recall the position of the World Heritage Committee that mining exploration and exploitation are contrary to World Heritage statutes. They further consider that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be carried out for all mining projects adjacent to the property, to define the impact on its Outstanding Universal Value. This EIE should be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN before any activities are begun.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to initiate a dialogue/cooperation at the political level with the State services, namely the Ministries of Defence, Interior, the Cadastre Mining Services and the provincial authorities for the successful implementation of the corrective measures, in accordance with the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that the final results of the wildlife inventory are indispensable to assess the tendencies of the eight indicators defined for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. In the absence of this information, and in the light of the current situation of the property, they recommend to the Committee to retain the Okapi Wildlife Reserve on the List of World Heritage in Danger. They also recommend a reactive monitoring mission to evaluate the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and if necessary to revise the corrective measures and consequently their timetable for application, taking into account the evolution of the situation in the field.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalls Decision **35 COM 7A.8** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Warmly welcomes the efforts of the State Party and in particular the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, in implementing the corrective measures;
4. Expresses its strong concern with regard to the reports indicating an extremely serious deterioration of the security situation in the property, the total loss of control of all the south-eastern and south-western parts of the Reserve, the invasion by the Simba rebels, the increase in organized and commercial poaching of elephants, the reopening of the artisanal mines and the lack of collaboration of the military authorities based in Kisangani to assist in dealing with this situation and considers that these developments risk to cancel all progress achieved in the last five years;
5. Notes the lack of progress in the cancellation of mining rights encroaching on the property granted by the Mining Cadastre, despite national legislation and recalls that the mining exploration and exploitation are contrary to the World Heritage statute, in accordance with the position of the International Council on Minerals and Metals, and that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) including a clear conclusion on the potential impacts of the projects on the Outstanding Universal Value and integrity of the property, should be carried out and transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for all mining projects adjacent to the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Strongly urges the State Party to initiate a dialogue/cooperation at the political level with the State services (Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Mines, Provincial authorities,...) to strengthen the efforts in the implementation of the current corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), and more specifically to undertake immediate measures to halt the involvement of the FARDC military in poaching activities, regain control of the zones occupied by the Simba rebels and the immediate cancellation of the mining rights encroaching on the property, in conformity with the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration;
7. Requests the State Party to submit the final results of the wildlife inventory as soon as they are available and also recalls that the results are indispensable for the evaluation of the tendencies of the eight indicators defined for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, evaluate the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and if necessary to revise the corrective measures and consequently their timetable for application, taking into account the situation in the field;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2013**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the state of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property based on the final results of the 2011 survey, the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures

and the other recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1978

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1996

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

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

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

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1057>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 293,171

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/>

UNESCO extrabudgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

In January 2012 the State Party submitted a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, addressing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). It focuses particularly on the three measures that had not been completed at the time of the joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission in October 2009, and reviews further progress on other issues.

In respect of the three outstanding corrective measures, the State Party reports the following developments:

- a) *Improve the on-the-ground demarcation of the proposed extension of the property and finalize its gazetting into national law.*

The State Party notes that the re-gazetting of the property's boundaries has been delayed, despite the successful alignment of the new boundaries with the participation of local communities. The State Party attributes this delay to the uncertainty over whether re-gazetting would require a new nomination. It states that the gazetting of the new boundaries will be completed soon, provided that a new nomination would not be required.

As mentioned in previous reports, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the progress made in the alignment of the new boundaries but observe that the gazettelement of these new boundaries has been stalled because of misunderstandings on the process for re-aligning the boundaries of the World Heritage property. They note that the State Party report does not provide information on the recommended improvements with on-the-ground demarcation and geo-referencing of the proposed extension. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN emphasize that gazetting the extension into national law is necessary to provide adequate legal protection to the National Park and should be completed regardless of the World Heritage process. They clarify that once the notification under national law is completed, the State Party should consider submitting a proposal for boundary modification of the World Heritage property. Given the area concerned, the boundary modification has to be considered as a significant modification, according to paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*. While this means that the documentation that has to be submitted is based on the requirements of a nomination file, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN would like to clarify that this does not put into question the World Heritage status of the area. They also note that unless the newly aligned boundaries of the park coincide with the World Heritage property, critical parts of the range of the *Walia ibex* and Ethiopian wolf would be excluded from the property's inscription under criterion (x). They encourage the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre the requirements for the boundary modification. IUCN notes that it is willing to provide technical advice and to assist the State Party in identifying a suitable consultant.

- b) *Review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy, identify elements of it for immediate implementation under existing projects and programmes, and seek additional support for implementation of other priority actions.*

The State Party report notes that the grazing strategy which was developed foresees the establishment of a zoning scheme, with different levels of restricted access for community grazing (core zone, limited use zone, multiple use zone). However, it notes that to implement the objectives of the strategy, a coordinated approach amongst different local stakeholders and the mobilisation of resources from the international community will be needed. It further notes that it has not been able to complete the strategic action plan to reduce grazing pressure due to financial constraints. The report further mentions that the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) is working in collaboration with the Austrian-funded North Gondar Sustainable Resource Management Programme and the Agriculture Department to reduce grazing pressure within the property through on-farm fodder production, introduction of zero-grazing (cut-and-carry) livestock management techniques and introduction of improved livestock breeds. Furthermore, it notes that park patrolling has been intensified to

restrict livestock grazing in core wildlife areas of the park such as Chenek, Sankaber and Geech.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the efforts undertaken to address the grazing issue by the introduction of improved animal husbandary techniques. However, they stress the importance of introducing the zoning foreseen in the grazing strategy and recall the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage In Danger (DSOCR), adopted in Decision **34 COM 7A.9**, which requires the establishment of no-grazing zones covering 30% of the park area, and 'forage harvesting zones' (for cut-and-carry forage production) covering a further 20% of the park. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge that additional resources will be needed to support implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy, and that this will depend on a successful outcome to the proposed donor conference, which has been postponed since 2010 but is now scheduled after the 36th session (see point e) below).

- c) *Develop alternative livelihood opportunities for those currently living within the park to enable a systematic reduction in the amount of illegal cultivation and the number of park residents.*

The State Party reports continued progress with youth vocational training which has enabled some park residents to establish viable businesses in nearby towns and relocate to these places. However, a lack of funding has limited the implementation of the livelihood improvement programme. According to reports received by IUCN the number of beneficiaries of the youth vocational training and other activities aimed at providing alternative livelihoods has been severely limited by this low level of funding available. Furthermore, the successful voluntary relocation of residents from the Akwasiye village (which was located in a critical wildlife corridor) in 2008/9 has not been replicated elsewhere, again due largely to lack of funding.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the 40% reduction in the number of households living within the property, which would be required to restore its ecological integrity to an acceptable level for its removal from the List of World Heritage In Danger (as established by the DSOOCR), has not yet been met. They consider that the achievement of this corrective measure will depend on a successful outcome to the proposed donor conference in October 2012.

- d) *Progress in the implementation of other recommendations identified by previous monitoring missions:*

The State Party reports that the construction of the Debark – Sawerea – Beless – Inchet kab – Mekane Berhan road is now being undertaken, thus providing an alternative to the present road which runs along the top of the escarpment through critical wildlife habitat in the middle of the park. The new road will by-pass the park altogether and eliminate the need for heavy traffic to pass through the property. The State Party also notes that a possible re-alignment of the main road north from Debark through Limalimo to by-pass the new western extension of the park is also under discussion.

The State Party notes that in an effort to protect the highly endangered *Walia ibex* and Ethiopian wolf from possible transmission of sheep pox, mange mite and rabies a total of almost 50,000 domestic animals in 4 districts were vaccinated in November 2011 and training provided to farmers and veterinary technicians on the importance and techniques used in vaccination.

The State Party report indicates that tourist numbers have increased by 50% since the time of the mission in 2009, with corresponding increases in revenue and local employment in the tourism services sector, and that government revenues from park entrance and vehicle fees have increased by 300% over the same period.

The State Party reports that park management responsibility was transferred from the regional administration to the Federal EWCA in 2009, and has been undergoing 'Business

Process Re-engineering'. This has resulted in an increase in the number of park personnel; the recruitment of technical specialists; provision of staff training; increased park budgets; and the introduction of new management structures and practices. The new park authority is now well established and a key indicator of success is the significant increase in populations of the park's two flagship species, with *Walia ibex* now numbering 895 (up from 740 in 2008) and Ethiopian wolf numbering 102 (up from 84 in 2009).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the reported progress and continued implementation of the recommendations of the previous monitoring missions and acknowledge the significant advances reported in increasing the management effectiveness of the property.

e) *Donor Conference*

The State Party reports that it has established a task force of government and non-governmental officials in August 2011 to plan, organise and convene the proposed donor conference. According to the latest communications with the State Party, the conference is now tentatively scheduled to take place in October 2012 and following a request for International Assistance, the World Heritage Centre decided to allocate USD 20,000 under the 2012 World Heritage Fund budget line for sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that a successful outcome to the conference is critical in resolving the outstanding issues of alternative livelihoods and grazing pressure reduction.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the World Heritage Committee should commend the State Party for allocating additional financial and staff resources to the property, for its conservation actions and the resulting growth in the populations of the two highly endangered 'flagship' species (the *Walia ibex* and Ethiopian wolf), as well as for the recent growth in tourism.

However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN wish to highlight the limited progress made to resolve the core issues affecting the long-term ecological integrity of the property, namely the unsustainable levels of grazing by domestic stock and the pressures of cultivation and resource use arising from a large number of settlements inside to the property. They also note that the gazetting of the revised park boundaries into national law has not yet been completed.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that if not already organized by the 36th session, the Committee should urge the State Party to convene the delayed donor conference as soon as possible in an effort to secure the support of additional conservation and development partners in implementing the grazing pressure reduction and alternative livelihood strategies. They also recommend that the Committee reiterate its appeal to the International Community to provide financial support for the implementation of these strategies. They further note that once the gazettelement under national law is completed, the State Party should submit a proposal for boundary modification of the World Heritage property. They recommend the World Heritage Committee should encourage the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre the requirements for the boundary modification, noting IUCN's willingness to provide technical advice. In view of the outstanding issues related to the three corrective measures and the lack of information on the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Commends the State Party for the reported efforts to strengthen the management effectiveness of the property as well as progress in the implementation of several recommendations on previous monitoring missions as well as the reported significant increases in populations of the endangered Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf but notes that progress should continue to be made to resolve the core issues affecting the long-term ecological integrity of the property, namely the unsustainable levels of grazing by domestic stock and the pressures of cultivation and resource use arising from a large number of settlements inside the property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to organize the donor conference as soon as possible in order to mobilize the additional funding necessary to implement key outstanding corrective measures, in particular the grazing pressure reduction strategy and alternative livelihoods strategies;
5. Reiterates its call to the International Community to financially support the implementation of these strategies;
6. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the three remaining outstanding corrective measures, in particular:
 - a) finalize the gazettment of the extended park boundaries into national law,
 - b) implement an effective grazing reduction strategy,
 - c) provide alternative livelihoods for those who currently depend on cultivation and other forms of resource use within the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its previous decisions;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a proposal for boundary modification of the World Heritage property once the gazettal is completed, to reflect the new boundaries of the National Park and encourages the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre the requirements for the boundary modification;
8. Recommends that the State Party establish a program to monitor and report on the six indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger to evaluate progress in restoring the ecological integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress accomplished in the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures and the recommendations of the 2009 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. **Decides to retain Simien Mountains National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2007

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

2010

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

- a) Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood);
- b) Secondary impacts of the illegal logging;
- c) Poaching of endangered lemurs.

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

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 125,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 2005-2007: USD 1,140,000 and 2007-2009: USD 750,000 for the Preparation of the nomination file and development of certain management tools supported through the Madagascar World Heritage programme, with funding from the United Nations Foundation, Conservation International and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Encroachment;
- b) Fire;
- c) Hunting and poaching;
- d) Artisanal mining;
- e) Illegal logging.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257>

Current conservation issues

A World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission visited the property from 23 to 31 May 2011. The results were presented orally at the 35th session by the World Heritage Centre but not included in the previous state of conservation report. The mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/>.

