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AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

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

SUMMARY

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

All previous state of conservation reports are available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

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

Table of content

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST.....	6
NATURAL PROPERTIES	6
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	6
1. Bialowieza Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33ter)	6
2. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256).....	6
3. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis).....	6
4. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany,Slovakia,Ukraine) (N 1133bis).....	9
5. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)	12
6. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754).....	15
7. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)	19
8. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900).....	21
9. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis).....	21
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.....	25
10. Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035).....	25
11. Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) (N 711).....	27
12. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928bis)	31
13. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama) (N 205bis).....	34
14. Morne - Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica) (N 814).....	36
15. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)	36
16. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)	37
17. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)	39
AFRICA.....	43
18. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)	43
19. Sangha Trinational (Cameron / Central African Republic / Congo) (N 1380rev)	43
20. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195).....	46
21. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)	48
22. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)	50
ARAB STATES	54
23. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)	54
ASIA-PACIFIC	55
24. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)	55
25. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798).....	55
26. South China Karst (China) (N 1248bis)	59
27. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083bis).....	61
28. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)	64

29. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)	67
30. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)	70
31. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284).....	72
32. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)	75
33. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)	76
MIXED PROPERTIES	79
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	79
34. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (C/N 99ter).....	79
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	80
35. Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica) (C/N 1356rev)	80
36. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)	82
AFRICA	83
37. Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon) (C/N 1147rev).....	83
38. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)	86
39. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis).....	89
CULTURAL PROPERTIES	93
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	93
40. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)	93
41. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)	96
42. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)	99
43. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217).....	99
44. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)	99
45. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)	103
46. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)	105
47. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy) (C 829).....	106
48. Venice and its lagoon (Italy) (C 394).....	108
49. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)...	108
50. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488).....	109
51. Ephesus (Turkey) (C 1018rev).....	111
52. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356).....	113
53. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527bis).....	113
54. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1215).....	113
55. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 426bis).....	116
56. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)	116
57. The Forth Bridge (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1485)	116

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	119
58. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445).....	119
59. Churches of Chiloe (Chile) (C 971).....	122
60. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev).....	125
61. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2).....	127
62. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129).....	127
63. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790bis)	130
64. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis).....	133
65. Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape (Uruguay) (C 1464).....	135
AFRICA	138
66. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis).....	138
67. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1322rev).....	141
68. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17).....	144
69. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055).....	147
70. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118).....	150
71. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis).....	153
72. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis).....	153
ARAB STATES	156
73. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565).....	156
74. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193).....	158
75. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1192ter).....	159
76. Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87).....	159
77. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89).....	159
78. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)....	162
79. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446).....	162
80. Petra (Jordan) (C 326).....	164
81. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093).....	168
82. Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850).....	168
83. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299).....	170
84. Ksar Ait Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444).....	174
85. Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia) (C 1472).....	174
ASIA-PACIFIC	177
86. The Great Wall (China) (C 438).....	177
87. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110).....	177
88. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China / Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442).....	179
89. Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (C 1278rev).....	180
90. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241bis).....	180

91. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the <i>Subak</i> System as a Manifestation of the <i>Tri Hita Karana</i> Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)	182
92. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 115)	185
93. Susa (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 1455).....	187
94. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481).....	190
95. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis).....	190
96. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)	190
97. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)	190
98. Historic City of Ayutthaya (Thailand) (C 576).....	194
99. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis).....	197

REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Bialowieza Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33ter)

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

2. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)

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

3. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, extension in 2000

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-1997

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 76,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 1992: IUCN expert mission; September 1992: Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; September 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission; May 1996: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Poaching of bears (issue resolved)
- Dynamite fishing (issue resolved)
- Destruction of the forests and park facilities (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (possible over-visitation of the site)

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (significant expansion of tourism facilities within the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 17 to 19 January 2017. On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>. The State Party reports the following:

- Since the adoption of the new Spatial Plan in 2014, which changed building areas and their purpose, the construction of tourism facilities within the property has intensified. The Public Institution Plitvice Lakes National Park (PIPLNP) appealed against some of the issued permits, arguing that not all provisions of the Plan were taken into account. Some of the appeals were accepted and some were rejected by the authorities responsible for issuing the permits;
- The Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) has consulted with the Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning (MCP) regarding the implementation of the Spatial Plan. An analysis of issued construction permits and the implementation of the Plan is currently underway, as well as an inspectional supervision of facilities, which are suspected to have been built illegally;
- If the above analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation concludes that the plan needs to be amended, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be carried out along with the necessary amendments;
- A new Management Plan and a Visitor Management Plan are under development.

On 20 April 2017, the State Party submitted an Action Plan for improving the Plitvice Lakes National Park conservation status as an addendum to its report. The plan has been adopted by an interdepartmental Operational Working Group established in April 2017. Several activities of this plan are already being implemented, as reported above, and seek to strengthen collaboration among the participating institutions and with other stakeholders.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission confirmed the Committee's concern over the significant recent expansion of tourism facilities within the property. While concluding that the ecological integrity of the property has so far been preserved, the mission noted the current and potential serious threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) arising from these developments together with related threats of excessive number of visitors, water usage, water pollution, road infrastructure and traffic.

In response to Decision **40 COM 7B.95**, and to claims that the process of issuing new construction permits did neither adequately involve the management authority of the property nor fully follow the provisions of the Spatial Plan in force, the State Party has initiated an assessment of suspected illegally built facilities within the property and an analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation. These efforts, which will inform the potential amendments to the related procedures and legislative framework, should be welcomed and concluded prior to issuing any new construction permits. To date, the issuance of permits has in fact continued, as reported by the mission.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Spatial Plan requested by the Committee will be initiated by the State Party only if deemed necessary after completion of the above-mentioned analyses. However, the findings of the mission confirm that an SEA would be necessary in order to fully assess the existing, potential and cumulative impacts of this plan on the property and its OUV. The conclusions of an SEA could also feed into the new Management Plan and the Visitor Management Plan, currently being developed. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to undertake this SEA as a matter of urgency in order to inform the measures required to ensure adequate protection of the OUV of the property.

The mission was briefly informed of a major EU-supported project to rehabilitate water infrastructure within the property. It is recommended that the Committee request further information on this project. Given the rapid increase of developments within the property and in its surroundings, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake rigorous Environmental Impact

Assessments (EIAs), including a specific assessment of impacts on the OUV, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, for all major developments within the property, including major tourism facilities and other infrastructure, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The mission also confirmed the commitment and the strong institutional and scientific capacity of the State Party as a premise to address the issues related to both conservation and physical planning, but emphasized a need to harmonize these two management regimes to be fully consistent with the protection of the OUV and the provisions of the *World Heritage Convention* through appropriate legislative and other adjustments. It is noted that the State Party has already submitted a proposed Action Plan for the improvement of the state of conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent action to implement all the mission's recommendations, and to review the Action Plan once the results of the analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation are available.

While the State Party's current efforts are commendable, in view of the current and potential impacts from the expansion of tourism facilities and the excessive number of visitors on the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the Committee consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, at its 42nd session in 2018 if no substantial progress is achieved by the State Party in implementing the requests of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.95, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Notes with significant concern the conclusions of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that, while the ecological integrity of the property has so far been preserved, the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are threatened by the significant expansion of tourist facilities, excessive number of visitors, associated pressures from unsustainable water use, water pollution, traffic as well as pressures to expand road infrastructure;*
4. *Considers that inappropriate and poorly regulated development of tourist facilities inside the property is causing visual impacts and pressures on the sensitive hydrogeology of the area, and therefore represents a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Acknowledging the strong institutional and scientific capacity of the State Party as a premise to address the issues related to both conservation and physical planning, appreciates the State Party's stated commitment to address the threats to the property by initiating a number of actions to remedy the situation, as noted below;*
6. *Notes that a process to develop the Management Plan and the Visitor Management Plan for the property has been initiated, and requests the State Party to provide these draft plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as soon as they become available;*
7. *Also notes that an analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation, as well as the inspectional supervision of suspected illegally built facilities within the property have been initiated, and urges the State Party to ensure that no new construction permits*

are issued until this process, which is expected to inform the potential amendments to the related procedures and legislative framework, has been completed and proposed developments are confirmed to not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Spatial Plan, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV and on the ecological and visual integrity of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Also requests the State Party to provide further information on the major EU-supported project to rehabilitate water infrastructure within the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to undertake rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), including a specific assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, of all major developments within the property, such as the upgrade of the water infrastructure, the construction of the presentation centre and the reconstruction of entrances to the park proposed within the Action Plan, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Taking note of the proposed Action Plan to improve the property's conservation status, requests furthermore the State Party to fully and effectively implement all recommendations made by the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as a matter of priority, and to review the Action Plan based on the results of the analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation as soon as they are available;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in the implementation of the above, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

4. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany,Slovakia,Ukraine) (N 1133bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007, extension in 2011

Criteria (ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2014: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of integrated Management Plan
- Lack of transnational research and monitoring plans
- Need for capacity building
- Inadequate regulation and management of uses and activities (logging and commercial hunting) in the Slovak part of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party of Slovakia submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/documents/> and reports the following:

- A new management plan (2017-2026) was approved for the Poloniny National Park which encompasses three of the property's components. The plan specifies an "ecological functional area" which includes forest stands of Poloniny National Park, except those located within privately owned or used reserves;
- The implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission is underway;
- In 2015, a new nature reserve Borsukov vrch was established covering part of the Stučica – Bukovské vrchy component, therefore increasing the protection of these areas to the highest possible level;
- In lieu of an initially envisaged joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission, an independent expert mission provided advice to the State Party of Slovakia with regards to the revision of the boundaries of all Slovak components;
- An interdepartmental coordination group was established between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Negotiations are also underway with other ministries regarding coordinated approaches to the management of the property and the revision of the boundaries of the Slovak components. However, an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the Slovak components of the property has not yet been realized;
- The Committee's request to ensure that no logging operations are undertaken (Decision **39 COM 7B.19**) has only been fulfilled in parts of the Slovak components, namely the territories of nature reserves with the highest level of protection or the new "Ecological functional area" established within the Poloniny National Park where consent has been given by private owners to a no-intervention regime;
- No logging operations are reportedly being carried out within the Vihorlat component due to voluntary commitments of concerned parties. Once new boundaries have been specified and agreed, the territory within those boundaries will be given the highest level of protection.

On 3 April 2017, the State Party of Slovakia provided additional information, as requested by the World Heritage Centre on 17 January 2017, specifying that the components Stučica-Bukovské vrchy and Vihorlat require significant boundary modifications while the components of Havešová and Rožok only need to be aligned to the boundaries of existing national nature reserves. Further negotiations with relevant stakeholders are expected to be completed by August 2017. The development of the Integrated Management Plan for all Slovak components is planned for 2019.

A nomination for a transnational serial extension to the property has been submitted by the States Parties of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine, which will be examined by the Committee under item 8B of the Agenda.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission is welcomed and should be continued in line with the following considerations:

The State Party's efforts to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including the World Heritage Centre, to explore how sustainable tourism could serve as an alternative source of income for local people and as a vehicle for sustainable development around the property as well as in the Central European region in general should be welcomed. The measures undertaken by the State Party of Slovakia to enhance the protection regime of the parts of the property, which to date have not been fully protected against logging, namely the creation of an "Ecological functional area", should also be welcomed. This was achieved through a new Management Plan for the Poloniny National Park and includes forest stands of the Stuzica – Bukovské vrchy component as well as the establishment of the new Borsukov vrch nature reserve, covering other parts of the same component. Nevertheless, even with these additional measures and despite the voluntary commitment of some entities not to carry out logging operations, only parts of the Slovak components of the property are currently legally protected against logging. The reported negotiations between different ministries and the creation of an interdepartmental coordination group based on the cooperation and collaboration agreement signed between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development can serve as an important step in the process of the development of an IMP. However, the lack of substantial progress in this regard raises concerns. In the absence of an IMP and with only parts of the territory benefiting from a strengthened protection regime, the Slovak components of the property continue to be threatened by logging.