The mission found that illegal logging had been halted in Marojejy National Park (MJNP), but was continuing in Masoala National Park (MSNP). In addition, the mission noted that the illegal logging had started spreading to other protected areas not within the property, but that there was a risk that other components of the property could be affected in the future. The mission took note of the efforts of the State Party to address the issue and to implement the Decree 2010-141 of March 2010, which is prohibiting all cutting, exploitation and exportation of rosewood and ebony. However, it received numerous reports from stakeholders that the decree still was not fully applied. The mission concluded that the decree continued to be circumvented by certain authorities and that no action had been undertaken against the existing illegal stocks of rosewood retained by timber traders. The mission noted reports that wood continued to be illegally exported from these stocks and is then quickly replaced by freshly cut logs and therefore concluded that the elimination of all stocks, including those retained by timber traders, is key to halt the illegal logging and trade in rosewood and ebony.

The mission reported a strong increase in the rate of deforestation in MSNP. While this deforestation is not all directly linked to the illegal logging but also to slash and burn agriculture, the mission considered that the inability to stop the illegal logging, had been a main trigger for the increased deforestation by local communities. The mission was also informed of increased pressure from artisanal mining in the two sites, and this increase was reported to be linked to the same governance issues that are fuelling the illegal logging.

The mission concluded that the property's Outstanding Universal Value, in particular the values which lead to the inscription of the property under criterion (ix) and (x), had been impacted in the areas where logging took place, but these impacts were so far localized and had not yet jeopardized the overall values of the property. The mission considered that if the logging was not brought under control and more areas were affected, certain values of the property could be lost. The mission also concluded that the increased deforestation as well as the other threats mentioned before had seriously affected the overall integrity of MSNP and that other components of the serial property could also be affected if the logging crisis would spread to these components.

Based on the mission findings, the World Heritage Committee in its decision **35 COM 7A.10** adopted the list of corrective measures as well as a timeframe of two years for its implementation and the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 1 February 2012, the State Party submitted a report with information on the current state of conservation of the property and on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. The report notes that in 2011, no more logging or timber stocks, deforestation or poaching incidents had been observed in MJNP. For MSNP, the report states that all logging activities have been stopped by the end of 2011 and that most existing timber stocks in the park have been seized and stored in secured places. However, the report notes that some hidden stocks might still be present in the park. The report further notes that in MSNP during 2011, 18 ha of the park had been deforested compared to 40 ha in 2010 and that the number of confiscated lemur traps had diminished very slightly from 42 to 38. The report notes that efforts have been taken to contain these threats but that the political context and the size of the park make this a challenge.

The State party further stresses its commitment to implement the corrective measures and to reach the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger within the two years timeframe adopted by the Committee. Following progress is reported in the implementation of the four urgent corrective measures:

- a) *Finalize the registration of all existing stocks of wood and ensure their immediate seizure*

The State Party reports that an inventory has been conducted in 2011 resulting in two types of stocks: (i) secured and inventoried stocks of confiscated timber and (ii) timber stocks in place with the timber traders.

There are also reports that illegal exports have decreased but continue, and while no longer transiting through the major ports, logs are transported by small ships to larger ships anchored offshore.

- b) *Eliminate all of these stocks within one year after the seizure, with no possibility of renewing the stock through an appropriate process for the liquidation and control of the stock, resulting in the complete elimination of all wood stored within 18 months*

The State Party reports that in 2011 priority was given to halting the ongoing logging and that the elimination of stocks was the priority for 2012.

On 15 December 2011, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party with a proposal of an action plan for the inventory and sale of timber stocks. In its reply, the World Heritage Centre requested for a clear strategy for the sale of all illegal timber stocks, ensuring the full participation of civil society and the international community as well as the involvement of independent observers. The letter also asked for clarifications on the use of the generated revenue, as well as on the methodology which will be used for the inventory and marking of timber stocks. On 6 February 2012, the State Party submitted the requested strategy, based on a “zero stock, zero logging and zero transporting” approach for rosewood and ebony. The attached documents also contained details on different aspects of the proposed inventory and timber sale.

- c) *Finalize the inscription file for the *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* species endemic to Madagascar in Appendix III of the CITES and submit the inscription of these species in Appendix II of the CITES to the next Conference of States Parties (COP) in order to strengthen their protection status*

The State Party report notes that this process is underway but provides no further details.

- d) *Enforce the implementation of the Decree of March 24, 2010 and the Decrees of November 2000 and April 2006, in particular by publishing in the press an official document signed by the Minister of Environment to clarify precisely the status of these woods and their conservation, for information to the public, all State departments in charge of controlling them, and all potential players in the timber industry, and by commissioning an independent observer to monitor the implementation of the decree;*

The State Party report notes that it has organized many information missions, including by the Minister of Environment and Forests to sensitize the local communities.

- e) *Other conservation issues*

The report further provides information on the implementation of the other corrective measures recommended by the 2011 mission to restore the integrity of the property. It highlights the increased patrol efforts to stop logging and secure the illegal timber stocks in the two parks, but notes that so far no funding has been available to include the other four components of the property. It further notes the efforts on community conservation with funding from the German Development Bank (KfW) in MJNP and the Zurich Zoo and Madagascar Protected Area and Biodiversity Foundation in MSNP, but states that community conservation initiatives are not effective in curbing timber logging as these activities are mainly done by people from outside the region. The report further notes that in 2011 no ecological rehabilitation activities of the degraded areas have been conducted but that this is planned for 2012. No information is provided on the recommendation to strengthen the prerogatives of Madagascar National Parks to prosecute offences within the property.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the efforts by the State Party to start implementing the corrective measures, in particular the inscription of ebony and rosewood species under Appendix III of CITES, and the reported halting of all illegal logging in MSNP.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that while an inventory might have been completed, the problem of timber stock elasticity has not yet been resolved. They reiterate the conclusion of the 2011 mission that all existing rosewood stocks originate from illegal logging and therefore should be considered illegal. They note, however, that to address the issue of illegal logging in a sustainable way, it is important to tackle the governance of the forest sector and in particular eliminate all existing rosewood and ebony stocks, as foreseen in the urgent corrective measures.

They take note of the strategy for a sale of these stocks, which has been proposed by the State Party, and welcome that it is based on a “zero stock, zero logging and zero transporting” approach for rosewood and ebony. They reiterate the need to confiscate illegal timber, and include illegal timber stocks retained by timber traders in the operation, and note that the involvement of an independent observer is crucial for the credibility of the process. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee consider important that the Government, at the highest level, takes an unequivocal position and clearly and consistently state that the existing trade ban legislation will be enforced and will not be altered. They also wish to underscore that the State Party successfully inscribed all rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*) and ebony (*Diospyros spp.*) species occurring in the island under Appendix III and encourage the State Party to continue its efforts to get these species listed under Appendix II at the next COP of the CITES Convention in March 2013.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note recent media reports that an estimated 10,000 sapphire artisanal miners have entered the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Forest Corridor Reserve, a new protected area located to the south of Zahamena National Park, one of the components of the property. During the technical evaluation of the nomination of the property in 2007, the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Forest Corridor was not yet a protected area but IUCN recommended that the State Party should consider including it at a later date. The State Party included it on its Tentative List in January 2008. According to the reports, miners have entered the reserve following recent discoveries of sapphire deposits. These reports suggest that many of the miners have now agreed to leave the reserve following talks with local authorities. However, the status of artisanal mining operations remains unclear. They also note that previous discoveries in the 1990s of rich sapphire deposits in the Ilakaka zone in southern Madagascar, and near the Ankarana National Park in northern Madagascar, resulted in a large number of social and ecological problems. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN wish to highlight that the large-scale artisanal mining in the region of Zahamena could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and recommend that the Committee request the State Party to provide immediate and appropriate support to the local authorities, reserve management, management of the Zahamena National Park and to effectively address the new threat.

The World Heritage Centre finally notes that in addition to the International Assistance grant which was approved by the Committee at its 34th session, the State Party has developed a project proposal with funding from Bulgaria to support the implementation of the corrective measures. This proposal is currently being finalized and will be submitted for support from Norway, which has, in principle, agreed to fund it. They recommend that World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures and that property is retained on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Welcomes the efforts by the State Party to start implementing the corrective measures, in particular the inscription of ebony and rosewood species under Appendix III of CITES, and the reported halting of all illegal logging in Masoala National Park;
4. Considers that to address the issue of illegal logging in a sustainable way, it is important to tackle the governance of the forest sector and in particular eliminate all existing rosewood and ebony stocks, as foreseen in the urgent corrective measures;
5. Takes note of the strategy to eliminate rosewood and ebony stocks based on a “zero stock, zero logging and zero transporting” approach proposed by the State Party, and urges the State Party to confiscate illegal timber, and include illegal timber stocks retained by timber traders in the operation, and requests the State Party to involve an independent observer in this process;
6. Also urges the State Party to take an unequivocal position on the illegal logging and trade of rosewood and ebony at the highest level and enforce the existing trade ban legislation as defined in Decree 2010-141;
7. Reiterates the importance of the States Parties to the Convention taking measures to ensure that illegal timber from Madagascar is both forbidden and cannot enter their domestic markets;
8. Notes with concern reports that an estimated 10,000 sapphire artisanal miners are currently based near Zahamena National Park, one of the components of the property, which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and further urges the State Party to provide immediate and appropriate support to park management and local authorities to effectively address this threat;
9. Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including, notably, an overall assessment of the impacts of illegal logging in Masoala and Marojejy National Parks, and an evaluation of the implementation of corrective measures, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
11. **Decides to retain the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List
1991

Criteria
(vii) (ix) (x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Political instability and civil strife

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/325>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet established

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

International Assistance
Global amount granted to the property: USD 143,250
For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/>

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
September – October 1998: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2005: IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability and civil strife;
- b) Poverty;
- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching;
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure;
- h) Pressure on forestry resources.

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2012, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. The report underlined the efforts realized by the State Party in pursuing the actions developed earlier in response to the corrective measures adopted in the previous sessions. As it was in the report received in 2010, this report contained very little new information. Nevertheless, the report indicated a gradual improvement in security in the area and notes that the conservation unit continues to be supported by the Co-management Project for Resources of the Air and Ténéré (COGERAT).

- a) *Re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to allow better control of natural resources use within the property*

The State Party report does not provide any information concerning the re-establishment of a permanent presence at the Reserve base in Iférouane that, due to insecurity problems, has only been partially occupied these past years. However, the report informed that community surveillance brigades are now definitively installed and operational in the field, following the adoption by the ministerial decree of their status and regulations by the State Party. The report mentions the holding of regular meetings by the conservation unit as well as several missions of the regional and departmental forestry brigade. The State Party also emphasized the lack of human resources and material to cover the immensity of the area.

- b) *Establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resources access rights for local residents*

The State Party confirms in the report that the four land commissions of Tabelot, Timia, Iférouane and Gougaram are now all established. With support of the COGERAT project, the communal plans of sustainable management for natural resources and their funding

mechanism are now validated. The report also recalls the establishment of an intercommunal structure for the management of natural resources (AIGRN) of the ATNR.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the State Party has carried out important work in setting up participatory structures to improve the management of the natural resources of the property. However, the report does not provide information concerning the impact and effectiveness of these structures, notably in the prevention and management of conflicts linked to the access and use of natural resources.

c) Improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal natural resource extraction

As indicated in point a) above, the State Party has carried out several surveillance missions during 2011. Seven missions were carried out by the forestry brigades and eleven other missions by the conservation unit of the COGERAT project. The report notes also that the Department of Arlit has been provided with a vehicle and two additional motorbikes for surveillance activities.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the first efforts carried out by the State Party, but note that the report provides no information concerning the concrete results of these surveillance missions (reserve area covered and frequency, number of poachers apprehended, number of offenses recorded). Therefore, it is difficult to assess the degree of effectiveness of these actions, notably concerning the anti-poaching combat, one of the main threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as the illegal timber harvesting. It is also difficult at this time to fully evaluate the work of the community brigades and the management bodies for natural resources such as the AIGRN due to the lack of detailed information concerning the results obtained by these latter.

d) Immediately halt all collection of timber and thatch from the property

In the report, the State Party mentions that an important awareness-raising effort has been made with regard to the use of mineral coal in urban centres and communities on the periphery of the property (without indicating which ones) with a total of 17.8 tons of coal used in 303 homes. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN warmly welcome this initiative but note that the report of the State Party gives no information enabling an evaluation of the true impact of these activities on the gathering of timber and thatch within the property, as already mentioned in 2010 and 2011.

e) Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce destabilization of soils by motorized traffic

The report stipulates in a very brief manner that the actions of protection and sustainable management of the soil have been carried out over 695.5 ha. However, no precision has been given as to the actions taken to achieve this result nor the area within the property of these protected hectares. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate their observation made in the preceding reports that this area is rather small in comparison to the size of the property (7.7 million ha) and to the 55,000 ha of land to be restored by the COGERAT project, mentioned in previous State Party reports) and the 100,000 additional ha that the structures established by the communes (communal land commissions COFOCOM) are managing. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the action plans for a sustainable management of the natural resources of the property and for the restoration of the degraded soils have not yet been submitted, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **33 COM 7A.10**.

f) Poverty alleviation

The State Party informs in its report that 600 tons of foodstuffs were distributed by 47 cereal banks with the aim to alleviate poverty during the lean seasons, between the lack of food reserves available and the use of early harvests. This would notably reduced the pressure of neighbouring populations on the natural resources.

g) Oil and mineral exploitation

In its Decision **35COM 7A.11**, the World Heritage Committee had requested the State Party to clarify the status and location of an oil concession that might be within the property. The State Party report contained no information on this subject.

h) Population numbers of the Saharan wildlife

The State Party confirms that the addax is no longer present in the ATNR and that the majority of its population is now found in the Termit massif area, in the Tin Toumma Desert and the Erg de Bilma. Furthermore, the State Party report mentions the return, through awareness efforts, of the Dorcas gazelle and the Barbary sheep in the ATNR, without providing concrete data on the localization of these species or the numbers observed. The report also notes that a reintroduction strategy needs to be developed for the addax, oryx and the cheetah.