It is noted that the negotiations necessary for a proposal for boundary modifications, as requested by the Committee, are underway. The new delineation of the Slovak components should ensure that the most important areas for the expression of the OUV of the property are included and that all areas within the property benefit from a sufficient legal protection regime, with consent given to such regime by all relevant stakeholders through a participatory process. While the State Party of Slovakia reports that some potential boundary modification proposals have been considered and that more time is needed to discuss the possible options with all relevant stakeholders, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party of Slovakia to finalize and submit a proposal for a boundary modification of the Slovak components of the property as soon as possible.

Unless further urgent measures are taken to completely resolve the issue of the lack of an adequate protection regime of the Slovak components of the property and to ensure that their boundary delineation is adequate, the protection of these components from logging and other potential threats cannot be guaranteed in the long-term. Such a situation would clearly constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the serial transnational property as a whole, in line with Paragraphs 137 and 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party of Slovakia to explore how sustainable tourism could contribute to sustainable development around the property as well as the information provided by the State Party regarding the establishment of a new nature reserve and of an "ecological functional area" covering parts of the property located within Poloniny National Park, but notes with utmost concern that, despite these measures and the voluntary commitment of some entities involved not to carry out logging operations, only parts of the Slovak components of the property are currently legally protected against logging;

4. Also notes with concern that no Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has been established for the Slovak components of the property; reiterates its request to the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property's boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, of an IMP for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage property, Biosphere Reserve, European Diploma and Natura 2000 and urges the State Party to ensure that no logging will be possible within the property's boundaries after the adoption of the plan;
5. Takes note that negotiations regarding possible boundary modifications of the Slovak components of the property are planned to be completed in 2017, and also urges the State Party of Slovakia to submit a proposal for such boundary modifications as soon as possible, after consultation with the other States Parties for this property;
6. Also welcomes the State Party's progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to complete the implementation of all mission recommendations;
7. Considers that, unless urgent measures are taken to address the lack of an adequate protection regime of the Slovak components of the property and to ensure that their boundary delineation is adequate, their protection from logging and other potential threats cannot be guaranteed in the long-term, which would clearly constitute a potential danger to the OUV of this serial transnational property as a whole, in line with Paragraphs 137 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

5. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: Joint UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007, 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline construction plans)
- Ground transport infrastructure (impacts of a road project across the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/> and addresses the longstanding Committee concerns about the possible construction of a gas pipeline through the property, expressed most recently in its Decision **40 COM 7B.96**. The report can be summarized as follows:

- Decision-making on the implementation and selection of the exact route to China of the Altai gas pipeline project (“Power of Siberia 2”) has not advanced and no construction impacting on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is reported to have occurred;
- The government of the Altai Republic does not plan linear (e.g. pipelines) or any other major construction projects within the property, which is legally protected at federal and subnational levels;
- The recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission are being implemented;
- Research and monitoring of snow leopard, argali and the reindeer summer habitat is ongoing, as well as a project dedicated to long-term monitoring of climate and ecosystem change;
- Pressures from tourism are reported to have grown. It is managed by a combination of monitoring, control, regulation and education measures, such as the introduction of visitor quota to address pressures on some areas and ecosystems;
- An agreement on joint conservation efforts was signed between the Katunskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve and Belukha Nature Park;
- Multiple research, management and law enforcement activities are reported in Altaiskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve. There are efforts to move from a strict protection approach to a more integrated biosphere reserve approach based on dialogue between government, academia, private sector and local communities;
- An update is also provided on patrolling and law enforcement in Katunskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve, with most legal violations reported to be associated with unauthorized transit of tourist groups through the reserve’s territory;
- In terms of international cooperation, the report mentions the joint nomination of the transboundary biosphere reserve “Great Altai” with the State Party of Kazakhstan in the frame of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, encompassing Katunskiy State Nature Biosphere Reserve (Russian Federation) and Katon-Karagaiskiy National Park (Kazakhstan).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is noted that no decision about the gas pipeline project has been made and that no construction activities are undertaken at this stage. However, despite the repeated requests of the Committee to the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China, involved in the project, to explicitly exclude the property from the route selection process (Decisions **33 COM 7B.27**, **35 COM 7B.26**, **36 COM 7B.25**, **37 COM 7B.25**, **39 COM 7B.21** and **40 COM 7B.96**), the possibility of the construction of a pipeline through the property remains and is considered the most critical threat to its OUV, as it may directly impact on Ukok Quiet Zone Nature Park, besides likely indirect impacts as well. In addition, the State Party report contains no reference to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements.

The reported intention of the government of the Altai Republic not to construct linear infrastructures (e.g. pipelines) within the property is welcomed. Nonetheless, the legal possibility of such constructions remains, as Decree 212 N 202, dated 2 August 2012 of the Republic of Altai, is still in place.

The continuation of important research projects dedicated to flagship species and ecosystem responses to climate change, as well as the consolidation of coordination efforts both at the level of

the Altai Republic and across the border with Kazakhstan are welcomed. In particular, the joint nomination by the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan of a transboundary Biosphere Reserve should be commended, and a best possible harmonization of conservation efforts under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the *World Heritage Convention* should be strongly encouraged. Further strengthening of transboundary coordination and communication regarding the management and conservation of the common cultural and natural heritage is strongly encouraged among all States Parties of the Altai region, with advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as required.

While the reference to ongoing follow-up on the recommendations of the 2012 mission is welcomed, it should be recalled that the first recommendation is an unequivocal decision against the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property. It is further recalled that another recommendation is to develop an overall strategy for sustainable tourism for the property. At a time of increasing tourism pressures reported by the State Party, including unauthorized presence of tourist groups, it seems ever more important to implement particularly this recommendation. Noting the efforts to increase stakeholder involvement and broaden the management approach, the mission recommendations to strengthen the cooperation with civil society, and in particular with indigenous communities, and to assess the cultural values of the property with a view to its possible re-nomination under cultural criteria are further recalled.

In line with previous reporting, including the Reactive Monitoring missions conducted in 2007 and 2012, it can be concluded that the property continues to be in a good overall state of conservation. However, there continues to be uncertainty on the exact location of possible large-scale projects, in particular a gas pipeline to China, along with multiple other management challenges. The 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations continue to provide valid guidance to systematically address those challenges.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment and progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts in the implementation of all the mission recommendations, in particular as regards tourism planning and management, the involvement of civil society and particularly indigenous communities, as well as the consideration of the cultural heritage of the property;*
4. *Noting the information provided by the State Party that the selection of the route for the proposed Altai gas pipeline has not been decided yet and that no further construction works have taken place, reiterates its utmost concern that the Altai gas pipeline may cross the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the plans for the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property and urges the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China to consider alternative routes;*
5. *Reiterates its position that any decision to go forward with the Altai gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

6. Also welcomes that the government of the Altai Republic has currently no intention to construct linear (e.g. pipelines) or any other major infrastructure projects within the property but also reiterates its concern about legal changes in 2012 which still grant the legal possibility of such constructions, and emphasizes that, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the modification of legal protection status of an area included in a property is considered as a potential danger to its OUV and a reason for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party to revoke Decree 212 N 202 dated 2 August 2012 of the Republic of Altai;
7. Commends the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan on further progress in transboundary conservation efforts and strongly encourages all States Parties of the Altai region to consolidate existing transboundary conservation efforts, including under the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as required;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, in particular the status of the Altai gas pipeline project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to the property's OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

6. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 33,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; 2001: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2011: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Mission; 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (lack of adequate management system)
- Legal framework (uncertain legal protection)
- Pollution
- Illegal activities (illegal timber harvesting)

- Gas and oil pipeline project across the world heritage property (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (illegal construction on the lake shore)
- Illegal activities (illegal sale of land)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism development)
- Water infrastructure (lack of mechanism to control waste water discharge)
- Fire (wildfires) (wildfires in the Baikal region in 2015)
- Water infrastructure (Shuren Hydropower Plant and Orkhon river reservoir complex projects (in Mongolia))

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 July 2016, the State Party submitted information on existing provisions and regulations for water use and management of the property in response to the Decision **39 COM 7B.22** and on 31 January 2017, a report on its state of conservation, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133/documents/>. The State Party reports the following:

- The devastating forest fires in the Baikal region in 2015 affected an area of 153,000 ha. As a response, cooperation between different authorities in the field of fire management has been strengthened and a reform of the forest management and forest fire control measures is planned for 2017-2018;
- A federal assessment of the design documentation for tourism infrastructure development within the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) "Gates of Baikal" is underway. Some infrastructure has been built within the SEZ "Baikal Harbour";
- No decision has been taken yet regarding the future use of the industrial area of the former Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill, closed in 2013. In 2016, a commission was set up to monitor the lignin sludge in the area;
- Due to extreme water shortage in the Lake Baikal basin over the last three years, the State Party adopted Resolution 626 in January 2016, setting the minimum value of the water level during the low water period at 455.54 m (compared to 456 m in the original resolution from 2001) and the maximum value at 457.85 m (compared to 457 m) for 2016-2017;
- A decrease in fish stocks has been reported in several parts of the property (Kabansky region, Baikalsky Nature Reserve and Zabaikalsky National Park and in the larger delta of the Selenga River) Algal (*Spyrogyra*) blooms, accompanied by significant changes in the structure and productivity of coastal aquatic ecosystems, have been observed in some areas and are seen as a result of latent eutrophication in the proximity of recreational sites, among other factors.

On 3 March 2017, the State Party submitted additional information on planned tourism developments in Baïkalsk.

On 23 January 2017, in response to Decision **40 COM 7B.97**, the State Party of Mongolia submitted a letter to the World Heritage Centre providing the following information:

- A study of potential impacts of the Egiin Gol hydropower project on the biodiversity of the property will be conducted in addition to the study of hydrological and ecological impacts of the project, which had already been conducted before the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in 2015;
- Assessment of impacts on Lake Baikal of the Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon River project was included in the draft Terms of References (ToR) for the preparation of Regional Environmental Assessments (REA) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for these projects. These draft ToR were also submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Since the feasibility studies and the ESIAs for these two projects have not been completed yet, it is stated that an assessment of cumulative impacts of planned hydropower development cannot be undertaken at this stage.

On 28 April 2017, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third party information to the State Party of Mongolia on the Egiin Gol hydropower project. At the time of preparation of this report, the State Party did not yet provide a response.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party regarding the regulations on water use and management is noted. The adoption of a resolution increasing the allowed fluctuation between the maximum and minimum values of the water level of Lake Baikal in 2016-2017 raises concerns given the apparent absence of an assessment of potential impacts of such changes on the property.

It is further noted with concern that the ecosystem of the lake is reported to be under significant stress with a decrease in fish stocks and algal blooms being some of the observed results. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue identifying the causes of such changes and the responses required to preserve the ecological integrity of the Lake as well as to develop a property-wide ecological monitoring system. At the same time, all potential threats to the ecosystem of the property need to be minimized. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to elaborate an assessment of potential impacts of existing regulations on water use and management on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and not to introduce any further changes in the regulations until their effects on the property are fully understood.

Any potential impacts from the closed Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill also need to be minimized. It is therefore essential that the State Party urgently elaborates a comprehensive plan for the future use of the industrial area and the elimination of accumulated waste, and ensures that this plan is subject to a thorough Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which should include a specific assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

Tourism infrastructure development could also add to existing stresses, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the EIAs for each SEZ for review by IUCN and develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all SEZs within the property, in order to guide all future developments in a coherent manner consistent with the conservation of the property's OUV.

The information provided by the State Party of Mongolia regarding the planned additional study of the impacts of the Egiin Gol project on the biodiversity of the property is welcomed, and the planned REAs and ESIA's for the Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon River project is noted. While inclusion of an assessment of potential impacts of the projects specifically on Lake Baikal in the Terms of Reference for these REAs and ESIA's is noted, it should be recalled that the Committee has repeatedly requested the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation to jointly develop a SEA for any future hydropower and water management projects, which could potentially affect the property, taking into account any existing and planned projects on the territory of both countries. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request both States Parties to ensure that the results of such transboundary SEA guide the elaboration of ESIA's of any specific hydropower and water management projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon river project.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.97, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding existing regulations on water use and management of Lake Baikal, but notes with concern the resolution increasing the allowed fluctuation between the maximum and minimum water levels of Lake Baikal in 2016-2017 and urges the State Party to elaborate an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of potential impacts of existing water use and management regulations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and not to introduce any further changes in the regulations until their effects on the property are fully understood;

4. *Also notes with significant concern the reported changes in the property's ecosystem, including algal blooms and decreases in fish stocks, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a property-wide ecological monitoring system in order to identify the scale and causes of such changes and the responses required to preserve the ecological integrity of the property;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the EIAs for each Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property, for review by IUCN, and to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all SEZs, in order to guide all future developments, including tourism infrastructure projects, in a coherent manner consistent with the conservation of its OUV, which should include a specific assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and take into account cumulative impacts of all existing and proposed developments;*
6. *Regrets that the State Party did not report on the development of a detailed EIA on the future use of the Baikal Paper and Pulp Mill site and its impact on the OUV of the property, as was requested in Decision **38 COM 7B.76** and reiterated in Decisions **39 COM 7B.22** and **40 COM 7B.97**, and also urges the State Party to develop such an assessment as a matter of priority and to submit a copy of it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it is completed;*
7. *Welcomes the intention of the State Party of Mongolia to undertake an additional study on the impacts of the Egiin Gol project on the biodiversity of the property, and notes the information provided by the State Party of Mongolia regarding the Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon river project, including the Terms of References for the development of Regional Environmental Assessments (REAs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for these projects;*
8. *Reiterates furthermore its request to the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to jointly develop a transboundary SEA for any future hydropower and water management projects which could potentially affect the property, taking into account any existing and planned projects on the territory of both countries, and requests both States Parties to ensure that the results of such transboundary SEA guide the elaboration of ESIAs of any concrete hydropower and water management projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon river project;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*

7. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management Plan (issue resolved)
- Oil and gas (Geophysical prospecting in the marine area surrounding the property)
- Marine transport infrastructure (Planned construction of a naval base within the property)
- Increased human presence

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents>, providing the following information:

- Further activities were undertaken within the property in 2016 for the provision of facilities, considered necessary, and for cleaning the area of impacts of past human presence on Wrangel Island as well as for ensuring national security. About 1,200 tons of metal garbage were removed from the island. The area where these works are being conducted is reported to be less than 0.0025% of the area of Wrangel Island;
- The State Party reaffirms that oil exploration and production are prohibited within the boundaries of the property. Seismic exploration undertaken in the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea is reported to not have any impacts on the property. Oil production is currently not planned in the vicinity of the property;
- The limited tourism infrastructure which exists within the property was modernized by installing solar panels and a wind-powered generator. There are no plans for further tourism infrastructure development within the property which could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The annual amount of tourists visiting the property is around 500 people, and this level of visitation is reported to have no negative impact on the property's ecosystems;
- Information is provided on existing programmes within the property, monitoring the flora and fauna, as well as the impacts of climate change.

On 5 October 2016, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **40 COM 7B.98**. Due to climatic conditions, such a mission can only be undertaken in July 2017 and therefore its recommendations will not be available for consideration by the Committee at its 41st session.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property is welcomed.

The information provided by the State Party that activities for the provision of facilities, considered necessary, have continued within the property raises concerns, even though the area affected by such activities is reported to be less than 0.0025% of Wrangel Island. It should be recalled that in its Decision **40 COM 7B.98**, the Committee urged the State Party to halt the construction of facilities and any associated activities until their impacts on the OUV of the property have been assessed through rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and requested the State Party to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN. However, no EIA has so far been submitted by the State Party.

The confirmation by the State Party that oil exploration or exploitation is prohibited within the boundaries of the property is noted, as is the information that the seismic exploration works undertaken in the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea had no impact on the property. However, no detailed information has been provided by the State Party regarding these oil exploration projects, nor have any EIAs been submitted, despite the Committee's request.

The information regarding existing tourism infrastructure within the property and the current levels of visitation is noted. While the latter is reported to be low, it should be noted that even limited visitation can have significant negative impacts on very fragile Arctic ecosystems. The planned Reactive Monitoring mission can discuss this issue in more detail and can provide its recommendations on this matter.

Considering that the continued development of facilities and the associated increase in human presence on Wrangel Island continue to pose a potential danger to the very fragile Arctic ecosystems of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is recommended that the Committee consider the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 42nd session in 2018, when the recommendations of the mission are available on whether the conditions for such an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and takes note of the fact that due to climatic conditions, this mission will only be able to visit the property in July 2017 and therefore its recommendations will only be available for consideration by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
4. Also welcomes the ongoing progress with the removal of metal waste accumulated during the times when limited economic activities were undertaken within the property;
5. Notes with utmost concern that the construction of facilities has continued within the property and that no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted by the State Party for these projects;
6. Urges the State Party to halt the construction of facilities and any associated activities until their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been assessed through rigorous EIAs, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on

Environmental Assessment, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

7. *Regrets that the State Party did not provide detailed information regarding the seismic oil exploration projects in the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea, nor any EIAs of these projects, and requests the State Party to submit this information to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of priority;*
8. *Considers that the ongoing construction of facilities and the associated increase in human presence on Wrangel Island continue to pose a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, with a view to considering, in the case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

8. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

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

9. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/685/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/685/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre Advisory mission; 1999, 2001, 2004: joint World Heritage Centre, IUCN and Ramsar missions (Doñana 2005 expert meetings on Hydrological Restoration of Wetlands); January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and Ramsar Advisory mission; January 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential impacts from infrastructural projects in the vicinity of the property (including gas storage)

- Proposed re-opening of Aznalcóllar mine upstream from the property
- Proposed upgrading of a dam upstream from the property
- Unsustainable use of water (extraction) with impacts on the Doñana aquifer
- Guadalquivir River dredging project

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/685/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/685/documents/> and provides updates in response to Decision **39 COM 7B.26** as follows:

- Dredging to deepen the Guadalquivir River has not been authorized and will not be allowed to proceed;
- Out of four proposed gas extraction and storage projects, two projects (Aznalcázar and Marisma Occidental), located outside both the property and the Doñana Natural Park, have received Unified Environmental Authorizations, and the latter has an authorization to proceed. The other two gas projects (Marisma Oriental and Saladillo) are located inside Doñana Natural Park but outside the property. Marisma Oriental will not be allowed to proceed and Saladillo may also be rejected if the same assessment criteria are applied;
- There exists no reopening project of the Aznalcóllar Mine, but a research project has been authorized. In case a project will be presented, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be followed;
- The Special Management Plan of the Irrigated Zones to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana (PEORNCFD), including its EIA, has been submitted in Spanish, which reportedly obtained sufficient prior consensus from various stakeholders, and its implementation has started. Guadalquivir Basin Hydrological Plan 2016-2021 has additionally been developed to which the State Party has provided a link and submitted a Strategic Environmental Study. A project plan for the proposed enlargement of the Agrío dam on Guadiamar River has not yet been submitted but its impact has been analyzed in the Hydrological Plan, which reports an anticipated reduction in groundwater extraction but notes that an EIA is required;
- Concerning the status of the groundwater of Doñana, annual reports are published by the Guadalquivir River Basin Authority, based on their established regular monitoring system. Additional initiatives have been introduced since January 2015, e.g. monitoring of Doñana lagoons through remote sensing, hydrogeological modeling to improve knowledge on Doñana groundwater, and a collaborative project with academics to monitor and model the hydrological processes in Doñana Natural Park.

On 12 May 2017, the State Party transmitted additional clarifications concerning the above-mentioned dredging and gas projects.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's confirmation that dredging of the Guadalquivir River will not be permitted is welcomed, which was further reiterated in its additional clarifications of 12 May 2017. While still being mentioned in the 2016-2021 Guadalquivir Basin Hydrological Plan, the State Party also referenced the Port Authority of Seville's recent public statement of its decision to suspend the dredging project.

It is noted with appreciation that the Marisma Oriental gas project will not be allowed to proceed and that the Saladillo project is reported to be unlikely to be authorized. While the Aznalcázar and Marisma Occidental gas extraction projects are located outside of both the property and Doñana Natural Park, the latter is located close to the property boundaries. The clarifications by the State Party on the projects' impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are noted and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit, as a matter of urgency, the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and specific assessments of impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity.

It is noted that the Aznalcóllar mining project has not proceeded to implementation. However, the undertaking of a research project as well as on-going discussions on the allocation of water resources for mining operations, indicate a movement towards its realization. Considering that the mining

company has already been identified, as previously noted by the Committee, it is recommended that the State Party keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any developments before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The proposed enlargement of the Agrio dam reportedly aims to address industrial and electricity demands and reduce groundwater extraction. Whilst the proposal is still at its conceptual stage, it is noted that the Hydrological Plan has already identified the need for an EIA. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure such an EIA includes an assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property.

The State Party notes a number of current initiatives that monitor the Doñana aquifer to inform its status. It should be noted that the aquifer will need a long time to completely recover from the illegal and unsustainable use of water. The Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation also presented, in its publicly available 2016 annual report, that the current level of groundwater extraction is compromising the conservation of the Doñana ecosystem. It is therefore evident that further effective actions are urgently needed to reverse the current trend, including by controlling groundwater withdrawals and improving irrigation practices. These measures are considered in the Special Management Plan of the Irrigated Zones to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana, which therefore requires being fully and speedily implemented.

It is recalled that the Committee has previously considered that the deteriorating status of the Doñana aquifer needed urgent action to reverse the trend, and could otherwise represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines* (Decision **38 COM 7B.79**). No specific updates for example are provided on the previously reported increases in water use for irrigation of rice paddies, as requested by the Committee (Decision **39 COM 7B.26**), which is of concern due to potential added stress to the ecosystem, which is further exacerbated by climate change.

Furthermore, it is recalled that the 2015 mission recommended that an absence of the State Party's commitment to abandon the dredging of the Guadalquivir River should trigger the inscription of the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger. At present, neither this commitment to permanently abandon the dredging nor the urgent actions required to protect the Doñana aquifer are satisfactorily in place.