The World Heritage Centre notes the worrying state of the wildlife population that justified the inscription of the property under criterion (x), with the disappearance of the oryx, red necked ostrich and the addax from the property. The Dama gazelle, once well represented in the Aïr mountains has today almost disappeared according to information received by IUCN, as well as the cheetah. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate that it is primordial that the State Party carry out inventories applying the survey methods recommended by the IUCN Species Survival Commission, providing reliable data in order to have information on the status of the large fauna within the property.

During this inventory, it is important that the state of conservation of the habitats as well as the anthropogenic activities likely to have an impact of the fauna and the habitats can be jointly assessed. The State Party flags the need of support to carry out this work. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the State Party has resubmitted a request for International Assistance for this project. This request is currently being revised by the State Party in collaboration with the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee recognize the efforts carried out by the State Party through the activities of the COGERAT project for the implementation of the corrective measures. It also notes the insecurity conditions that occurred during the last rebellion of 2006 to 2009 and the present residual insecurity is translated by armed banditism and risks linked to the presence of mines, rendering difficult this implementation and opening the way to important poaching activities that have gradually eroded the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, seriously threatening the integrity of the ATNR and the loss of its Outstanding Universal Value. Welcoming the improvement in the security situation, reported by the State Party, they recommend that the Committee show concern regarding the insecurity situation that could once again worsen following the political instability that reigns in the bordering countries (Libya and Mali) generating an important movement of populations and materials these last months.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the lack of concrete information in the State Party report in response to the Committee decisions, which prevents carrying out a pertinent evaluation of the efforts made vis-à-vis the corrective measures identified by the IUCN monitoring mission in 2005.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN reiterate the importance, as soon as security conditions within the property permit, to carry out an inventory according to a well-established sample plan based on the effectives of fauna, the state of habitats and the anthropogenic activities within the Reserve to enable a pertinent assessment of its Outstanding Universal Value and the state of conservation of the property and the threats that concern it. They recommend finally that the Committee encourage the State Party to submit as soon as possible the request for International Assistance in this respect, after revision and with the support of the IUCN Species Survival Committee; and they recall its

earlier decisions according to which a reactive monitoring mission should be organized once the inventory has been completed.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Regrets the absence of precise information in the reports submitted by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures and their impact, in response to the decisions of the Committee;
4. Reiterates its deep concern concerning the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property based on reports received indicating that several species of antelope and other large mammals have disappeared from the property, or are on the point of disappearing, following important poaching activities within and around the property due to the insecurity situation;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the information concerning the existence of an oil concession in the property, and recalls that the Committee adopted several years ago a clear position regarding the issue of mining and oil exploitation and exploration within inscribed properties, judging these activities incompatible with the World Heritage status;
6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to organize, before the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (in June-July 2013), and in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission, an inventory of the remaining large fauna, in order to assess the state of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and prepare rehabilitation programmes and re-establishment of the populations;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, as soon as the inventory is available to update the corrective measures and establish a timetable for their implementation and develop the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Strongly urges the State Party to continue and reinforce its efforts to fully implement all the corrective measures, and in particular the anti-poaching measures, as well as the other recommendations proposed by the 2005 monitoring mission and invites the international community to increase its support to the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on the implementation of corrective measures and their impact on the restoration of integrity of the property, the inventory of fauna, an update on security in the property, and the existence of an oil concession likely to affect the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. **Decides to retain the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(x)

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

2007

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

- a) Poaching;
- b) Livestock grazing.

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

Adopted, See page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/?id_decision=4087&

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, See page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/?id_decision=4087&

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, See page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/?id_decision=4087&

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount received for the property: USD 107,845 approved

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife;
- b) Drying up of ponds, and invasive species;
- c) Illegal logging;
- d) Livestock grazing;
- e) Road construction project;
- f) Potential dam construction;
- g) Potential mining exploration and exploitation.

Illustrative material

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2012, the State Party submitted a concise report on the state of conservation of the property, which provides information on the implementation of some of the corrective measures, and also responds to some other issues raised by the Committee at its 35th Session (UNESCO, 2011). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall that three of the seven corrective measures adopted by the Committee were to be implemented before July

2011, two others are to be addressed before July 2012, and the remaining two before July 2013. Regarding the five corrective measures that were to be accomplished before the 35th and 36th Sessions of the Committee, the following is reported:

a) *Strengthen and establish the anti-poaching mechanism*

The State Party notes that the surveillance squads and the new anti-poaching mechanism that has been in place since December 2010 are being maintained thanks to funding provided by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF). It continues to operate with three mobile teams of eight officers each, which are deployed for ten days per month in high pressure areas. In addition, regular complementary patrols are carried out, based on the data gathered by the mobile units. The State Party notes that these patrols resulted in the confiscation of numerous arms and amunitions and the arrest of several offenders but provides no details if it has been able to significantly curb poaching.

The State Party also reports that a consultation workshop was held with stakeholders from the tourism sector from Tambacounda and Kédougou, with, among others, the objective to establish partnerships between tourism operators and park managers and provide alternative sources of income for ex-poachers.

b) *Increase the staff of the property and provide, as soon as possible, training for them focusing on the protection of the property, its integrated management, security regulations, and provide them with equipment essential to their mission*

The State Party reports that the 35 agents which were recruited in December 2010 have received training to improve their abilities in the field of anti-poaching, wildlife management and participatory approach methods at the periphery of the park. The State Party notes that a recruitment process for 25 additional agents started in February 2012. The State Party reports that, with support from RRF, 11 of 12 vehicles have been put back into service, and five GPS units have been acquired. The State Party also reiterates that a one billion CFA francs (1.5 million euros) Emergency Rehabilitation Plan for the property foresees the development of network trails, the rehabilitation, construction and equipping of guard posts, strengthening the surveillance of the park, and improving staff working conditions. Some equipment has already been delivered, and the remaining activities of the emergency plan will be implemented throughout 2012. Furthermore, the State Party reports that an IUCN mission, which was carried out in March 2011 with the objective to lead to the development of a new Management Plan for the property, has resulted, among other points, in the preparation of a management framework focused on emergency actions, which is now operational and has been budgeted for two years. In addition, a vision and objectives for a ten year Management Plan have been set.

c) *Propose and implement real alternatives to the drilling of boreholes outside the park in order to reduce the straying of cattle in the overall context of seasonal migration in Senegal*

The State Party reports that, with the support of the project "Livestock farming as a means of subsistence: strengthening the strategies for adaptation to climate change through improved management of the livestock-wildlife-environment interface", further meetings were organised with local communities of Diénoudiala, Oubadji, Médina Gounass and Lingkéring. The objective of these meetings was to resolve in a participatory way the pressures on the property by improving the conservation of natural resources and animal husbandry practices in its periphery, but no results of the meetings have been detailed in the report.

Furthermore, the State Party notes that, with support from IUCN, a network of the fifteen Presidents of the different Rural Councils bordering the property is being created, with the objective to provide a basis for consultation which should lead to partnerships between the Parc and local communities for better management of the values of the property.

Finally, the State Party notes that a Steering Committee for the property is being created, which will provide advice on the matter of biodiversity conservation in the property and its surroundings.

The report provides no information on whether issues linked to grazing pressure in and around the property have been addressed through these activities, in particular the issue of the drilling of wells in the periphery of the property, which risk concentrating livestock around the Park and increasing pressure on the pastures and the Park.

- d) *Update the park's ecological monitoring program based on indicators that are simple, reliable and inexpensive to measure, and on statistics from reliable censuses of populations of threatened species (lions, giant eland, elephants, chimpanzees, wild dogs,...) and key species, and integrate it into the property Management Plan*

The State Party does not report on progress achieved in the implementation of this corrective measure, however it does note that from 24-27 January 2012, a census of the key species of the property was carried out, covering the South-eastern area of the property between Niokolo-Bangharé-Mako. The report does not provide sufficient details on the methodology of the census, nor on the area covered and shows only the frequency of encounter with species along the transect. The frequencies of encounter indicate that all species occur at very low densities, with higher encounter rates for Roan Antelope, Buffalo and Giant Eland, very low rates for Elephant (1 sign along 350 km of transect), Hartebeest, Chimpanzee, Lion, and Leopard. Wild Dog was not recorded at all during the census, however the report notes that further observations made during 2011 indicate that it is still present in the property.

- e) *Improve boundary marking of the property and ensure better communication on this subject through signage adapted to the specificities of each community in the vicinity of the property*

The State Party notes that there has as of yet been no progress in the implementation of this corrective measure. However, it states that a project for the densification of boundary markers was submitted to the African World Heritage Fund in March 2011, with no follow up to date.

- f) *Other conservation issues – basalt quarry, Sambangalou dam*

The State Party states that the basalt quarry inside the property at Mansadala has been closed since October 2011, and that the area is currently being rehabilitated. The State Party does not provide any information on the proposed dam at Sambangalou, as requested by the Committee at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011) Sessions.

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

The State Party report provides no information on progress towards reaching the DSOCR, which was established by the 2010 mission.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the new anti-poaching mechanism is being maintained, but that it continues to depend on short term external funding. As poaching is the one of the main threats to the OUV, the mechanism should be strengthened further, in particular by increasing the number of man-days spent in the field and by combining land-based patrols with aerial anti-poaching means.

They wish however to highlight the progress achieved in the development of a new Management Plan for the property and the substantial efforts to strengthen surveillance equipment and infrastructure, as well as the efforts to create structures for the participation of communities and other stakeholders in the management of the property as well as efforts to work with the communities to address livestock issues.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN wish to highlight the alarmingly low wildlife populations. They note that the survey results cover only the South-eastern part of the property and do not present a clear picture of populations of key species in the property. The results of this partial census cannot constitute a solid baseline for a comprehensive monitoring program covering the entire property. However, the census clearly demonstrates that the property's animal populations are very low. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that, if this decline is not reversed urgently, there is a risk that the Outstanding Universal Value could be lost very soon and thus fulfill the conditions for removal of the property from the World Heritage List. They therefore recommend that a further and more comprehensive census of key wildlife populations of the entire property should not be the immediate priority, and that the focus of conservation should be on implementing the Emergency Action Plan that was developed by the State Party with support from IUCN, in order to save what remains of the OUV of the property.

They also recommend that the Committee welcome the actions undertaken by the State Party in the development of a management framework for the property and in forging partnerships with local communities and other local stakeholders to improve the conservation of the property's values, but also express its concern about the limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, as compared to the timeframe set by the Committee. They recommend that the State Party reinforce its efforts to implement the corrective measures to reverse the deteriorating state of conservation and the further erosion of the property's OUV, including a better demarcation of the property boundary to resolve the issue of stray cattle and agricultural encroachment in the property and to ensure efficient cooperation with the communities in the periphery of the park as noted above.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN take note of the reports of the closure of the basalt quarry. Regarding the Sambangalou dam project, they however recommend that the Committee express its concern and recall its request to present a specific study of the impacts of this dam on the OUV of the property, notably on the possible reduction of gallery forests and palmyra palm forests, wildlife river crossings and the water supply to the flood basins and ponds in the property, before making a decision on its construction, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* (Decisions **34 COM 7A.11** and **35 COM 7A.12**).

Finally, they note that none of the corrective measures has yet been fully implemented and no information is provided on progress in reaching the DSOCR. They also note that if the trends in the loss of wildlife in the property are not reversed quickly, the property may soon meet the criteria for removal from the List of World Heritage under Paragraph 192 of the *Operational Guidelines*. They therefore recommend that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Reiterates its concern about the alarmingly low densities of wildlife in the property, as indicated by the reported survey results, which reflect a significant deterioration of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;*

4. Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party in the development of a management framework for the property and in strengthening cooperation with local communities and other local stakeholders to improve the conservation of the property;
5. Expresses its concern about the limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, as compared to the timeframe set by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010);
6. Requests the State Party to intensify its efforts to implement the corrective measures to halt the decline in biodiversity, and to urgently implement the Emergency Action Plan in an effort to save the remaining elements of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property that may permit the eventual restoration of the property;
7. Expresses its satisfaction with the State Party's decision to close the basalt quarry at Mansadala;
8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide a report of a specific study of the impacts of the proposed Sambangalou dam on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the possible reduction of gallery forests and palm forests, wildlife river crossings and water supply to flood basins and ponds in the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to making a decision on its construction;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including on progress achieved in the implementation of all seven corrective measures and the other issues raised above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of complementary information from the State Party)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(viii) (ix) (x)

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

1993-2007; 2010 to present

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

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

Developed 2006 (IUCN technical workshop), see page: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2006/whc06-30com-07Ae.pdf>

Adopted (refinements have been suggested), see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Quantity and quality of water entering the property;
- b) Urban encroachment;
- c) Agricultural fertiliser pollution;
- d) Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife;
- e) Lowered water levels due to flood control measures;
- f) Damage from hurricanes.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was received from the State Party on 17 February 2012. The State Party provides detailed information on progress of the 14 corrective measures adopted in 2006 and 2010 and the ecological indicators identified during the 2011 reactive monitoring mission and formalized as the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The State Party refined and quantified eleven indicators to monitor the integrity and ecological rehabilitation, as well as management effectiveness of the property in view of removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A detailed description of the indicators, and their connection to the 14 corrective measures, are provided in the State Party state of conservation report. Six of the indicators were not met, particularly those related to the volume, levels and distribution of water flow which are essential to the integrity of the property. Five indicators were partially met, including those related to improvement of water quality. However, it was also indicated that substantive new land conversions will be needed by 2018 to meet desired water quality standards. Small positive trends were reported on two of the indicators related to Everglades' wading birds nesting, but it was noted that increases correspond to the 2005 to 2010 period of more stable hydrologic conditions in the property, not to any specific restoration.

a) *All East Everglades Land Acquisition complete*

Land acquisition is 99% complete, 300 hectares of commercial lands remain, and the funds are in the 2012 National Park Service budget. A land exchange is contemplated for the largest parcel.

b) *Complete Water Control Plan and complete 8.5 Square Mile Area Construction*

Construction of all of the originally planned Modified Water Deliveries (MWD) flood mitigation features (the L-357 canal and levee and the S-356 and S-357 pump stations) was completed by 2008. Construction of a new supplemental seepage canal has been recommended. The funding needed to coincide with the Tamiami Trail improvements. The Everglades Restoration Transition Plan (ERTP) operational changes are scheduled to be implemented by early 2012. A related field test of operational adjustments that would begin to modestly increase water flows into Northeast Shark River Slough is also stated to begin in mid 2012, and run for approximately two years.

c) *Construction projects for the L-67A and C and L-29 water conveyance structures, Tamiami Trail Bridges, and road modifications are all underway*

The MWD project that was initially approved in 1992 included a series of water conveyance structures that would pass water across the L-67 A/C levees reconnecting WCA 3A with WCA. These conveyance features have been dropped from the Modified Water Deliveries project, but will be re-evaluated via a new Army Corps of Engineers Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) that was initiated in November 2011, and will be completed by mid 2013. The initial phase of the Tamiami Trail bridging and roadway improvements are approximately 49% complete. Current funding shortfalls are being resolved, and the completion date for the Tamiami Trail improvements is December 2013.

d) *Complete C-111 land exchange between the South Florida Water Management District and the US Government*

Nearly all of the required land acquisition or securing of real estate interests needed to construct the C-111 South Dade Project features was completed by 2006 and have been achieving their seepage management goals for the last two years.

e) *Complete the Water Control Plan (CSOP Final EIS)*

The alternative modeling and environmental assessments are scheduled to begin in 2012, and a new water control plan is expected to be completed by 2015.

- f) *Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond*

The delay in completing the C-111 northern detention area is related to unresolved issues: increased costs for levee construction and off-site disposal of unsuitable materials, and the cost sharing formula between the Federal and State agencies. Construction is now scheduled for completion in 2017.

- g) *Meet or exceed the interim and long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into Shark River Slough and the long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basin areas in Everglades National Park*

Improvements have reduced phosphorus loadings to the Everglades by approximately 70%. For the 2011 water year (October 2010 to September 2011), the flow weighted mean total phosphorus (TP) concentration entering Shark River Slough was 9.2 ppb, which was well below the long-term compliance limit of 12.0 ppb. Approximately 4,900 ha of storm water treatment areas (STA) are currently under construction and are expected to be operational by 2013.

- h) *Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond and implement CSOP operations*

The originally planned features in the C-111 South Dade project have been completed and were all fully operational by 2009. Remaining is the C-111 North Detention area, currently scheduled for completion in 2017.

- i) *Complete the C-111N Spreader Canal and revised operations*

In southern Taylor Slough, the C-111 Spreader Canal Western project (or phase 1 project) is complete and ready for operational testing in 2012.

- j) *Strengthen the cooperation among all partners involved in the restoration projects through adoption of a common vision which includes conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a consistent high priority. This common vision should be integrated in the General Management Plan expected in Spring 2011*

Key restoration partners and community stakeholders have recently recognized the benefits of this watershed approach and begun development of a common vision that would accelerate the central and southern Everglades flow improvements. It is unclear to what extent the common vision is integrated in the General Management Plan.

- k) *Ensure the importance of an entire catchment scale approach to land and water planning and management in South Florida is fully recognized across all relevant agencies and stakeholders (e.g., through cross-compliance) and that decisions far upstream do not further impact the conservation of the property. The catchment scale approach should be reflected in and implemented through the General Management Plan expected in Spring 2011*

In November 2011, the Army Corps of Engineers initiated a new 18-month Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) which will incorporate new scientific information, enhance opportunities for public engagement, and develop a plan to integrate the most critical Everglades flows restoration features. This new approach represents the third generation of planned projects, and will focus on a watershed scale approach for restoring the Lake Okeechobee/Everglades connection and integrating the design of four key flow restoration components. It is unclear to what extent the common vision is integrated in the General Management Plan.

- l) *Address the delays in the implementation of the Modified Water Deliveries (MWD), C-111 and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects, and related water quality initiatives which will result in continued degradation of the property and likely reduce the resilience of the Everglades ecosystem in the face of climate change*

CERP aims to run in parallel with efforts to complete the ongoing Modified Water Deliveries and C-111 South Dade projects. CEPP envisions to include expanded Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) water storage and treatment areas needed to handle existing EAA runoff as well as incorporating features that would store and clean new water that would be routed southward from Lake Okeechobee.

- m) *Ensure progress on the further modifications on the Tamiami Trail to include extending the bridging to a further 5.5 miles together with additional road raising and other associated infrastructure changes to reduce groundwater seepage losses from the property whilst also addressing the concerns of other stakeholders*

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project was completed in December 2010. The recommended plan would add up to 5.5 miles of bridges and raise the remaining eastern roadway to allow for unconstrained flow into Northeast Shark River Slough. Congressional authorization was received in 2011 with the goal of completing construction by 2017/2018, but a funding source has not yet been identified.

A new seepage control pump station (S-356) was completed in 2005 under the Modified Water Deliveries project. CERP included an Everglades National Park Seepage Management project that would add additional S-356 pump stations as well as a sub-surface seepage barrier by 2015. An initial 2002 seepage management pilot has stalled and is now on hold while a shallow seepage barrier test is being conducted by a private rock-mining group. Future actions are dependent on these test results.

- n) *Resolve uncertainties upstream of the property arising from the legal actions linked in particular to water quality*

The State of Florida developed a new recommended water quality treatment approach that optimizes EAA water management operations, thereby reducing the land needed for the new water storage and water quality treatments to just over 8,100 ha. Federal government agencies are currently reviewing this proposal. The new Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) will incorporate the needed water quality treatment requirements for the central Everglades flow path by integrating water flow and water quality features in the plan formulation process.

Just under 4,900 ha of new storm water treatment areas are expected to be completed by 2013, while approximately 23,000 ha of publicly owned Everglades Agricultural Area lands will eventually need to be converted into expanded storm water treatment areas and new flow equalization basins by 2018 to meet the new Environmental Protection Agency requirements.

Other conservation issues (exotic invasive plant and animal species)

Based on a historic and current status of a wide range of invasive species and a quantitative assessment of a smaller subset of priority invasive species, the State Party concludes that exotic species in the property are affecting native animal communities as well as the biological processes that are the foundation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Approximately one in five plant species found in the Park is non-native, thus altering the natural composition of the plant community present. Exotic plant species are estimated to affect approximately 15 to 20% of the total area of the property. There is no similar quantitative indication for exotic invasive animals. The State Party indicates the establishment of an Exotic Invasive Wildlife Programme which will develop an appropriate framework and funding for exotic wildlife prevention and control throughout the country. A proposal was created to use Everglades National Park as a priority pilot for implementation of this framework.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the State Party is moving forward with the implementation of the 14 corrective measures and has partially addressed funding shortfalls for important projects such as the completion of the Tamiami Trail improvements that are important to the delivery of more natural flow of water to the property. They note that progress is also made toward adoption of a common vision for a catchment-scale approach to land and water planning, but consider there is a need to more clearly indicate (a) how this progress is being incorporated in the existing Management Plans for Everglades National Park, (b) how the proposed new plans will provide added value to the corrective measures already underway, and (c) when actions in the proposed plans will be implemented. Progress is also being made on corrective measures related to water quality improvements with major projects expected to be completed by 2013. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee expresses its concern about the State Party's conclusion of the assessment of exotic invasive plant and animal species, in particular that the natural composition of the plant and animal community present in the property is being altered, with exotic plant species affecting an estimated 15 to 20% of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge the work done by the State Party to refine and quantify the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to connect them to the implementation of the 14 corrective measures so that progress toward achieving the indicators can now be measured comprehensively.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note the remaining significant work to be done to meet the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and recall that the 2011 mission considered it may take several decades before the property would be sufficiently recovered. Therefore, they recommend that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the significant effort of the State Party to refine and quantify the indicators developed for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to connect them to the 14 corrective measures allowing a comprehensive report on progress;
4. Expresses concern about the results of the assessment of the effects of exotic invasive plant and animal species which concludes that exotic species are affecting native animal communities as well as the biological processes that are the foundation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and also welcomes the establishment of an appropriate framework and funding for addressing this threat;
5. Notes with appreciation that the State Party is making progress on the implementation of the corrective measures, including the adoption of a common vision for a catchment scale approach to land and water planning and mobilizing the outstanding budget necessary for the full implementation of projects crucial to the delivery of more natural flow of water and improved water quality, and encourages the State Party to maintain this level of effort;

6. Also notes that significant work remains to be done to recover the integrity of the property, and requests the State Party to consider, in its next report to the Committee:
 - a) how progress with the corrective measures is being incorporated in the existing Management Plans for Everglades National Park,
 - b) how the proposed new plans will provide added value to the corrective measures already underway,
 - c) when actions in the proposed plans will be implemented;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures and in meeting the indicators developed for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
8. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

2009 – Present

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

- a) Sale and lease of public lands for the purposes of development within the property leading to the destruction of mangrove and marine ecosystems.

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1825>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 140,000: i) USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility for the monitoring of unauthorized activities in the Bladen Nature Reserves which were impacting the property; ii) USD 30,000 for emergency conservation actions in favour of the critically endangered wide sawfish (2010); iii) USD 80,000 in support of public use planning and site financing strategy development for the Blue Hole Natural Monument (2008-2009).