Although the State Party has annexed what is referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as requested by the Committee (Decision **38 COM 7B.79**), it does not assess the cumulative impacts of water use, and agricultural, industrial and commercial development occurring at present on the Guadalquivir River Basin as well as the impacts associated to future demands and proposed projects. In addition, and of most concern, is the fact that the SEA does not make reference to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.79** and **39 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's statement that the dredging project to deepen the Guadalquivir River will not be permitted, despite being included in the 2016-2021 Guadalquivir Basin Hydrological Plan, and reiterates its request to the State Party to permanently commit to cancelling the dredging project;
4. Notes with concern that the 2016 annual report of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation concluded that levels of groundwater extraction around Doñana are unsustainable at present and requests the State Party to control and reduce

groundwater withdrawals, including by expediting the full implementation of the Special Management Plan of the Irrigated Zones to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana, and submit to the World Heritage Centre the findings of the current initiatives on monitoring and modelling the hydrological processes to inform the status of the Doñana aquifer, once they are available;

5. *Recalls that the declining condition of the Doñana aquifer are considered to represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit, as a matter of urgency, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the gas extraction projects at Aznalcázar and Marisma Occidental, comprising specific assessments of impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, before any decisions are taken that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Noting that a research project for Aznalcóllar mine has been authorized but that there is no mining project to date, and that enlargement of Agrío dam on the Guadiamar River is still at a conceptual stage, further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any agricultural, industrial and commercial developments related to these projects and to ensure that the cumulative impacts from these projects on the OUV of the property are assessed in the framework of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) mentioned below;*
8. *Requests furthermore, the State Party to urgently revise the SEA of the Guadalquivir River Basin to ensure that it includes a specific chapter on the OUV of the property, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, with a view to considering, in the absence of any urgent actions to improve the condition of the Doñana aquifer, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

10. Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 - World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for Brazil; USD 30,000 - Rapid Response Facility support for firefighting

Previous monitoring missions

March 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient legal framework and protection in place
- Lack of submission of a significant boundary modification to reflect the new boundaries of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents>, providing the following information:

- The State Party reiterates that most of the territory of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component is covered by several protected areas of different categories, namely the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, the Pouso Alto Environmental Protection Area (EPA), as well as private reserves. It is also noted that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be well preserved, which had also been confirmed by the 2016 IUCN Advisory mission. Data from vegetation cover and land use analysis undertaken for the property and its surroundings in 2013 show that 95.99% of vegetation is natural within the Chapada dos Veadeiros component with 2.95% of land subject to encroachment by pastures;
- A management plan for the Pouso Alto EPA, which overlaps with most of the territory of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component, has been officially approved and is being implemented;
- The State of Goiás has proposed the new Nova Roma ecological station (a state-level protected area) that still requires legal approval, within the boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property;
- With regards to the proposal for expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, further technical discussions were held among different relevant authorities, and further adjustments to the proposed boundaries were suggested following consultations with civil society

organizations. The final proposal would cover an area of 247,980 ha. However, the proposal is currently subject to ongoing discussions between the national government and the government of the State of Goiás following a request in September 2016 to postpone the decision on the approval of the expansion in order to resolve the remaining land tenure issues. Due to these ongoing discussions, the State Party was not yet in a position to submit a proposal for boundary modification of the property; however, it is expected that the exact boundaries of the proposed expansion of the National Park will be agreed upon during the course of 2017 and consequently, a proposal for significant boundary modification of the property and a new management plan will be prepared.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the State Party that discussions are still ongoing between the relevant national and state (regional) authorities concerning the proposed expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park is noted, as is the renewed confirmation of the State Party that the OUV of the property continues to be well preserved. It is further noted that other protected areas, particularly the Pouso Alto EPA overlapping with the Chapada dos Veadeiros component, provide some legal protection to the property. However, the protection regime of the EPA appears to be significantly lower than the regime that would have been provided by a national park. While the process to expand the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park has achieved significant progress with the development of a proposal for new boundaries and undertaken a thorough consultation process, it is regrettable that the expansion has not yet been agreed upon by all stakeholders involved, and that, therefore, no proposal for boundary modification of the property could yet be submitted, as was requested by the Committee at its 37th session in 2013 and reiterated at its 39th and 40th sessions in 2015 and 2016.

Indeed, while it is important to ensure that the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park has followed all necessary procedures and that all remaining land tenure issues have been resolved, it should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee, in its Decisions **39 COM 7B.27** and **40 COM 7B.71**, **urged the State Party to resolve the issue as a matter of priority and requested it to submit a proposal** for a significant boundary modification of the property to reflect the new boundaries of the National Park by 1 February 2017, adding that without significant progress to address the lack of protection of parts of the property, it would consider its possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Given the fact that, despite the progress achieved by the State Party, the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park has not yet been approved and, therefore, significant areas of the property continue to lack an adequate protection regime since 2003, it is recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at this session, and that it request the State Party to develop a proposed set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.29**, **39 COM 7B.27** and **40 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the confirmation of the State Party that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be well preserved and that other protected areas, particularly the Pouso Alto Environmental Protection Area (EPA) overlapping with the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property, provide some legal protection to the property, but considers that the protection regime of the EPA appears to be significantly lower than the regime that would have been provided by a National Park;*

4. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party that discussions continue to be ongoing between the relevant national and state authorities with regards to the proposed expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park and that it is expected that the exact boundaries of the proposed expansion will be agreed during the course of 2017;
5. Regrets, however, that, despite its repeated requests, the expansion of the National Park has not yet been agreed by all stakeholders and that, therefore, significant areas of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property continue to no longer benefit from National Park status since 2003, having for consequence that its integrity is not guaranteed, and that the property continues to be in potential danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. **Decides to inscribe Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a proposed set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. Urgently requests the State Party to resolve the remaining land tenure issues and to officially approve the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park and to prepare and submit a proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property by **1 February 2018**;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

11. Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009-2015

- Illegal logging;
- Unauthorized settlements;
- Fishing and hunting;
- Threats from major infrastructure projects.

Previous Committee Decisions see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (2002, 2009)

Total amount approved: USD 73,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Bogota in lieu of visit to the property; January 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Illegal extraction of natural resources
- Threats from major infrastructure projects (electric transmission corridor)
- Lack of control of management agency

Illustrative material see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/711/documents/> and includes detailed documentation of the management responses to Decision **39 COM 7A.19**. The key activities are summarized hereafter:

- Further consolidation of the security situation and law enforcement through structured coordination between the public forces, regional environmental authorities and the park administration;
- Significant governmental budget increase from 2015 to 2016 with additional project funding;
- Consolidation of participatory efforts to integrate the property with regional and local planning schemes;
- Further assessment of the options to expand the national park and the property, and to link it with the emerging regional protected area system;
- Progress in defining functional buffer zones in the surroundings of the property jointly with regional authorities. Eventually, most of the surroundings are expected to be comprised of conservation areas, community councils and indigenous communal landholdings (*resguardos*);
- Formalization of a pact specifically dedicated to the conservation and management of the property between various sectors, levels of government and civil society in June 2016;
- Conclusion of user agreements and partnership agreements with several resource-dependent communities and the Association of Displaced People of Cacarica, as well as specific fishing agreements within the property, involving communities and park administration, and supported by civil society organizations and universities;
- Formalization of a “Special Management Regime” (REM in Spanish) between the traditional authorities of the Wounaan community of Juin Phubuur inside of the property and the park administration, described as a legal and technical “joint planning instrument”;
- Rapid assessment of the ecological and socio-economic effects of the canal between the Leon and Atrato Rivers through the freshwater system in the property, built decades ago to float logs;
- Continuation of efforts to involve the park administration and fully consider the property in the assessment procedures for the planned electricity transmission corridor;
- Two new port projects are planned, Puerto PISISI and Puerto Antioquia, which will need to consider the property in the corresponding impact assessments;
- Efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation with the neighbouring State Party of Panama, in particular as regards the contiguous World Heritage property of Darien National Park, could reach a new level through the formalization of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Following the property's removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2015, the State Party has further increased its investment and presence on the ground and, thereby, improved the security situation, law enforcement and cooperation with indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian and Mestizo communities. Despite the government regaining control in the area, some ongoing illegal logging serves as a reminder of the need to secure law enforcement.

Bilateral and multilateral projects support the State Party, with further projects under discussion. While additional external support is encouraged, it should complement rather than replace governmental budgets to ensure reliable and predictable resources in the medium and long term. The pact bringing together various governmental institutions and civil society actors constitutes a remarkable formal consolidation of the partnership approach in a region heavily affected by longstanding and severe conflict. The user agreements with several community councils and other partners to address overfishing and overharvesting of the wetlands, lagoons and rivers are important contributors to the sustainable management of resources, which are critically important both to the communities' livelihoods and to the conservation values of the property. However, as acknowledged by the State Party, these resources cannot comprehensively be managed at the scale of a relatively small protected area.

The "Special Management Regime" agreed between the park administration and the traditional leaders of the Wounaan community of Juin Phubuur stands out as a rare and positive example of active reconciliation between indigenous rights and aspirations and governmental biodiversity conservation objectives inside of a World Heritage property.

The possible expansion to the north of Los Katíos National Park and the property by including the current Serranía del Darién National Protection Forest Reserve (Colombia), the ongoing efforts to embed the property within the emerging regional protected area system, and the establishment a functional buffer zone as integral elements of a participatory land use planning approach are laudable and should be further encouraged. Enhanced coordination and cooperation with the State Party of Panama is likewise highly desirable, and both State Parties should thus further pursue ongoing efforts.

The updated information regarding the planned electricity transmission corridor between Colombia and Panama confirms the strong commitment of the State Party to fully respect applicable impact assessment procedures, including specifically as regards the protected area and World Heritage status of Los Katíos. If the planned project goes ahead, adequate assessment on potential impacts on the property's OUV will be required. The same holds true for the newly reported port projects (Puerto PISISI and Puerto Antioquia) despite their physical location outside of the property.

The State Party notes that the artificial canal between the Leon and Atrato Rivers within the property not only changed the freshwater ecology of some of the lowlands of Los Katíos but has also attained importance in the local economy. As the closure of this human-made canal would also be very costly, further assessment considering the full complexity is needed to underpin pending decision-making.

Overall, it can be concluded that following the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party has continued to systematically follow up on past Committee decisions. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for pursuing its systematic management response and request it to continue its efforts and to address all pending issues.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7A.19, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Highly commends the State Party on the continuation of systematic management responses to the Committee's requests and recommendations, as well as recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission;*

4. Strongly encourages the State Party to:
 - a) Further consolidate human and financial resources and the partnership approach, bridging gaps between the government and civil society and among governmental institutions, both at local and national levels,
 - b) Further assess the feasibility of extending the Los Katíos National Park and possibly the property so as to include the Serranía del Darién National Protection Forest Reserve (Colombia) and potentially other areas,
 - c) Further integrate the property with the emerging regional protected area system and continue the promising efforts to define a functional buffer zone for eventual formalization under the World Heritage Convention,
 - d) Monitor the implementation of user agreements jointly with the involved communities, in particular the “Special Management Regime” in the Wounaan community of Juin Phubuur, and adapt the agreements to emerging needs as appropriate and required,
 - e) Further integrate local user agreements with comprehensive management of fish populations within and beyond the property,
 - f) Further refine the assessment of options to manage the impacts and risks posed by the artificial connection between the Leon and Atrato Rivers, while respecting the socio-economic importance of the canal;
5. Also commends the States Parties of Colombia and Panama on efforts to strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation in the management of the two contiguous properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darién National Park (Panama) and also encourages both States Parties to formalize a specific Memorandum of Understanding in this regard;
6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor includes a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of both properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darién National Park (Panama), in line with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Requests the State Party to fully assess the possible impacts of the planned port projects (Puerto PISISI and Puerto Antioquia), in line with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to report on the development of both projects to the World Heritage Centre, and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

12. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999, extended in 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (2001, 2004, 2011)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Las Pailas I and II geothermal projects adjacent to the property
- Longstanding subsistence and commercial use of land and resources, prior to inscription on the World Heritage List, with impacts stemming from farming, ranching, logging, pesticide use, introduction of exotic species, sulphur mining, amongst others
- Weak control over commercial and artisanal fishing
- Intentional and accidental fires, particularly affecting the dry forests
- Pan-American Highway that bisects the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/>

Current conservation issues

On 10 February 2016, in response to Decision **39 COM 7B.29**, the State Party submitted a report on geothermal energy development, a separate letter dated 30 November 2016 addressing the Borinquen I and II geothermal projects and, on 1 December 2016 a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents>. The provided information can be summarized as follows:

- Impacts and risks stemming from geothermal development are described as low, localized, and occurring outside of the property and therefore not considered to affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Planned wind power projects, as well as improvement and expansion of the Pan-American Highway, which crosses the property, are mentioned in the context of cumulative impacts;
- Environmental management of the geothermal projects encompasses forest restoration, suggested as a positive conservation impact "buffering" the property;
- Legislative bills which would have enabled geothermal development in protected areas are no longer under discussion;
- The potential segregation of 1,056 ha from the Rincón de la Vieja National Park sector of the property to permit a geothermal project has been ceased;
- Site management and the governmental Energy Institute (ICE) are implementing a project funded by Japan with the objective to examine the effectiveness of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology related to geothermal development;
- An Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to guide the entire protected area complex was elaborated in 2014;

- High vulnerability to fires is reported to be caused by farming, ranching, hunting and vandalism during the prolonged dry season, in particular of the important dry forests;
- Poor infrastructure and limited human and financial resources are described as major obstacles to the site's adequate management.