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Sale and lease of public lands within the property, leading to destruction of fragile ecosystems due to resort and housing development;
b) Oil exploration and potential oil drilling;
c) Introduction of invasive species

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/764>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was received from the State Party on 16 February 2012. The report includes a request for clarification on and implications of the statement in Paragraph 6 of World Heritage Committee Decision **35 COM 7A.15** regarding a revision of the Yum Balisi Environmental Impact Assessment. The report further notes that the statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been drafted, presented and approved by the Belize Cabinet and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party further requests assistance from the World Heritage Centre in developing the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The report also contains an overview of progress made with the corrective measures.

- a) *Ensure that development rights on existing private or leased lands within the property are clearly defined and strictly controlled with a view to conserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the property*

The State Party indicates that the Land Use Policy and its accompanying implementation framework which were developed in October 2010 was approved by the Belize Cabinet in December 2011. The State Party notes that it is in the process of developing a proposal for a GEF-funded project to initiate the implementation of this policy and its implementation framework. It also notes that there has been extensive consultation with representatives of coastal settlements along the coast of Belize to support coastal planning efforts to define development and conservation areas. The State Party notes additional initiatives, including (among others) assessment of its current Protected Areas Fee Framework.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the information provided by the State Party does not provide sufficient detail to adequately assess the progress on this corrective measure.

- b) *Develop and implement a restoration policy for lands degraded by unauthorized activities*

No indication of progress was provided by the State Party for this corrective measure.

- c) *Establish a clear institutional coordination mechanism ensuring that the conservation of the property receives priority consideration within relevant governmental decision-making processes*

The State Party indicates that the National World Heritage Site Committee (NWHSC) has been formally incorporated into the Natural Science Technical Committee (NSTC) of the UNESCO National Commission structure, but that NSTC has not yet been fully activated. The State Party expects that the NSTC will become operational within the first quarter of 2012. The Committee may wish to request confirmation of the NSTC and NWHSC's full activation at its 36th session.

- d) *Develop a legal framework for co-management under which the respective responsibilities of the State Party and conservation NGOs can be effectively established, monitored and evaluated in relation to the conservation of the property*

The State Party indicates that a revision of the structure and content of co-management agreements has been completed and new co-management agreements have been agreed to by all parties involved. The process included strengthening of provisions referring to roles and responsibilities to ensure compliance with the relevant laws and regulations governing protected areas, technical and financial reporting requirements, and establishment of benchmarks to evaluate performance and management effectiveness.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no copies of the agreements were provided nor were the results of their implementation communicated to the World Heritage Centre, and thus their effectiveness cannot be assessed.

- e) *Systematically consider and address the threat of introduced species within the Management Plans for the property*

The State Party indicates that the threat of introduced and invasive species within the entire marine protected area system continues to be a challenge but that interventions to address introduced and invasive species have been incorporated into the Management Plans for the property. The State Party reiterates that lack of financial resources is a primary challenge for addressing and controlling invasive species. The State Party reports significant progress in raising awareness of the impact of invasive species (such as Lionfish).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that, based on the information provided by the State Party, it is unclear to what extent invasive species are affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. They note that apart from raising awareness of the impact of invasive species, it is unclear what measures are being taken to address the threat, particularly as no copies of the Management Plans for the property have been provided.

- f) *Make publicly available the information on land ownership for all lands within the property, including mangrove islands, in easily accessible format, to ensure transparency in land use and allocations*

The State Party indicates that land tenure information has been compiled and provided as requested, though does not provide any details of this.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider it essential that the State Party provides the World Heritage Centre with a clear indication of what information was made public and the sources.

- g) *Develop and implement a medium-term plan to increase the no take zones within marine reserves, establishing ecologically effective protection and replenishment areas for heavily exploited fin fish, conch and lobster*

No indication of progress was provided by the State Party for this corrective measure. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that no assessment of the suitability of the property's no-take zone coverage to provide effective protection and replenishment of areas for finfish species was done, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session, and recall concerns expressed by the 2009 mission that the no-take zones are too small to sustain healthy populations of the larger more mobile species, including the commercially exploited and endangered Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) whose numbers are reported by IUCN as continuing to decline, and the critically endangered small tooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) which is reported to have nearly disappeared from the property and is threatened by global extinction. They note that a recent scientific report indicates a steadily declining trend for the predominately domestic finfish fisheries.

- h) *Other conservation issues – oil concessions and Yum Balisi resort*

The State Party indicates its work towards preparing a petroleum exploration planning framework which will guide current and future oil exploration in Belize. The exercise envisions the use of zoning as the primary management tool and was expected to be completed by end of January 2012. Currently, six companies hold petroleum licenses in the offshore region of Belize and continue to conduct exploration activities. Another company, OPIC, held an oil exploration license over an area that considerably overlapped with the property, but relinquished this license in 2010. The State Party indicates that it has decided to temporarily suspend the issuing of any new licenses in the offshore region.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that a peoples' referendum on offshore drilling was held in March 2012, where over 29,000 people from all over the country cast their vote against offshore drilling.

The State Party notes that in October 2011, the National Environmental and Appraisal Committee (NEAC), which is responsible for reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments

(EIA) requested further clarification on additional concerns prior to the finalization of the review process of the EIA for the Yum Balisi resort. It notes that the review process has not yet been concluded. The State Party requests clarification of the implications of the Committee's request to review the EIA.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, which invites States Parties to the *Convention* to inform the Committee as soon as possible of any new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved. They emphasize that the State Party should inform the Committee of proposals for new developments well before a decision for their approval is made.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that while the State Party indicates that various policies, Management Plans, frameworks, etc. are being implemented, it does not provide substantive details in almost all cases. There is no clear indication how this collection of management measures secures a permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property, the cessation of mangrove cutting, coral dredging and other associated real estate development activities. They consider the Committee should reiterate that it is crucially important for the State Party to clarify how the existing regulatory framework and the implementation of the corrective measures ensures the permanent cessation of land sales, mangrove cutting and other development activities that are critical threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN share the view that on the basis of information provided by the State Party, it is not possible to make a comprehensive assessment of the progress being made towards implementing the corrective measures, as essential documentation and information have not been provided.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee express its concern that the State Party has not made a clear and unequivocal commitment to eliminate the oil concessions granted within the boundaries of the property as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session, and reiterate that oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status and will pose additional threats to the already large amount of stressors, further degrading the reef's integrity as well as its resilience in view of expected impacts of climate change.

They also note that it is essential that a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of invasive species on the property be provided, including a quantitative assessment of how invasive species are affecting native animal and plant communities as well as the biological processes of the property, the areas affected, and management actions undertaken or envisioned to control and restore affected areas.

Based on the above conclusions, they consider that the future integrity of the property is highly at risk, taking into account the possible prospect of offshore oil exploitation, the uncertainty about the impact of invasive species, the already existing threats for which progress on the corrective measures is unclear and the globally increasing effects of climate change to coral reef systems, including the Belize Barrier Reef system. They recommend that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property in view of making a comprehensive assessment of the overall state of conservation of the property, including a rigorous assessment of the extent to which the Outstanding Universal Value is currently affected by the existing threats, including invasive species and climate change, and assisting the State Party with the development of a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger based on the findings of the mission. Considering that this property is the most prominent marine World Heritage site

that is regarded as being in danger, and where current responses appear inadequate, it would also be appropriate to be established as a priority for support under the Marine Programme of the World Heritage Centre.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Expresses its utmost concern that the State Party has not made a clear and unequivocal commitment to eliminate oil concessions granted within the boundaries of the property, which threaten to seriously and irreversibly affect its Outstanding Universal Value if activated, and reiterates its position that oil exploration and extraction are incompatible with World Heritage status;
4. Notes with extreme concern that the property is highly threatened, taking into account possible offshore oil exploitation, uncertainty about the impact of invasive species, increasing risk from climate change, in addition to existing threats for which corrective measures exist but progress toward their implementation is unclear;
5. Regrets that very little measurable progress has been achieved towards implementation of the corrective measures and the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and urges the State Party to increase significantly its efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Yum Balisi resort, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Also requests the State Party to seek assistance from the World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme and to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to consider the state of conservation of the property as a whole, update the corrective measures and establish a timeframe for their implementation, and assist the State Party in developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, supported by appropriate detailed documentation including relevant laws, policies and Management Plans, including a report on concrete progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures and progress regarding the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
9. Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party ; Late mission)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Complementary information required)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(iii)

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

2004

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

Deterioration and decay leading to the collapse of the historical and archaeological structures for which the property was inscribed

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1586>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1586>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1586>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 41,370

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: ICOMOS mission; June 2008 and March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of approved boundaries for the property and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric;
- c) Sea wave erosion;
- d) Theft of stone from ruins for use as building material;
- e) Lack of functioning local consultative committee;
- f) Lack of implementation of the conservation and Management Plans.

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 1 February 2012 that responds to the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011). It indicates that an agreement has been signed with the World Monuments Fund to implement a project titled "Integrated Preservation at the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara". A total amount of USD 700,000 has been granted to implement a two-year project that will have 3 main components: Emergency stabilization and preservation in Songo Mnara and Kilwa Kisiwani; Strengthening Coastal Sea Defenses and Strengthening Management Capacities. A work plan has been included in the report and work was expected to commence in February 2012.

a) *Boundaries of the property and buffer zone*

Surveys were expected to begin in February 2012, as a component of the proposed project "Integrated Preservation of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara". No expected date for submission of maps for delineated boundaries and buffer zone has been provided.

b) *Conservation project and comprehensive Management Plan*

Within the framework of the above mentioned project, the comprehensive Management Plan will be formulated under the strengthening management capacities component and will consider both islands. It is expected that regional heritage institutions will be involved, including the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) to work on land use planning and the Africa World Heritage Fund to collaborate on the development of the Management Plan and a business plan.

c) *Timeframe for implementation of corrective measures*

Based on the timetable for the integrated project, the State Party anticipates that corrective measures will be implemented by November 2013.

d) *International Assistance request*

No formal request has been submitted to the World Heritage Committee for consideration and review. However, the State Party has actively sought funding from other sources, including the African World Heritage Fund, and international heritage organizations.

e) *Other issues*

The report notes the efforts made in the implementation of corrective measures. In regard to the control of sea erosion, interventions have started to address the impact on historic structures. Notwithstanding, the State Party notes that the threat persists, so risk mapping will be carried out to identify potential courses of actions to control erosion along sea shores.

As for land use, it is expected that with the development of component maps the necessary regulatory tools will be developed, in a participatory manner involving communities and local authorities, to deter further impacts on the property.

Stabilization, conservation and maintenance interventions have been carried out at the Makutani Palace and at the Kilwa Sultans Mausoleums.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the implementation of the Integrated Preservation Project will significantly advance addressing the conditions that warranted the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. They recommend requesting the State Party to submit the complete project, including technical specifications for interventions, for review prior to implementation. They would encourage the State Party to further explore means to ensure that the financial and technical resources for the sustained implementation of the Management Plan upon its completion are secured. The World Heritage Committee might consider that a reactive monitoring mission could be carried out toward the end of 2013 to assess whether corrective measures have been fully met to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger at the 38th session in 2014.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made for the development and resourcing of the Integrated Preservation project including its three components at the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara and requests the State Party to submit the fully developed World Monuments Fund project, including technical specifications for interventions, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to implementation and as soon as possible;*
4. *Urges the State Party, in line with the corrective measures and the time frame for their implementation adopted at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, to:*
 - a) *secure the necessary resources for the sustained implementation of the Management Plan upon completion to ensure a fully operational management system,*
 - b) *survey and delineate boundaries of the property and its buffer zone as well as the extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati,*
 - c) *establish a proper land-use plan ;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;*
6. ***Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ARAB STATES

20. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report by the State Party not received)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report by the State Party not received)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report by the State Party not received)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Mission has not yet taken place; Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of the state of conservation report from the State Party)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report from the State Party not received)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

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

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

2004 to present

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

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

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

Adopted see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1288>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1288>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions

See <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1208/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 in 2004 for Emergency assistance.