Multiple additional threats are also briefly discussed, as follows:

- Uncontrolled and poorly studied water extraction by adjacent land users;
- Illegal fishing due to inadequate control and law enforcement with particularly damaging impacts stemming from shrimp fishing;
- Continued pressures from the surrounding agricultural landscape and use of agrochemicals around the property;
- Hunting that has turned from a subsistence activity into recreation or business, with some cases reportedly involving police;
- Extraction of adult parrots and nestlings of various species for the local pet market, and collection of sea turtle eggs due to assumed medicinal and aphrodisiac properties;
- Habitat alteration in both the marine and terrestrial areas attributed to climate change.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The assessment of the Las Pailas I and II projects, taking into account World Heritage status, and the commitment to consider the property off limits to geothermal energy development are noted. The State Party's decision to refrain from legal changes permitting geothermal development within protected areas is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to unambiguously confirm that no facilities associated with the projects are, or are planned to be, located within the boundaries of the property and to provide clear maps showing the exact location of all such facilities. In terms of indirect and cumulative impacts, it should be noted that very limited consideration has been given to invasive alien species along access and transmission infrastructure of the geothermal projects. Furthermore, the Environmental Cumulative Effects Assessment prepared for the project makes reference to plans for wind power projects and expansion of the Pan-American Highway. The combination of these indirect and cumulative impacts with the fact that the large-scale geothermal projects are located immediately adjacent to the property raises significant concerns.

The State Party provides a thorough overview of multiple threats to the marine and terrestrial parts of the property. The efforts to control forest fires and illegal resource extraction, including fishing, are noted, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to develop a more systematic strategy to face these and other serious threats. In this regard, the conclusion of the State Party that the property is lacking sufficient financial and human resources to address all issues is of concern.

It is also noted with concern that various species are reported to be subject to "extraction" for the pet trade, as well as for their perceived medicinal and aphrodisiac applications. The collection of turtle eggs is a particular concern, given information annexed to the State Party's report regarding significant declines in the mass nesting (arribadas) of Olive Ridley turtles at Playa Nancite, which may impact the property's OUV as recognized under criterion (x). Additional studies regarding the dynamics of these mass nesting events should be undertaken, and adequate measures adopted to carefully monitor the recovery of the arribada in years to come.

It is noted that the property lacks a formal buffer zone in a situation where it is described by the State Party as an "island" embedded within an agricultural landscape. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consider viable options for formally establishing a buffer zone to prevent future impacts on the OUV caused by persistent pressures from agricultural and resource use activities in the property's vicinity.

In addition, on 5 April 2017, a letter was sent to the State Party by the World Heritage Centre to request information regarding the current status of the "Interoceanic Dry Canal" project and any potential impacts on the OUV of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the current and potential impacts of multiple severe threats reported by the State Party.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the State Party on the comprehensive reporting on multiple threats to the property and on its efforts to balance renewable energy and biodiversity conservation objectives;
4. Also commends the State Party on its commitment to consider the property off limits to geothermal development, and requests it to unambiguously confirm that no facilities associated with the projects are or will be located within the boundaries of the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre clear maps showing the exact location of all existing facilities;
5. Notes with concern the multiple threats to the property reported by the State Party, and the limited availability of financial and human resources to enable adequate management responses, and therefore also requests the State Party to ensure that appropriate actions are undertaken to address or mitigate these threats and to reinforce the resources available to support this endeavour;
6. Also notes with concern the reported extraction of parrots for the pet trade, and the collection of turtle eggs, and in particular the noted decline in mass nesting (arribada) of Olive Ridley turtles, which may impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value as recognized under criterion (x), and further requests the State Party to provide more information on the measures foreseen to address these issues and to undertake further studies regarding the dynamics of these mass nesting events;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and in particular to review the current and potential impacts of multiple and serious threats to the property, and exchange in more depth with the State Party and other stakeholders, as appropriate, about the option to formally establish a buffer zone;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

13. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama) (N 205bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 276,350

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction of hydroelectric dams near the property in Panama and associated effects (greater human presence near the property, interruption of aquatic species migratory corridor)
- Lack of a long-term biological monitoring program to implement mitigation measures that minimize the negative impacts on the property caused by hydroelectric projects
- Approval of a new hydropower project (Changuinola II or CHAN 140) without prior finalization of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property
- Encroachment (settlements, cattle ranching)
- Planned road construction, which would traverse the property on the side of Panama (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the States Parties of Costa Rica and Panama submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>, and providing the following information in relation to the implementation of Decision **40 COM 7B.72** and the recommendations of the 2016 mission:

- Threats to the property from cattle ranching and agricultural activity have not increased, although a number of small areas with signs of deforestation and encroachment were detected during the recent overflight of the Costa Rican part of the property undertaken by the authorities, including signs of illegally constructed buildings. Visits to the affected areas are planned to investigate the cases;
- A marijuana plantation was detected and destroyed within the property in August 2016. Efforts are continuing to combat all illegal activities, including joint patrolling and cooperation between different authorities;
- Regarding the new dam Changuinola II, it is confirmed that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of this project was approved in 2013. The company responsible for the construction of the dam has committed to a period of permanent dialogue with the communities directly affected by involuntary relocation, but has not initiated any construction activities. The company is carrying out planning among other activities;

- The State Party of Panama commits not to approve any further hydroelectric projects until the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property has been approved. In Costa Rica, the planned Diquis hydroelectric project is currently “being stopped by the indigenous consultation process”, and national authorities were reminded about the responsibility to conduct environmental assessments and consider potential impacts of projects on the OUV for all heritage sites;
- The first phase of the SEA has been completed in Panama and options for funding the preparation of the SEA for the Costa Rican part are being discussed. It is planned to finalize an integrated SEA for the entire property in 2018 and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. An evaluation of cumulative impacts will also be undertaken as part of the process. The preparation of the SEA foresees a participatory process, including involvement of indigenous communities;
- An update is provided on mitigation measures and monitoring undertaken for Chan 75 and Bonyic projects;
- Renegotiation of the concession contract with the company Hidroecológica del Teribe S.A., responsible for the Bonyic project, is underway, including an establishment of a provision for an external audit of the concession contract every five years. Once the results of the audit are available, the contract will be renegotiated in order to strengthen participation of indigenous communities in the “plans, programmes and projects with an impact in the area”.

On 14 April 2017, the State Party of Panama submitted a letter stating that a decision to cancel the contract to build the Changuinola II dam had been taken at a recent Presidential cabinet meeting.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the States Parties regarding threats from illegal activities and encroachment is noted. As demonstrated by the results of the recent overflight of the property and patrolling activities, it is clear that the property continues to be affected by encroachment and cultivation of illegal crops, even if only small areas currently appear affected by such activities. It is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to continue their efforts to combat illegal activities within the property.

The commitment of the States Parties to finalize an integrated SEA for the entire property by 2018 and the commitment of the State Party of Panama not to approve any new projects until the SEA is available, and the information that the contract to build the Changuinola II dam has been cancelled are noted with appreciation. It is recommended however that the Committee request the State Party of Panama to confirm the cancellation of the contract once this decision has officially entered into force following the necessary procedures, and to clarify whether the cancellation of this contract means that the plans for Changuinola II hydropower project will be definitely abandoned. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the OUV of the property in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and would lead to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Panama to continue monitoring activities of the Chan 75 and Bonyic dams, to establish a long-term monitoring programme for these two projects to evaluate the effectiveness of their mitigation measures and to ensure that the results of this monitoring, even if very limited at this early stage, are taken into account during the preparation of the SEA and of the assessment of cumulative impacts.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.72, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. *Noting the information provided by the States Parties that several small areas affected by encroachment and illegal activities have been detected through recent patrolling and overflight activities and the States Parties' intention to further investigate these cases, requests the States Parties to continue their efforts to combat all illegal activities within the property;*
4. *Takes note with satisfaction of the commitment of the States Parties to finalize the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property by 2018 and the commitment of the State Party of Panama not to approve any new hydropower projects in the vicinity of the property until the SEA is available, and also requests the State Party to submit the results of this SEA by **1 February 2018** to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
5. *Also takes note with satisfaction of the information provided by the State Party of Panama that the contract for the construction of the Changuinola II dam has been cancelled and further requests the State Party of Panama to confirm this decision once it has officially entered into force following the necessary procedures, and to clarify whether the cancellation of this contract means that the plans for Changuinola II hydropower project will be definitely abandoned;*
6. *Recalls its position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the OUV of the property in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines and would lead to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party of Panama to continue monitoring activities of the Chan 75 and Bonyic dams, the findings of which should be taken into account in the above-mentioned SEA and assessment of cumulative impacts, and to establish a long-term monitoring programme for these two projects to evaluate the effectiveness of their mitigation measures;*
8. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

14. Morne - Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica) (N 814)

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

15. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) (N 1182ter)

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

16. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal logging
- Tourism pressures associated with growth in visitor numbers and heavy concentration in specific areas
- Agricultural encroachment
- Forest fires (issue resolved)
- Decline in the overwintering population of Monarch butterflies in the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 June 2016, the State Party provided a response to a letter from the World Heritage Centre regarding information about plans for reopening of a copper mine in the vicinity of the property, confirming the following:

- The mine is located within the buffer zone of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (MBBR); however its operation was suspended in 1990;
- In 2005, the company Industrial Minera México presented an Environmental Impact Statement for exploration, extraction and processing of minerals in the area (*Project Angangueo*) which was approved by the General Directorate of Environmental Impact and Risk (DGIRA) on conditions that the project would need to receive authorization for land use change;
- In 2014, a request for land use change on 6.96 ha of forest area was submitted by the company to the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales - SEMARNAT) and was forwarded to the National Commission for the Protection of Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - CONANP) for their technical evaluation. CONANP concluded that the proposal was incompatible with the conservation objectives of the MBBR and therefore, SEMARNAT did not authorize the request for land use change. However, a new request can be submitted by the company. In February 2016, a meeting was held between the company and different authorities to “streamline procedures to begin construction and operation of mining exploitation in Angangueo within the MBBR”;
- A Special Group was established by the Advisory Council of the biosphere reserve to assess the issue of possible mining, and consultations were held with various experts. The main conclusions were that the current project proposal lacked risk assessment and a remediation plan.