For details, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance/1698/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 568,000 (2004-2007) from the UNESCO Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 136, 985 (2005-2010) from the UNESCO Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 20,000 (2004) from the World Bank Italian Trust Funds' US\$50,000 (2004) Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

Previous monitoring missions

Since January 2004: several UNESCO missions; October 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1208>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 30 January 2012. From 16 to 22 October 2011, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). The mission report is available at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1208/documents>

- a) Conservation of the Arg-e-Bam and other cultural heritage assets within the property

The State Party reports that, for the conservation of the main complexes and monuments of the citadel, conservation and restoration plans were prepared for the Stable, Mir Akbar house, western tower of the second gate, the governor's house, the commander's house, Mirza Naeim School, the main gate, the second gate and the large tower of the eastern wall of the second gate. The projects sought to address conservation needs as identified in the Management Plan and to facilitate visitors access. Additional plans were prepared for monuments at the cultural landscape including Kushk-e Rahim Abad, Chartaghi, Ghal'e dokhtar, Shahr bast fortifications, Gheysariyeh complex and Ameri house. Notwithstanding the progress made in regard to interventions, the State Party notes that remaining debris is still considered a threat to several parts. Conservation challenges are also still faced for the recovery of the Qanats. The report includes a work plan for interventions foreseen during 2012.

The October 2011 monitoring mission noted that conservation and restoration efforts are progressing well but that there remains significant work to be accomplished given that 11 of the 15 identified components are still in need of full or partial conservation works. In addition, archaeological and architectural records have not yet been finalised for these components, which is critical for the definition of conservation plans. The mission also highlighted that communication among the different disciplinary teams and a consistent methodological approach could be enhanced to improve linkages among the results derived from each working discipline. Conservation guidelines, in Farsi and in English, would also be beneficial for the systematic implementation of measures.

In regard to the interventions, the mission evaluated the conditions of authenticity and integrity. It expressed concern about several factors, including the use of a heavy retaining structure built in steel and cement at the Governor's Seat tower and at tower 46. They also highlighted that some of the interventions on the walls have an overdesign in reconstruction, not only due to the fact that the original wall were not followed but also by the stylistic restoration from interventions prior to the earthquake. The identification of the historic fabric and new interventions should also be addressed. The mission also noted that there is a lack of unity in some of the citadel components as different conservation approaches have been used at the diverse sectors, depending on the institutions involved. Efforts should be made to

coordinate the diverse interventions and obtain a balanced approach to the conservation of the site. It also notes that more extensive reconstruction has been carried out since 2009, which could affect the conditions of integrity and authenticity. Special attention needs to be placed in meeting existing guidelines and standards for conservation practice.

The October 2011 mission observed the existence of informal settlements and of a gas station near Chahar Taqi which are within the property boundaries. Previous UNESCO missions also formulated recommendations regarding the removal of these illegal settlements, as well as the gas station. Presently, the Governor of Bam is waiting for the court decision to remove the service station.

- b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural, and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;

The State Party reports on several research activities that were carried out. These include investigations regarding the ancient water pipeline systems, urban planning, alleyways networks and residential blocks at the Citadel and the Konari area. These have served to enhance the understanding of the different historical periods. In addition to archaeological excavations several archaeogeophysics studies were carried to identify limits of potential sites. Findings were recorded in the existing data base bank. Research was also continued on the establishment of the typology of bricks and architectural elements. As for marking of boundaries, work was implemented in this respect although work is still pending on the installation of information signage to inform about legal restrictions.

The mission reported that the archaeological and geo-morphological maps have been fully completed for the citadel but not for the overall cultural landscape. In regard to the boundaries, 13 of the 15 components were visited and these had posts marking the boundaries.

- c) Implementation of the Management Plan

The State Party indicates that different meetings were held in regard to the opportunities and challenges faced in the conservation of Bam and its cultural landscape. These meetings served as an opportunity to engage diverse stakeholders and facilitate conservation and management endeavours, as well as for fundraising. Participants in the meetings included both representatives from different government agencies at the national and local level as well as other social actors. The State Party also reports that work continued in the preparation of the Arg-e Bam tourist plan and the tourist routes for the whole of the cultural landscape. The report also notes that work has been carried out for the preparation of the geographic information system for Bam and its cultural landscape and for the monitoring of the buffer zone. Facilities have been established within the restored areas for the different offices required for the conservation and management of the property including a research centre, laboratory, storage areas, etc. Capacity building, at different levels, has continued in collaboration with universities and other higher educational centres.

The mission reports that the adopted Management Plan has been provided to all local stakeholders. It analysed the process followed for implementation and concluded that although progress is being made, an action plan to implement the provisions made would be beneficial in improving the current management system and decision-making mechanisms. It also notes that stronger regulatory measures are needed to be enforced to control construction at the buffer zone.

- d) Precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property

Efforts have continued on the preparation of different maps to better understand the heritage assets that exist at Bam and its Cultural Landscape. 150 sites have been located so far and work is expected to be continued. In addition to maps, photogrammetric studies and aerial

photographs have been produced. Monitoring at the property and the buffer zone has continued to detect illegal construction and activities.

The mission received the finalised topographic map of the citadel and verified that the outer boundaries of the property were clearly defined. However, it noted that the landscape topographic maps are still pending.

e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam

The mission reports that the measures taken to safeguard the property include the establishment of a Security Unit, operational since 2007, with 11 permanent guards equipped with vehicles. However, due to the limited number of guards, security efforts concentrate in the citadel. Municipal police protects the remaining 13 components within the landscape. The mission team observed that some of the components do not have systematic police protection, neither a minimum-security light at night.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that sustained and considerable efforts have been made by the State Party in the implementation of the identified corrective measures.

However, in spite of the progress made, the Desired state of conservation has not yet been achieved. They note that the issue of informal settlements within the property remains a management constraint if not addressed quickly. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to put into place some regulatory measures to restrict encroachment of illegal settlements within the property. They also recommend that community awareness-raising activities be undertaken to enhance a better understanding of the local population of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

They further recommend that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to allow the State Party to fully implement the identified measures.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures for the property and calls upon the international community to continue to support these efforts;*
4. *Takes note of the results of the October 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission;*
5. *Requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, in particular to:*
 - a) *Systematically implement monitoring and security measures and enforce regulatory measures at the different component parts of the property to avoid encroachment and illegal construction,*
 - b) *Complement the Management Plan by defining the existing resources and allocating tasks and timeframes for its efficient implementation,*

- c) *Secure human and financial resources and ensure their continuity for the sustained implementation of the Management Plan,*
 - d) *Develop guidelines for the physical stabilisation of structures, as well as criteria for conservation interventions and a manual for maintenance of earthen structures to ensure that the conditions of integrity and authenticity continue to be met and to promote a unity in conservation approaches,*
 - e) *Finalise the public use strategy, including the potential development of infrastructure and visitation routes and submit to the World Heritage Centre,*
 - f) *Consider the development of a proposal for the establishment of a training research centre to enhance capacity building and scientific research efforts,*
 - g) *Undertake community awareness-raising activities to enhance a better understanding by the local population of the Outstanding Universal Value of property;*
6. ***Also requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
7. ***Decides*** to retain **Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran)** on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (State of conservation report from the State Party not received and Late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995

Criteria

(iii) (iv) (v)

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

2001 to present

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

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

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

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 153,200

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission; March 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2012, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, providing details on the progress attained to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision **34 COM 7A.26**) through implementing the corrective measures, while also responding to the recommendations of the March 2011 and previous reactive monitoring missions. The following report has been structured around the three main headings of the Desired state of conservation adopted for this property.

a) *Landscape restoration and conservation*

i) Restoration through community efforts of at least 50% of collapsed terrace walls

The Provincial Government allots yearly 20% of its annual budget under the Development Fund for restoration projects within the World Heritage property. For 2011 an amount of USD 37,780 was provided. In 2011 additional funding was also received from the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage System (GIAHS) and the Prince Claus Fund. A total of 28.37% of the 40,000 cubic meters of damaged terrace walls have been restored. However, due to the onslaught of typhoons in 2011 the total amount of damaged rice terraces has risen to 102,663 cubic meters, according to the survey carried out by the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO). In response to this, the National Commission for Culture and Arts and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have allocated an amount of USD 153,825 for the rehabilitation of the damages caused by the typhoons. All projects continue to be implemented in close partnership with the Barangay officials, Municipal Local Government Units (MLGUs), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the

Provincial Government. Further funding will be sought to support the rehabilitation activities from the World Heritage Fund, as well as from other funding sources.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the State Party has succeeded in developing a sustainable system for maintenance and stabilisation of the terraces which ensures that the percentage of collapsed walls will continuously decrease over time.

Nurturing Indigenous Knowledge Experts (NIKE) project continues to strengthen the transmission of traditional knowledge and skills both in restoration techniques and in the use of the terraces. For 2012 Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Centers or Community Learning Centers will be developed online, in academia, and in the terrace communities. Efforts also concentrate on building partnerships with concerned agencies, as well as supporting initiatives of each agency to lead and extend IK education programmes or projects within their respective organizations.

ii) Adoption of conservation guidelines for each of the five priority heritage cluster sites

The State Party reports that the Conservation Guidelines, based on the traditional practices in agriculture and farming, have been adopted by the 5 priority heritage cluster sites in 2011 and are being closely followed by the Farmer Organisations.

The World Heritage and the Advisory Bodies consider that the adoption and implementation of these guidelines further strengthen the conservation policies developed for this property and therefore this requirement has been met.

iii) Documentation and rehabilitation of major irrigation systems in the five priority heritage cluster sites

Continuous progress has been reported in the framework of the major programme for the repair and rehabilitation of the communal irrigation systems (CIS), with around 55 CIS projects implemented in 2011 in addition to the 67 CIS projects completed between 2006 and 2010. Collective funding was provided by the barangays, 4 heritage municipalities, the Provincial Local Government Units and the National Irrigation Administration. These projects have a significant impact on productivity of the rice terraces and prevent erosion and collapse of the terraces. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that given the extent of progress achieved in the rehabilitation of the major irrigation systems and the importance attached to this CIS programme, the requirement has been met.

b) *Protection and planning*

i) National government policies and laws enacted for the preservation of natural resources

The Environment Code for the Province of Ifugao adopted through an Ordinance in March 2010, serves as a guide for different government agencies, non-government organisations and other entities in the implementation of programmes and policies for the Province of Ifugao. It confers additional power to the Province in regard to the regulation and management of natural resources and the environment and the protection of the Rice Terraces. As for the protection, management and conservation of the Rice Terraces, it provides a clear direction to the Provincial, Municipal, Barangay and National Agencies in the implementation of programs and projects geared towards the restoration, protection, preservation, and conservation of the rice terraces within their political territories. An endowment fund for the terraces shall be created for the said purpose to be funded by the Local Government Units and other funding institutions. Contributions from other sectors are also encouraged.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the necessary steps have been taken to ensure regulation and effective management of the environment and natural

resources through the additional provisions adopted at the provincial level. Therefore, this requirement has been met.

ii) Adopted guidelines, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures, and infrastructure guidelines, for the implementation of major projects

The Province of Ifugao is preparing a legislation which will require big-scale projects involving civil works to undergo Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

Infrastructure and housing guidelines have been distributed and work is in progress to pass an ordinance adopting these guidelines. The project is a collaborative effort involving the UNESCO National Commission, the Ifugao Provincial Government, University of Santo Tomas and the University of Santo Tomas Center of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics. The housing guidelines will serve as a basis for local ordinances and serves as a reference document for current and future structural projects, and considers the changing needs of the communities finding sustainable solutions for contemporary problems. It will be published, promoted and disseminated during community and Rice Terrace Owner Organisations' meetings to ensure that it is understood, accepted and implemented.

Comprehensive Infrastructure Guidelines for the four municipalities was a priority project in 2011 and addresses the aspects of terrace structures, houses, road networks, drainage, water systems, dams and bridges.

Preliminary studies have been undertaken to document aspects of the *Muyong* forests, which provide the primary recharge zone of water for the irrigation of the fields and are crucial for ensuring the conservation and sustainability of the rice terraces. The studies shall serve as a basis for the development of policies and legislation on the conservation of these watershed systems. The reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds of the rice terraces has continued, by means of the *Muyong* enhancement project in which benefitted the heritage cluster Kiangan. In addition, the *Muyong* systems have also been included in the GIS mapping carried out for establishing the boundaries and buffer zone of the property, and have been presented in the documentation for the Retrospective Inventory.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the necessary provisions have been made by means of the aforementioned guidelines to control and regulate developments within the property. These will be hopefully be reinforced in the future by a national legislation declaring the World Heritage property as Environmentally Critical Area. Therefore this requirement has been met.

iii) Implementation of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning Plan (CBLUZP) projects in all sites

The project was commenced in 2010 through the Save Ifugao Terrace Movement (SITMO), and the State Party reports that 100% of the 18 barangays in Banaue completed the information required for the GIS mapping, while work continues for the mapping of the cluster sites which will provide the baseline documentation to draft zoning ordinances. When completed the Comprehensive Barangay Land Use and Zoning Plans will regulate the construction of modern structures, improper disposal of waste, destruction of watershed and illegal practices affecting the rice terraces.

In the framework of the Retrospective Inventory the cartographic documentation, delineating the property and its buffer zone has been prepared in close collaboration with all stakeholders and submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the necessary steps have been taken to develop the community-based land-use and zoning plans, although this requirement has not been fully achieved.

c) *Management*

i) Functioning management agencies at the provincial and municipal levels with adequate resources

Since October 2011 the Ifugao Provincial Council for Cultural Heritage was established. Its mandate is to strengthen protection, conservation and promotion of Ifugao culture and indigenous rights.

The Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) continues to implement the 10 year Master plan of the Rice Terraces and all related conservation activities while it remains an institutionalized office of the Provincial Government under the division of the Provincial Planning and Development Office.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the present organizational structures in place at both the provincial and municipal levels are effectively managing the property. Therefore this requirement has been met, although sustainable funding would still need to be ensured.

ii) Functional Rice Terraces Owner Organizations in place in the five priority heritage cluster sites;

From 2007 up to 2011 eighteen Rice Terrace Owner Organisations (RTO) and five Irrigators Associations (IA) have been registered at the Department of Labor and remain active partners of the Provincial Government in heritage endeavors through conditions stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement and Commitment between the Provincial Government and the Farmers Organisations (MOAC Agreement), which includes a 10% retention fund from implemented projects that serves as a revolving fund in support of further efforts to maintain, protect and preserve the Ifugao cultural landscape.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider this requirement has been met.

d) *Other issues and developments*

Typhoons

The Province was vastly affected by the typhoons Juaning, Pedring and Quiel that struck the Province in July/August 2011. Following this natural disaster the Province was declared under the state of calamity due to the destruction of infrastructure and agriculture. Costs for maintenance of the collapsed terraces and irrigation systems more than tripled and with the assistance of media coverage, support from various national and local government and non-government agencies was received for the restoration of the damaged rice terraces and rehabilitation of the communal irrigation systems. The Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies gave their pledge for the restoration projects and the National Irrigation Administration which looks upon the communal irrigation systems allotted a total amount of PhP105.7 million for the province. All these conservation projects are scheduled to be implementation within 2012, while some restoration work already started in 2011. The World Heritage Centre has mobilized, through the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust cooperation, USD 40,600 for the Emergency stabilization and reconstruction for the Rice Terraces.

Ambangal Mini-Hydro Power Plant

The revenues generated by the power plant (approx. USD 24,500 in 2011) have been allocated for rehabilitation and conservation projects based on the agreed policies and guidelines of the Rice Terrace Conservation Fund.

Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)

The programme under GIAHS has contributed to the rehabilitation of major irrigation systems within the Municipality of Hungduan, amounting to 744 linear meters in length that serve around 62.6 ha of rice fields.

Other related conservation activities

A number of other activities funded by the NCCA (National Commission for Culture and the Arts) have been carried out and are ongoing. The “Ifugao Heritage Sites Cultural Mapping and Conservation Planning” implemented through the Indigenous People’s Organisation entailed mapping of heritage sites, damaged terraces and inventory of flora and fauna, loss of cultural values, migration, etc. The “Batad House Restoration Conservation Initiative” involved mapping, documentation, assessment, restoration and preservation of the *baluys*, the Batad Ifugao houses.

Small scale mining in Hungduan Cluster

After reviewing the situation with regard to the reported small scale mining exploration, the Technical Working Group of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board halted the activities which were commenced without a permit. The Provincial Governor has issued a cease and desist order and is addressing the issue of mining in order to halt any future mining activities within the World Heritage property or its buffer zone.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the State Party has fulfilled the requirements for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. They consider that Committee may wish to commend the State Party for mobilizing resources and commitment to undertake this significant amount of work over the past decade. Nevertheless, the Rice Terraces remain vulnerable, particularly in the event of natural disasters such as typhoons. This issue will remain a challenge and will always require particular efforts and underlines the need to ensure adequate sustainable human and financial resources. Further progress must still be made with the development of an integrated tourism strategy and that the control of tourism related infrastructure development must be addressed and carefully controlled. Similarly, guidelines and control mechanisms must be developed to address extraction and mining activities which may have an impact on the property. The required cartographic information defining the boundaries and buffer zone of the property has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2012 and is in the process of review.

In light of the above, and thanks to the exemplary cooperative efforts and commitments by the local communities, the municipalities and the Provincial Government as well as the national agencies, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommend that the World Heritage Committee remove this property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7A.24**, **34 COM 7A.26** and **35 COM 7A.29** adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (UNESCO, 2011) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the significant efforts of the State Party to address the threats that led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and the implementation of the corrective measures;
4. Considers that, in line with the state of conservation report and the findings of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission, the threats to Outstanding Universal Value have been addressed;
5. Notes nevertheless that the establishment of sustained financial resources for the property remains a critical long term requirement, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) ensure the necessary resources to sustain the implementation of the conservation and Management Plan through operational arrangements,
 - b) continue with the development and implementation of community-based land-use and zoning plans which respond to traditional value systems,
 - c) develop an integrated tourism Management Plan in close cooperation with the local communities as well as mechanisms to control tourism related infrastructure developments,
 - d) pursue the adoption of a legislation requiring Environmental Impact Assessment for development projects, as well as to establish Heritage Impact Assessment procedures,
 - e) pursue the adoption of a national legislation declaring the World Heritage property as an Environmentally Critical Area;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue to actively follow the further implementation of the above measures, to sustain of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2014** an updated report on the progress made with the implementation of the above;
7. **Decides to remove the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late receipt of complementary technical information and Late mission)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Late mission)

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

See Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add (Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2005 to present

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 60,000

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

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 8 February 2012 that responds to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011). No technical or graphic information on interventions was submitted with the report.

a) Implementation of the Priority Interventions Programme

The State Party's report indicates that this programme continues slowly with resources from the State and that several agreements have been established with various agencies and academic bodies to assist with further work. The report also mentions the various activities carried out throughout 2011 at the property. These include the surveying of sites associated with the saltpetre outside of the property, but in close relation to the attributes of the World Heritage property and which will allow a better understanding of the inscribed area. The recovery of public lighting for Humberstone is in progress, with tender proposals being prepared as well as intervention proposals for various buildings. The definition of conservation criteria is expected to be concluded in 2012, and although progress has been made in surveying and recording, no specific conservation works or architectural stabilization interventions have been undertaken as yet. In its report, the State Party however indicates that restoration work will commence on the Head Doctor's House in 2012, as well as the consolidation and refurbishing of the general store at Humberstone, which will be used as an interpretation centre, and that resources have been earmarked for 2012 for the consolidation of the Santa Laura Surgery.

b) International Expert Meeting

The report notes that in regard to the International Expert Meeting, the International Assistance request is being revised in response to comments made by the Advisory Bodies and that additional information is being compiled so as to have complete data sets by the time of the meeting. The World Heritage Centre received in March 2012 updated information from the State Party indicating the proposed dates of 21 – 26 October 2012 for the Expert Meeting. A programme was also attached on the proposed schedule of work. The State Party's report indicates that it is awaiting the results of the analysis of materials from the site from the *Deutsches Bergbau Museum of Bochum*.

c) Reformulation of the Management Plan

The report indicates that the updated Management Plan was submitted in October 2011 to the National Monuments Council for its review, and is expected to be sent before June 2012 to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party has mentioned that plans for museology, security, safety, strategic management and marketing have been included in the Management Plan.

d) Establishment of the buffer zone

It is indicated that the revised Management Plan contains a specific programme for the establishment of the buffer zone through its inclusion under the National Monuments Act. No additional information is provided on this. At the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, approval was given for a minor boundary modification and the State Party was asked to provide a map showing the revised boundary and buffer zone and its related regulations.

e) Desired state of conservation and timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures

The Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the timeframe for implementation are to be developed by the State

Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The report notes that it will not be possible to comply with the timeframe previously established and that a revised timeframe can only be defined once processes underway have progressed and the required resources ensured. No Desired state of conservation has been submitted as yet. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note that the results of the International Expert Meeting could assist the State Party in the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation and corrective measures.

f) Other issues

The report also indicates that the interpretation of the site has been identified as a priority, and funding has been provided through the National Tourism Board. A proposal for signposting at the property will be included in the Museology Plan currently being prepared. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies commend the allocation of resources for interpretation purposes, but would request the State Party to ensure that an adequate balance is achieved in the allocation of resources for visitation purposes and for integrated conservation programmes, critical to maintaining the property's conditions of authenticity and integrity.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies note the sustained efforts of the State Party in addressing the conditions that warranted the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. They note that the limited progress achieved to date is partially due to the challenges posed by the nature of the building materials, limited resources, as well as the time taken to develop adequate management arrangements. They recommend that the Committee urge the State Party to continue exploring means to secure the required resources to systematically implement the Priority Interventions Programme and the revised Management Plan so that significant progress can be achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures and the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on the implementation of identified corrective measures, and urges it to continue its efforts to secure the required resources for their full implementation;*
4. *Notes that the International Expert Meeting is scheduled for October 2012, and requests the State Party to take this opportunity to develop a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, corrective measures, timeframe and its related financial estimation of costs, as well as a clear course of action to guide the property's conservation strategy, to be submitted as part of the outcomes of the meeting, to be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;*

5. Also requests the State Party to ensure that an adequate balance is achieved in the allocation of resources for visitation purposes and for conservation programmes, critical to maintaining the property's integrity;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies by **October 2012**, a copy of the Management Plan for the property;
7. Moreover requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
8. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1986

Criteria

(i) (iii)

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

1986 to present

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

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

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

Updated version drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Corrective measures identified

Identified; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Revised proposal established; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/documents/>

International Assistance

Global amount granted to the property: USD 48,700

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS and ICCROM mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property on 17 February 2012. Actions implemented throughout 2011 were reported in accordance to corrective measures previously adopted.

a) *Protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and management of the property*

The Special Project for the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex has carried out interventions since 2006 in accordance to provisions made in the Master Plan. Work was continued on the conservation of perimeter walls, structures on the verge of collapse and others that required material and structural stabilization. Protection measures have also been undertaken for the decorated surfaces in areas currently open to the public, as well as maintenance of replicas, protective shelters, access roads, and weeding of water reservoirs and other areas of the site. The report indicates that investments from the Public Sector Budget Act will continue throughout 2012 in areas that were prioritised in the Management Plan. Awareness raising and educational activities were implemented as in past years.

b) *Institutional structure that allows for effective decision-making and the implementation of the Master Plan*

The State Party reports that as of January 2011, the Special Project for the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex had been assigned by Ministerial Resolution 039-2011-MC of 26 January 2011, to the Ministry of Culture. This will improve the decision-making process under a single institutional entity. The State Party explained that the Chan Chan Special Project was restructured in order to strengthen the management of the property; however no specific information on this issue was included in the report.

c) *Review and update the Master Plan, including a public use plan and a comprehensive risk preparedness plan*

The State Party reported that a proposal has been drafted for the update of the Master Plan to include the elements of public use and risk preparedness. Until the Master Plan is updated, the existing Contingency Plan has been expanded to include, water and geological factors affecting the property. Using the World Heritage Resources Manual for Managing Disaster Risks as the basis, guidelines were established for the drafting of a revised plan; however the updated Master Plan, including a public use plan and a comprehensive risk preparedness plan was not included in the State Party's report. In addition, no timeframe was provided as to when the review of these documents would be concluded.

d) *Continue its work to prepare the property for strong rains connected to the El Niño phenomenon*

A plan is in place to address these specific emergencies. Interventions foreseen for the 2012 rainy season include improvements to the temporary shelter system which functioned well after the first strong rains of the season.