On 16 July 2016, the State Party provided additional information on illegal logging within the property stating that over the period 2009-2015, 36.10 ha within the property were degraded due to illegal logging; however, illegal activities have been decreasing since 2008 thanks to surveillance activities undertaken with support from local communities. Restoration activities are underway in the area illegally logged in 2015.

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Illegal logging in 2015-2016 decreased within the property from 19.90 ha in 2014-2015 to 11.92 ha. Information is also provided about forest fire prevention and management and levels of legal timber extraction in the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve, as well as on patrolling and law enforcement activities. Since August 2016, the newly created Gendarmería Ambiental is present in the property and has been acting to combat illegal activities;
- The Trinational Working Group, established by Canada, Mexico and the United States of America (USA) in 2014, developed short- and long-term targets and activities for preservation of the migration of the Monarch butterfly;
- During the 2015-2016 overwintering season, the colonies of the Monarch butterfly occupied 2.91 ha within the MBBR, which represented a 255% increase compared to December 2014 (1.13 ha). Further 1.10 ha are reported to have occupied by overwintering colonies outside of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The detailed information provided by the State Party regarding various activities at the national level, as well as trinational efforts by Canada, Mexico and the USA to preserve the Monarch butterfly migration is welcomed. The measures undertaken by the State Party to combat illegal logging within the property appear to have resulted in a decrease in illegal activities in recent years. However, an incident occurred in 2015 when 10 ha were illegally logged within the property, demonstrating that it remains vulnerable. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue and strengthen its efforts.

The information that the reopening of a copper mine in the buffer zone of the MBBR and in its vicinity continues to be discussed raises serious concerns, particularly given that CONANP had concluded that the project would be incompatible with the conservation objectives of the biosphere reserve. If the company decides to present a modified project, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to develop an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the project with specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

Finally, the monitoring data showing an increase in the area used by overwintering colonies within the MBBR in 2015-2016 compared to extremely low figures in the previous two seasons is encouraging. However, these figures are still low and it is unclear if the trend can be sustained given that the property remains vulnerable to illegal logging and is currently also threatened by plans to reopen the copper mine in its vicinity. Given the serious stresses affecting the Monarch butterfly across its habitat and migratory range, including climate change, it is extremely important to minimize all current and potential threats to the colonies within their overwintering areas within the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate current and potential threats to its OUV and to assess whether the overwintering areas of the Monarch butterfly are sufficiently protected within the property, taking into account the recent monitoring data and the reported location of overwintering colonies.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.31, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. Welcomes the trilateral efforts undertaken by the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America to preserve the Monarch butterfly migration, including establishment of the Trilateral Working Group and encourages them to continue their efforts;
4. Also welcomes the significant measures undertaken by the State Party to combat illegal logging and to restore the previously affected areas, but notes with concern that the property remains vulnerable to this threat and requests the State Party to strengthen its efforts in this regard;
5. Notes with utmost concern that plans for reopening a copper mine in the vicinity of the property continue to be discussed, despite the conclusion of the National Commission for the Protection of Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - CONANP) that the project would be incompatible with the conservation objectives of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, and also requests the State Party to ensure rigorously that any mining in the vicinity of the property will not be permitted if it has the potential to negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate current and potential threats posed to its OUV by illegal logging and the proposed mining project, and to assess its overall state of conservation and the protection of the Monarch butterfly overwintering areas located both within the property and in its vicinity;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

17. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 350,000 (for management planning, installation of mooring buoys for diving boats, working with local communities, capacity building, public use planning and improved stakeholder understanding of legal protection measures)

Previous monitoring missions

January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Livestock (farming/grazing of domesticated animals)
- Management systems (delayed implementation of the Management Plan)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base)
- Legal framework (absence of clear regulations)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Human resources (insufficient management capacity)
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/>

Current conservation issues

An IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 28 November to 3 December 2016. On 30 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>. The State Party provides the following information:

- An inter-agency team started the removal of livestock from the Coiba Island, with three field operations already carried out and a second phase of the eradication programme currently underway;
- A consultancy to elaborate the financial mechanisms for the Coiba Fund has been completed and measures to create a Trust Fund to operationalise the Coiba Fund are expected to be implemented by mid-2017;
- No additional infrastructure has been constructed within the naval base and the total amount of military personnel present on the island remains low (5 per shift). The staff of the National Park meets and provides training to naval personnel on the island;
- A Public Use Plan (PUP) is still being developed for the property, which will identify its carrying capacity and establish the limits of acceptable change in accordance with the Management Plan;
- No new development within the limits of the property nor in the coastal zone is envisaged, and a decree that included part of the property within a “Special Development Zone” has recently been amended to exclude the areas of the property from this zone;
- A Sustainable Fishing Utilization Plan has been in force since 2013 to establish temporary operational guidelines on granting fishing permits within the Coiba National Park, which provides a regulatory framework on fishing sites, permitted species, catch sizes and fishing gear;
- A Fisheries Management Plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) is being developed by the Aquatic Resources Authority of Panama (ARAP) and the Ministry of the Environment to establish regulations for fisheries in the SZMP based on scientific field research; a draft of the proposed regulations and zoning has been presented in the report, including regulations for different types of fishing (artisanal, sport, vertical longline, bottom horizontal longline, industrial tuna fishing restricted to a period of two months per year), as well as wildlife viewing and diving;

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The measures undertaken by the State Party to implement some of the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission and Decision **40 COM 7B.76**, particularly progress made on removing feral livestock from Coiba Island and introducing amendments to ensure that legislation continues to be in place prohibiting development (apart from low-impact infrastructure for ecotourism and scientific research) within the property, should be welcomed. In this regard, the conclusion of the 2016 mission that the terrestrial component of the property appears to be well preserved is noted. The mission further noted that the development of infrastructure outside of the

property (namely on the mainland opposite it) that could impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) did not appear to constitute a threat at the moment due to remoteness of the areas and low potential economic interest, but would require further monitoring to ensure that it does not become an issue in the future. On the other hand, the PUP currently being elaborated for the property and aimed at identifying and regulating its carrying capacity urgently needs to be finalized. In particular, biosecurity measures, including strengthening capacity of staff, will need to be developed in accordance with the PUP and will need to be put into place to deal with both tourists as well as the threat of accidental introductions of invasive species by Park, naval and police personnel.

While progress on operationalizing the Coiba Fund is encouraging, it is noted that it would only be implemented by mid-2017, even though the State Party had previously indicated 2016 as the deadline for the full operationalization of the Fund.

The main threat to the OUV of the property remains fisheries management, both in the Coiba National Park and in its SZMP. While the State Party considers that the state of conservation of the property is good, the absence of comprehensive monitoring data makes it difficult to draw concrete conclusions. However, the mission noted information from NGOs and tourist operators that there have been declines in key marine values due to unsustainable fishing, as well as the conclusions of a recent study (Vega *et al.* (2016)) of artisanal fishing within the property that certain fisheries were unsustainable and that some of the property's marine resources were at risk.

Draft regulations for managing the SZMP presented in the State Party report include certain aspects, such as allowing spear-fishing and industrial tuna fishing, which are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property, particularly industrial fishing. Recalling the concerns repeatedly expressed by the Committee over the absence of effective fisheries regulations within the property, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to take immediate measures to ensure that fishing is strictly controlled and that fisheries permitted within the property are sustainable. This should include measures to improve the enforcement of regulations within Coiba National Park and revision of the proposed regulations for the SZMP to ensure that no fishing is permitted within its territory which would be incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property, particularly industrial fishing. In case fish stocks do not show a recovering trend, consideration should be given to a temporary moratorium on all fishing within the property, in line with the mission's recommendations. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address the issues related to the management of the marine component of the property, and particularly fisheries regulations, as a matter of priority, in order to demonstrate substantial progress in resolving these issues by 1 February 2018.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes progress made by the State Party on removing feral livestock from Coiba Island and introducing amendments to ensure that legislation continues to be in place prohibiting development (apart from low-impact infrastructure for ecotourism and scientific research) within the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the development of a Public Use Plan (PUP) for the property and requests the State Party to finalize it by **1 February 2018**, ensuring that it clearly improves the visitor experience to the island without expanding the space occupied by existing infrastructure, and sets out a biosecurity plan, and submit the draft PUP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as part of the updated report on the state of conservation of the property;*

5. Notes the information that measures to operationalize the Coiba Fund are expected to be completed by mid-2017 and urges the State Party to adhere to this deadline;
6. Notes with increasing concern the conclusions of the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that while the terrestrial component of the property appears to be well preserved with previously identified threats gradually diminishing, the management of its marine component continues to face significant challenges, with declines having been reported for some key marine values, and with little progress reported in the implementation of the Committee's requests related to the management and control of fisheries, and also urges the State Party to implement these requests as a matter of utmost priority;
7. Also requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions;
8. Takes note of the proposed draft regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), but notes with utmost concern that they include provisions for types of activities that would be incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property, particularly industrial fishing, and further urges the State Party to revise the proposed draft to ensure that no such activities are permitted within the property, and to submit the revised draft regulations for the SZMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in protecting the property from unsustainable fisheries, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

18. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

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

19. Sangha Trinational (Cameron / Central African Republic / Congo) (N 1380rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved : 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 250,000 Euros from 2008 to 2013 and 400 000 Euros from 2016 to 2018 through the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) funded by the European Union

Previous monitoring missions

October 2016: World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to Congo and Central African Republic component of the property.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest
- Poaching
- Mining
- Road and river transport project
- Optical fiber project in the vicinity of the property
- Forestry exploitation permits in the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/>

Current conservation issues

From 15 to 25 October 2016, a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the Central African and Congolese parts of the property. On 14 November 2016, the three States Parties submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/documents> and providing the following information:

- Increased surveillance efforts, with technical and financial support from external partners, have resulted in an increase in anti-poaching missions of around 23% in 2015 compared to 2014, including cross-border patrols. In Cameroon, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministries of Forestry and Wildlife and Defense in September 2016 for the regular conduct of mixed patrols;

- In Congo, no mining exploration permits have been renewed since 2013. In the Central African Republic, the mining exploration license granted to Clima Dubai MW International in 2012 in the buffer zone of the property was repealed on 7 April 2015. In Cameroon, all exploration permits in Lobéké National Park have expired. Gold mining is also prohibited, but it persists in the buffer zone of the property, in Cameroon and the Central African Republic;
- The Ouessou-Bangui road project is in the consultation and awareness-raising of stakeholders phase. Work has not yet started;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the optical fibre project has been completed;
- A system for monitoring and controlling the legality of logging by SINFOCAM (Central African Forestry and Industrial Development Corporation) and STBC (Wood Processing Company in the Central African Republic) was set up in the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS). An Anti-poaching Unit has been operational since April 2016 in the exploitation zone of SINFOCAM, financed by the company and under the supervision of the managing authority for the APDS;
- Persistence of poaching, particularly of large mammals, in all sections of the property;
- Observance of illegal activities in the buffer zone of the property, including the advance of the agricultural frontier, harvesting of non-timber forest products and cutting down of timber in Cameroon, where an increase in the human-wildlife conflict is also observed;
- Update of the development plans for the various sections of the property. In Congo, measures have been taken to contribute to the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, targeted particularly at women and indigenous peoples. In Cameroon, a three-year resource development programme aims, among other things, to secure the right of the Baka to exploit their resources in areas identified within the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the States Parties on the intensification of their anti-poaching coordination efforts. However, the mission found that the natural resources of the property are under increasing pressure, including from poaching of large mammals, but also from hunting of small and medium-sized wildlife for bushmeat consumption. It is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to further strengthen their efforts to combat environmental crime and for the seizure of weapons of war within the perimeter of the property, and to further awareness-raising among judicial authorities in this regard.

It is also recommended that the Committee welcome the fact that no mining license is now available in the buffer zone of the property. However, the persistence of gold panning is worrisome. It is therefore recommended that the Committee call upon the States Parties to strengthen their efforts to eradicate illegal mining activities in the property and its buffer zone and to implement a plan for the ecological restoration of sites degraded by illegal activities.

The implementation by the APDS of a system for monitoring logging is appreciated. It is recommended, however, that the Committee recall that the allocation of these concessions in the buffer zone of the property presents certain risks to the integrity of the property, and that it requests States Parties to require that all forest concessions in the buffer zone of the property be certified in order to minimize the seriousness of the potential threats they pose to the property.

The mission found that the optical fibre project was completed without significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It was noted that the Ouessou-Bangui road project is in the consultation phase. It is imperative that any decision on the implementation of this project be based on a rigorous EIA including a specific study of the impacts of the project on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN Advice Note on Environmental Assessments for World Heritage.

It should be recalled that when the property was inscribed, the Committee recognized that *"the rights and traditional livelihoods of local and indigenous peoples, such as the Bakas, are a fundamental and increasingly recognized element [...] in the management of the property"*, and that *"the inscription [of the property] presents a concrete opportunity for States Parties to translate a range of different commitments of the States Parties regarding the rights of local and indigenous people into action on the ground"*. In this regard, the promotion in Congo of a sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources targeting women and indigenous peoples and, in Cameroon, the right of the Baka to exploit their resources in areas identified within the property are welcomed.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to implement all the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.8** and **39 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the States Parties for intensifying their efforts to coordinate anti-poaching efforts, notes, however, that poaching of large mammals and consumption of bushmeat is on the increase, and requests the States Parties to further strengthen their efforts to combat environmental crime and for the seizure of weapons of war within the perimeter of the property, as well as the awareness-raising of judicial authorities in this field;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties of Cameroon and the Republic of Congo respectively to secure the right of Baka to exploit their resource in areas identified within the property and to promote the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, targeting in particular women and Indigenous peoples;
5. Also welcomes the fact that no mining exploration license now exists in the buffer zone of the property, but notes with concern that gold-mining and other illegal activities, such as the advance of the agricultural frontier, harvesting of non-timber forest products and cutting down of timber are observed in the buffer zone of the property and also requests States Parties to:
 - a) Strengthen their efforts to eradicate illegal mining activities in the territory of the property and in its buffer zone,
 - b) Design and implement a plan for the ecological restoration of sites degraded by any illegal activity;
6. Appreciates the establishment by the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) of a system for monitoring and controlling the legality of forestry operations of SINFOCAM (Central African Forestry and Industrial Development Corporation) and STBC (Wood Processing Company in Central African Republic), and recalling also that the allocation of these concessions in the buffer zone of the property presents certain risks to its integrity, further calls upon the States Parties to require that all forest concessions in the buffer zone of the property shall be certified in order to minimize the seriousness of the potential threats to the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the States Parties concerned to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to identify potential impacts on the OUV of the property of the Bangui Road Project, in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessments and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN before approving the project;
8. Further requests the States Parties to implement all the recommendations of the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and

the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

20. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/195/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1983-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 139,995

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/195/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2006: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching
- Artisanal gold mining
- Agricultural encroachment (issue resolved)
- Impacts of the post-electoral crisis (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/195/>

Current conservation issues

On 11 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/195/documents/>, which reports the following:

- Poaching continues to be a threat in 2016 but annual ecological surveys indicate relatively stable populations of key wildlife since 2014, notably elephant (171), chimpanzee (406), duiker and monkey;
- Satellite image data from January 2015 for Taï National Park showed 97.7% rainforest coverage;
- The number of illegal activities detected decreased between 2014 and 2015, from 1.59 to 0.48 cases/km respectively, possibly due to greater stakeholder involvement in the management of the property and awareness campaigns conducted. However, poaching increased in 2016 following the lifting of the ban on the consumption of bushmeat;
- An increase in the number of patrols within the property and sensitization efforts by the regional consultation committee have led to significant declines in gold mining from 0.40 to 0.01 cases/km in 2014 and 2016 respectively, and closure of 14 sites in the Nawa region. There are plans to acquire drones in the future to further improve surveillance operations;
- An operational strategy is being implemented to improve the monitoring of poaching and other illegal activities, which includes the use of Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART),

satellite imagery, an information network, annual ecological monitoring data collection, and focusing on vulnerable areas;

- The draft decree for the extension of the park boundaries to include N'zo Wildlife Reserve has been transmitted to the Secretariat of the Government. The geo-referenced information with the new park boundaries will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as the decree has been signed.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's progress towards controlling and eliminating gold mining through the support of the regional consultation committee and the reported significant decrease in recorded cases and the closure of detected sites are welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts towards eliminating gold mining from within the property.

The increased patrol efforts to monitor poaching and other illegal activities within the property and the implementation of an operational strategy using multiple tools and approaches are welcomed. However, it is of concern that these illegal activities continue to pose major threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Although the reported stabilization of key wildlife is noted, a further breakdown by species of data on monkeys and duikers is required. Of particular concern is the reported lifting of the ban on bushmeat consumption that has led to an increase in poaching in 2016. This requires urgent intervention by the State Party in order to address local subsistence hunting and commercial illegal trade in bushmeat, including at the level of hunters, traders and consumers. An action plan is required to identify alternative economic incentives and raise awareness in conjunction with increased patrols and law enforcement.

It is regrettable that the decree for the extension of the national park has still not been signed and that therefore a request for a boundary modification has not been submitted. Recalling that some of the needs to align the property with the national park were for clear demarcation and management, this is becoming a pressing outstanding issue.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party towards controlling and reducing gold mining with the assistance from the regional consultation committee, reiterates its position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in order to eliminate this threat from the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the increased patrol efforts and the implementation of an operational strategy to improve the monitoring of poaching and other illegal activities, including the application of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), however, noting with concern the reported increase in poaching following the lifting of the ban on bushmeat consumption, also requests the State Party to urgently address both local subsistence and commercial illegal trade in bushmeat, at the hunter-, trader- and consumer-levels;*
5. *Reiterates again its request to the State Party to publish as soon as possible the decree formalizing the extension of the Park in order to align the boundaries of the property with those of the national park to enable more effective management, and to*

submit, once published, a boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee;

6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

21. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1999-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 45,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 17,283 from UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (2015-2016)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Renewable energy facilities (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>, which addresses previous Committee decisions as follows:

- The Kabarnet Declaration adopted in 2014 continues to be in effect;
- Confirmation that no geothermal prospecting has been conducted on the boundaries of the property to date;
- A revised Management Plan to address ecological and developmental issues around Lake Elementaita is being finalized in collaboration with various stakeholders, including local communities, and will be submitted upon completion;
- Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary boundary modification exercise has been conducted through UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa funding, by undertaking ecological assessments of lake riparian and ecologically sensitive areas to inform conservation needs. This will not affect the property's boundaries.

On 13 March 2017, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the Attorney General's office is considering the African Court's judgment on the Endorois land, including the restitution of Lake Bogoria to the community.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The state of conservation report submitted by the State Party regrettably provides limited details on progress made to address the Committee's previous decisions. Extensive details however are provided on Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary boundary modification project, which aims to address encroachment, clearance of natural riparian vegetation and tourist development, in the areas adjoining the lake.

Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.6**, in which the Committee encouraged the State Party to “*upgrade the protection of Lake Elementaita through strengthened legal protection and prohibition of cattle grazing*”, the above-mentioned project is a welcome initiative as it will expand the protected area to provide enhanced protection to the ecologically sensitive areas, and increase the role of local communities in its management. However, details of measures taken by the State Party to remove existing illegal developments, to restore affected areas, and to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property, as requested by the Committee (Decision **39 COM 7B.5**), have not been reported. In addition, none of the maps within the phase I project report appear to illustrate the new proposed boundaries.

The revision of Lake Elementaita Management Plan, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders, is also appreciated. In 2011, the Committee also encouraged the State Party to reinforce the link between the conservation of the three components of the property, including the area between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita. The State Party may therefore also consider incorporating into the next phase of this project proposals to strengthen the protection of areas between the lakes.

It is noted that the Attorney General's office is considering the African Court's judgment on the Endorois land, including restitution of Lake Bogoria to the community. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.91** and **39 COM 7B.5**, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue to report on progress made to implement the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Endorois decision to ensure the full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of Lake Bogoria. The Committee is also encouraged to reiterate its request (Decision **39 COM 7B.5**) to the State Party to provide information on the current status of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) for geothermal prospecting adjacent to the property.

On 27 April 2015, the State Party of Tanzania informed the World Heritage Centre that the National Development Corporation is investigating a soda ash deposit at Lake Natron. In Decision **39 COM 7B.5**, the Committee acknowledged the State Party of Tanzania's confirmation that it would not proceed with any activities until an EIA has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Recalling the Committee's encouragement to the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania and other relevant States Parties to consider potential transboundary serial extensions to the property (Decisions **35 COM 8B** and **38 COM 7B.91**), and in view of the critical importance of Lake Natron, located in Tanzania, for the conservation of lesser flamingo within the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Tanzania to report on these developments as soon as any information is available and before taking any decisions that may be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 35 COM 8B.6, 38 COM 7B.91 and 39 COM 7B.5, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*

3. Taking note of the progress of the Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary boundary modification project, which aims to address encroachment and clearance of natural riparian vegetation in the areas adjoining the property by expanding the protected area, requests the State Party to submit a map of the new proposed boundaries, and encourages the State Party to incorporate into the next phase of the project proposals to strengthen the protection of the areas between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita ;
4. Notes the reported collaboration between the State Party and the local communities in revising the Lake Elementaita Management Plan, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, upon completion;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to report on:
 - a) The current status of potential geothermal prospecting activities undertaken adjacent to the property, including the status of any Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) Progress made to implement the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Endorois ruling to ensure the full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of Lake Bogoria,
 - c) Actions taken to ensure the removal of any existing illegal developments, to carry out the ecological restoration of affected areas, and to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property;
6. Also requests the State Party of Tanzania to report on the soda ash deposit investigation at Lake Natron as soon as any information is available, and before taking any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

22. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 2001-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 93,485

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Drought
- Housing (uncontrolled urban development driven by population increase)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Invasive/alien species
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste
- Surface water pollution
- Water (extraction)
- Water infrastructure
- Project to construct a dam across the gorge (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2016, the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/documents/> and presents progress achieved in addressing previous Committee decisions as follows:

- Proposals for a tethered balloon, cableway or other tall structure in the vicinity of the property will not be permitted should they have a negative visual impact on the property;
- A summary of the environmental and tourism monitoring results is submitted;
- The State Party of Zambia has further reduced water abstraction from the property by strengthening automated monitoring of the water level, increasing the duration of power plant closure for maintenance and enhancing alternative power generation source, i.e. opening the 300 MW Maamba Coal Plant in mid-2016;
- The States Parties have not been informed of any intentions by the State Party of Botswana to abstract 495 million cubic meters of water per annum from the Zambezi River for irrigation;
- The development of a sustainable financing/business plan is in progress with 50% completed to date;
- As part of UNESCO's World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme, a sustainable tourism strategy for the property is currently being finalized;
- The draft revised Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) 2016-2021 is submitted;
- *Lantana camara* distribution in the property has been mapped, and 70% of the invaded area has been cleared;
- Ongoing monitoring of water flow of Zambezi River upstream of the fall indicate a decline over the last two years;
- The State Party of Zambia informs of proposed constructions of a Ferris wheel within the high ecological sensitive zone of the Eastern Cataract and of a hotel in the development zone of the property.