- e) *Approve and apply all pertinent legislation and its regulations, mainly Law Nº 28261 and regulations related to the buffer zone*

The report notes that the texts of the regulations of the Law no. 28261 have been submitted to the Ministry of Culture for approval, however no further information is provided on its current status or on an expected date for the official approval of this legal text. This legal procedure has been pending for the last 10 years. No clear statement or detailed course of action was submitted by the State Party. Discussions were undertaken between the Ministry of Culture and the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo for the regulations for the buffer zone. No expected timeframe for the approval of such regulations has been provided. Verifications were undertaken to prevent expansion of agricultural areas or attempts to invade the intangible area. Legal and administrative actions under the competency of the Ministry of Culture have been imposed for the necessary cases. Additional actions are planned for 2012 related to planting vegetation to control and prevent the deposit of solid waste in vulnerable sectors of the Complex. In order to control and prevent unauthorized agricultural and housing works, damage to the archaeological areas, vehicular traffic on unauthorized routes, etc., the State Party reported that in 2011 the Ministry of Culture, through the Regional Directorate of Culture, continued dissuasive surveillance activities in the site's surrounding areas.

- f) *Design and install a monitoring system with clear indicators for the state of conservation of the property, the effectiveness of the conservation interventions and the management efficiency*

Actions have been carried out to monitor water table levels and to verify the efficacy of drainage constructed since 2005. Control wells are also being monitored to record fluctuations. Additionally, data on rainfall, wind, humidity, temperature and radiation is being collected on an hourly basis to assist in the assessment of conservation conditions.

- g) *Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú and project for a theme park*

A proposal for the construction of the *Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú* was presented in 2011. On 18 November 2011, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture issued a Resolution of the Director's Office, ruling that: "*Article 2: The construction of the Museo Nacional del Gran Chimú in the Pampas de Padre Abán is hereby declared inadmissible and other alternatives for its construction should be considered*", based on the fact that the construction of a national museum within the Intangible Zone of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex is contrary to the provisions contained in the Master Plan. Since then, no additional proposal has been submitted.

The state of conservation report also includes a draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the property with updated corrective measures and a revised timeframe for implementation, which is proposed below for adoption.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the progress that has been achieved by the State Party since the time of inscription in continuing to address the serious state of deterioration of the property and the progress made in improving its management. They note however that in spite of these efforts the property will always be highly vulnerable and that measures will need to be implemented on a systematic and ongoing basis to ensure that its Outstanding Universal Value is sustained. Despite the efforts made by local and national authorities, no significant progress has been achieved in relation to the official approval of the Regulations of Law 28261 and the legal framework for the protection of the property and its buffer zone, so as to ensure its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 reactive monitoring mission;
4. Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as follows:
 - a) Operational and sustainable management system for the Chan Chan Archaeological Zone in place, including functional institutional arrangements and secured funding,
 - b) Approval of revised Management Plan and integration with other planning tools at the municipal and provincial levels, particularly for the management of the buffer zone,
 - c) Continued implementation of conservation and maintenance measures at the property, including mitigation measures to address the vulnerability of the earthen architecture remains,
 - d) Legislative and regulatory measures to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the site enacted and enforced;
5. Also adopts the following corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation in order to ensure conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property and meet the Desired state of conservation:
 - a) Measures to be implemented within one year:

Conservation

- (i) Comprehensive conservation condition assessment and monitoring to assess the existing state of conservation of the property,
- (ii) Identification of priority areas for interventions,
- (iii) Implementation of priority and emergency conservation measures at vulnerable areas of the property, with particular focus on the nine palaces and areas with decorated surfaces, as well as measures centered on the control of water table levels,
- (iv) Definition and adoption of conservation guidelines for intervention,
- (v) Implementation and maintenance of the physical delineation of the property including vegetation barriers and perimeter walls,
- (vi) Comprehensive assessment of the current conditions of the existing site museum, identification of priority emergency measures and definition of a comprehensive intervention programme to be included in the public use plan.
- (vii) Addressing of solid waste management at the boundaries of the site in collaboration with pertinent authorities,

Protection and planning

- (viii) *Updating of the Management Plan, including a revised risk Management Plan and a public use plan as well as scheduled and costed provisions for the conservation and management of the property and its buffer zone,*
- (ix) *Finalization of the definition of the buffer zone and its regulatory measures in collaboration with municipal authorities,*
- (x) *Dissemination and circulation among stakeholders of updated plans for the property and its buffer zone, including provisions and regulations for each zone. Collaboration with entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage property,*
- (xi) *Finalization of regulations for Law no. 28261 to address fundamental issues such as the illegal removal of soil, agricultural works and the illegal occupation at the property,*

Management

- (xii) *Evaluation of effectiveness of existing institutional arrangements to include revised provisions in the updated Management Plan,*
- (xiii) *Identification of sources for secured funding in the long-term,*

b) Measures to be implemented within two years:

Conservation

- (i) *Continued implementation of conservation and maintenance actions, with particular focus on finalizing interventions at vulnerable areas,*
- (ii) *Monitoring programme fully in place to evaluate the efficacy and results of interventions and to revise them if needed,*
- (iii) *Maintenance of the physical delimitation of the site,*
- (iv) *Measures for solid waste management at the boundaries of the site fully addressed,*
- (v) *Interventions for public use at the property, particularly in respect to the site museum in accordance to provisions included in the revised Management Plan,*
- (vi) *Interventions for risk management in accordance to provisions identified in the Management Plan,*

Protection and planning

- (vii) *Integration of the Management Plan in territorial and urban development plans,*
- (viii) *Dissemination of the revised Management Plan to strengthen public and private support in its implementation,*
- (ix) *Approval / enactment of regulatory measures for Law no. 28261 to ensure the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property,*
- (x) *Adoption of regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone,*

Management

- (xi) *Operational management arrangements and budgets secured for the comprehensive implementation of the Management Plan,*

c) Measures to be implemented within three years:

Conservation

- (i) Continued implementation of conservation and maintenance measures according to the revised Management Plan,
- (ii) Continued implementation of the monitoring programme and evaluation of results to adapt measures,
- (iii) Continued implementation of public use actions according to Management Plan,
- (iv) Continued implementation of risk management actions according to Management Plan,
- (v) Conclusion of measures at the existing site museum;

Protection and planning

- (vi) Full enforcement of legislative and regulatory frameworks passed by the State Party,
- (vii) Relocation of illegal settlers in collaboration with pertinent authorities,
- (viii) Adequate control of encroachments and urban pressure;

Management

- (ix) Full and systematic implementation of the revised Management Plan in accordance to prescribed policies,
- (x) Functional institutional arrangements with adequate resources secured for long-term implementation of the formulated Management Plan;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize the process for the approval of pertinent legislation and regulations for the property and buffer zone to ensure their adequate protection, and to find an urgent solution to the legal issues that have been pending for the last 10 years;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide the updated Master Plan, including a public use plan and a comprehensive risk preparedness plan for the property by **1 February 2013**;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session;
9. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

Criteria

(iv) (v)

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

2005 to present

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

- a) Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance, and torrential rains in 2004, 2005 and 2010;
- b) Deterioration of architectural and urban coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms, and institutional arrangements.

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

Adopted, See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/449>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1603>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

See page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1603>

Previous Committee Decisions

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

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

December 2003: Roundtable in conservation and management; September 2006: World Heritage Centre evaluation mission; July-August 2002, April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

Illustrative material

See pages <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/501>

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 16 February 2012. It contains information on the following measures:

- a) *Finalize approval process for the creation of the Office for Management Commitment and provide adequate resources for its full operation*

The report indicates that the 'Management Commitment' developed for the planning and sustainable conservation of the protected area is awaiting the official authorization of the Executive Vice-President of the Republic. This instrument has already been signed by the community councils of Coro and La Vela, the Institute of Cultural Heritage, Local Government, the Government of the State of Falcon and the Municipalities of Coro and La

Vela: and has established strategies for the protection, preservation and revitalization of areas declared heritage by defining aims, performance indicators, organizational conditions, benefits and obligations, as well as defined the execution and commitments of the Institute of Culture, and the organizational and financial structure for the implementation of the Management Plan. No additional information was submitted relating to the implementation of actions in this respect.

b) *Develop the Management Plan for the property, including programmes for conservation, public use and risk management*

The Management Unit created by the Management Commitment continues to implement priority actions that were determined technically by *PLINCODE*. Actions such as drainage and service networks, emergency attention, purchase of historical houses and monuments, projects and works of restoration of the monuments are reported on. It is recalled that *PLINCODE* was not officially approved and was deemed to be inadequate to deal with the requirements of the property, therefore the exact relationship between *PLINCODE* and the Management Commitment requires clarification. The report also indicates that the Management Unit is defining new priority actions and a new regulatory framework for the conservation of the values of the property, however no information is provided on the status of the Management Plan and or the development of a comprehensive conservation programme.

c) *Finalize the delimitation of the property and the buffer zone for the inscribed components, including the corresponding regulatory measures*

The report indicates that new areas and their buffer zones are presently being considered. These areas were not part of the original nomination but will contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The State Party indicated that this information will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2013. Graphic information has been provided with the report relating to the proposed boundary areas for Coro.

d) *Update on corrective measures implemented as outlined in previous monitoring missions*

The State Party's report provides an update regarding actions implemented in response to recommendations made. These are: the re-opening of the Technical Management Office under the direction of the Vice President of ICOMOS-Venezuela, with half of the staff being technicians with responsibility to design and implement the conservation and intervention plan for the property; the design of the heritage database to include the tangible and intangible heritage and to be operational in 2012; funding from the Institute of Culture (USD 1,162,791) for restoration work undertaken by the community councils under the supervision of the Technical Management Office; the provision of funding (USD 1,046,512) for the construction of a storage centre for traditional building materials. The Central Government has also contributed USD 20,465,116 towards the rescue of the historical centres of Coro and La Vela following the emergency conditions created by heavy rainfall. The report also states that the Technical Council meets fortnightly to assess the progress of work. The Housing Policy Act has been modified to allow loans for the rehabilitation of traditional houses. Legal proceedings have also been initiated against those in breach of the Law on the Protection and Defence of the Cultural Heritage, with derived fines being invested in the built heritage. Dissemination and promotion activities have also been implemented geared towards the protection of cultural heritage.

No information was received regarding the recommended technical school of earthen architecture, the alternative proposals for the drainage system of Coro, nor the proposed traffic restrictions for Coro, in particular Zamora Street. It is also important to note that although conservation work is being implemented at the property, there needs to be a clearly defined conservation programme that outlines priorities for the short, medium and long term, and that also considers an adequate action plan for emergency situations.

- e) *Possible restorations or alterations and/or new construction envisaged in the protected area pursuant to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines*

The report states that no new constructions that could potentially impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value have been scheduled. Restoration projects continue for national monuments such as the *Casa de las Ventanas de Hierro*, *Casa del Sol*, *Casa del Tesero* and *the Old Convent of San Francisco*. No technical documentation was submitted relating to these restoration projects.

Conclusion

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the progress made in the improvement of the state of conservation of the property and in particular the various interventions being implemented to ensure this continuation. They note that technical documentation related to the above mentioned projects should have been submitted for appropriate assessment prior to their implementation. They commend the participatory nature of the proposed Management Commitment, but wish to recommend that the World Heritage Committee insist on the finalization of the Management Plan with an established programme for conservation, a plan of action and clear objectives for emergency situations, which has been pending. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies would also like the Committee to request the State Party to clarify the relationship between *PLINCODE* and the Management Commitment, in view of continued references to the implementation of plans in accordance to *PLINCODE*, which was not officially approved. The State Party has made important progress in the implementation of recommended actions of the 2011 reactive monitoring mission; however corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger remain to be updated as well as the timeframe for their implementation.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Recognizes the efforts being made by the State Party for the conservation of the property, and encourages it to continue such efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Also encourages the State Party to continue with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 reactive monitoring mission, to ensure the protection of the property, with a special focus on:*
 - a) *the development of a conservation programme with short, medium and long term priorities, and a plan of action for emergency situations,*
 - b) *the finalization of a database to include historical and archaeological information, plans, a detailed photographic record, as well as a detailed description and state of conservation of all buildings and priority actions for each, and a linked inventory to previous records,*
 - c) *an alternative proposal for the drainage system of Coro,*
 - d) *the regulation of traffic in Coro, with particular emphasis on Zamora Street;*

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies by **1 February 2013**, a copy of the Management Plan for the property, and its approval by the Management Committee;
6. Urges the State Party to finalize the delimitation of the property and its buffer zone, to include new components that will contribute to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory by **1 February 2013**;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to update, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Desired state of conservation and the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a revised timeframe, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2013** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
8. Invites the State Party to consider submitting a request for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for technical support;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2013**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013;
10. Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

GENERAL DECISION

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

Voir le document *WHC-12/36.COM/7A.Add.*