The World Heritage Centre sent two letters (dated 23 November 2016 and 25 January 2017) to the States Parties to request information on the proposed hotel and recreational facilities in Livingstone, use of the Cataract Island for tourism, and the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of

the Batoka Gorge Hydroelectric Scheme on the Zambezi River. On 27 April 2017, the State Party of Zambia responded to these letters, as follows:

- Confirmation of its intention to partner with private investors to construct an international hotel and recreational facilities in the property in Livingstone (Zambia). The project has not commenced and will be subject to an ESIA;
- An ESIA for the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro-Electric Scheme is being undertaken, and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion. The States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe have agreed to restrict the height of the dam to 181m in respect of optimal power generation without impacting on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The Scoping Report of the ESIA dated October 2015 is submitted with the letter.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The proposed construction of a Ferris wheel within the high ecologically sensitive zone of the Eastern Cataract as well as the proposed hotel and recreational facilities in the property are of great concern due to their potential significant impacts on the OUV of the property, especially under criterion (vii). The draft JIMP prescribes permitted and prohibited activities and facilities within specific zones, and a Ferris wheel would clearly be incompatible. Regrettably, no response was received from the States Parties regarding the utilization of Cataract Island for tourism. For all of these projects, it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to clarify their exact locations and to undertake rigorous ESIA's, including specific assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure that no decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse and before these ESIA's have been provided to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. In view of the proposed tourism developments, it is also recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to complete the sustainable tourism strategy currently underway, as well as the sustainable financing/business plan previously requested by the Committee.

The State Party of Zambia's decision to further reduce water abstraction from the Zambezi River is appreciated. The draft scoping report for the Batoka Gorge Hydroelectric project proposes to build the dam wall 50 km downstream of Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, and to include the construction of new transmission lines, power houses, access roads and new permanent villages. The ESIA that is being undertaken should include an assessment of the impacts of the project specifically on the OUV of the property, caused directly by the dam and all associated infrastructures, in line with IUCN's Advice Note.

No further information is available on any intentions of the State Party of Botswana to abstract 495 million cubic meters per annum of water from the Zambezi River, as reported in the 2010 feasibility study available on the Republic of Botswana's Department of Water Affairs' website. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as requested by the Committee (Decision **38 COM 7B.96**), would be required in case this project were to proceed.

The initiative by the States Parties, following the recording of a drop in average water flow of Zambezi River over the last two years, to determine the cause of the decline by analyzing river flow and rainfall data, as well as upstream activities that could impact water flow, is welcomed. Its findings should inform the management of the property and should also consider the short and long-term impacts of climate change.

The States Parties' continued effort and progress made to date to control the highly aggressive invasive species *Lantana camara* are welcomed. Recalling that the 2006 World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission also identified the presence of another highly invasive species, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to provide an update on the efforts to control its spread.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Appreciates the submission of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) for the period 2016 to 2021, and efforts to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, and requests the States Parties to finalize this strategy as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
4. Also appreciates the decision taken by the State Party of Zambia to further reduce water abstraction from the Zambezi River, but also requests the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Batoka Gorge Hydroelectric Scheme includes a specific assessment of the impacts of the dam and all of its associated infrastructures, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Noting with significant concern that construction of a Ferris wheel is proposed within a high ecologically sensitive zone of the Eastern Cataract inside the property, which would be incompatible with the permitted infrastructural development as prescribed in the JIMP, and which will likely have a significant detrimental impact on the OUV of the property, urges the States Parties to not permit the project;
6. Also noting with concern the State Party of Zambia's intention to partner with private investors to construct a hotel and recreational facilities inside the property, further requests the States Parties to clarify the exact locations of all developments and the plans to utilize Cataract Island for tourism, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, an ESIA for each of these projects, including a specific assessment of the impacts on OUV, in line with IUCN's Advice Note, before taking any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Notes that the development of the sustainable financing/business plan is in progress and reiterates its request to the States Parties to expedite its completion, taking into consideration mechanisms for financing management operations;
8. Acknowledging that the States Parties recorded a drop in Zambezi River water flow over the last two years and, noting that the States Parties will be assessing the cause of the decline by analysing water flow data, rainfall data and upstream activities, requests furthermore the States Parties to utilize the findings to inform the management of the property, also taking into consideration the added impact expected from climate change;
9. Welcomes the continued efforts by the States Parties to control the highly invasive alien weed, Lantana camara, which has been cleared from 70% of the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to continue their efforts to control this species, and to provide an update on the status of water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) inside the property;
10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

ARAB STATES

23. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

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

ASIA-PACIFIC

24. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

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

25. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2008)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 32,590 from Switzerland following a Special Appeal by the Sector for External Relations of UNESCO.

Previous monitoring missions

December 2007: World Heritage Centre mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Pollution of marine waters(High level of salinity)
- Management systems/management plan
- Storms (Loss of monitoring capacity due to cyclone damage)
- Illegal activities (Tiger poaching)
- Forestry/wood production (Unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products)
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Thermal Power Plant project)
- Water infrastructure (Dredging of the Pashur River)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/>

Current conservation issues

From 22 to 28 March 2016, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property, as requested by the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7B.8**. On 10 October 2016, the State Party provided a detailed response to the mission report and, on 28 November 2016, submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. All these reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/documents>. The following information was provided regarding issues previously raised by the Committee:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the dredging of the Pashur River has not been updated to include an assessment of potential impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value

(OUV) of the property. It is stated that such assessments will be undertaken for future dredging of the Pashur River;

- A decision was made to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the South-West region of Bangladesh, including the property, which would include an assessment of the indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV arising from the proposed 1320 MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (Rampal power plant) and other developments in its vicinity;
- A wide range of proposed mitigation measures to be implemented at Rampal is listed. It is proposed that an independent monitoring team should have oversight over the Rampal power plant project from the construction to the end of the operation phase. The mission's recommendation to cancel and relocate this project to a more suitable location is not accepted by the State Party;
- The proposed Orion power plant has not been approved, and the proposed second phase of the Rampal power plant will not be pursued;
- Further information is provided on ecological monitoring and results are provided for certain mangrove species, tiger, crocodile and cetaceans;
- Sea level rise in the Bay of Bengal is stated to occur faster than the global average, and adaptation and mitigation measures are being taken. Sea level rise, salt intrusion and a reduction of freshwater flows are noted to be posing a threat to the Sundarbans ecosystem. The State Party is committed "to secure maximum resilience [of the Sundarbans] in the face of climate change impacts";
- Measures have been taken to increase preparedness and response capacity in case of an oil spill, including the development of a draft National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan (NOSCOP), and the procurement of three ships with oil spill collection systems. The December 2014 oil spill is noted to have been "just an accident".

During a meeting at the World Heritage Centre held on 16 March 2017, the States Parties of Bangladesh and India informed the Director of the World Heritage Centre that they intend to reinforce transboundary cooperation to protect the World Heritage properties of the Sundarbans and the Sundarbans National Park.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's decisions not to approve the Orion power plant, not to pursue a second phase of the Rampal power plant and to carry out a SEA for the South-west region of Bangladesh are welcome as they address two key recommendations made by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to permit that any large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments (including the Rampal power plant) proceed before the SEA has been completed.

It is regrettable that the EIA for the dredging of the Pashur River has not been updated as requested by the Committee. While the State Party states that EIAs for future dredging will consider impacts on the OUV of the property, this does not address the Committee's concern that these impacts have not been adequately assessed for the currently planned dredging. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure that no dredging activities are conducted before the current EIA is revised in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

The information provided on ecological monitoring is welcome. The State Party confirmed the mission's finding that sea level rise, salt intrusion and a reduction in fresh water flows are posing a threat to the Sundarbans ecosystem. It should be noted that the property, located in the southern part of the Sundarbans Reserved Forest (SRF), is particularly vulnerable to increasing salinity. The mission concluded that without adequate water influx from the Ganges basin, the property's OUV cannot be adequately protected and maintained in the long term. In that regard, the intention to reinforce transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Bangladesh and India for Sundarbans properties is noted.

The mission also concluded that the planned development of Rampal power plant as close as 14 km to the SRF and 65 km to the property, has a high likelihood for downstream impacts on the property arising from air and water pollution, a substantial increase in shipping and dredging, and additional removal of freshwater from an already increasingly saline environment. Furthermore, the project's EIA

did not address impacts on the OUV of the property, nor does it provide convincing evidence that impacts will be mitigated. While the State Party provides a long list of measures taken to limit and mitigate negative impacts on the environment, the concern remains that there is insufficient supporting evidence that these measures would prevent impacts on the property from air emissions, coal ash hazards, and shipping and dredging plans to transport coal to the project site. In light of these concerns and the mission's conclusions, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to proceed with the Rampal power plant project in its current location and to relocate it to a more suitable location where it would not negatively impact the OUV of the property. Further steps in implementing this project would not be appropriate considering the concerns raised, and the potential impacts on the OUV of the property have not been comprehensively assessed in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. Further information would be needed to allow prior consideration by the Committee of such large-scale industrial developments in the areas surrounding the property.

The development of the draft NOSCOP and the procurement of additional ships with oil spill collection systems are welcomed. However, it is of concern that the December 2014 oil spill is reported to have been "just an accident" and that the State Party does not discuss the impacts of four other similar incidents that occurred in May 2015, October 2015, March 2016, and January 2017, spilling large quantities of coal in proximity to the property, as well as one case of potash fertilizer. The mission noted that long-term impacts from these spills on the Sundarbans ecosystem cannot be excluded. In addition, the anticipated increase in shipping traffic associated with the development of the Rampal power plant and the proposed expansion of Mongla Port could further exacerbate the risk of shipping incidents. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are provided for the implementation of the NOSCOP once it is adopted, and to provide further information and data on monitoring of the long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent measures to fully implement all the recommendations made by the mission. While the mission concluded that the property does not currently meet the requirements for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the mission noted that immediate implementation of the mission recommendations related to the freshwater flows, large-scale developments in the vicinity of the property and integrated management is imperative to prevent the OUV of the property from becoming irreversibly damaged. It is therefore recommended that, in the absence of substantial progress with the implementation of the above, the Committee should consider inscribing the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 42nd session.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's decision not to approve the Orion power plant and Phase II of the Rampal power plant, and to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the South-West region of Bangladesh, including the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that any large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments (including the Rampal power plant) will not be allowed to proceed before the SEA has been completed, and to submit a copy of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as it is available;*
4. *Also welcomes the information provided on ecological monitoring but notes with concern that sea level rise, salt intrusion and reductions in fresh water flows are posing a threat to the Sundarbans' ecosystem and that the property is particularly vulnerable to impacts from these threats;*

5. Takes note of the critical importance of transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Bangladesh and India on the World Heritage properties “The Sundarbans” (Bangladesh) and “Sundarbans National Park” (India), further welcomes the efforts made by both States Parties to enhance collaboration, and urges the State Party of Bangladesh to fully implement, as a matter of utmost urgency, the recommendations made by the 2016 mission in relation to ensuring adequate freshwater inflows to the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to fully implement all the other recommendations made by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission;
7. Welcomes furthermore the development of a draft “National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan” (NOSCOP), and further requests the State Party to ensure adequate provision of funding and human resources for the implementation of the plan once it is adopted, and to provide further information and data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents involving spills of hazardous materials in proximity to the property;
8. Regrets that the State Party did not update the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for dredging of the Passur River to include an assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as requested by the Committee, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that no dredging activities are conducted before the current EIA is revised in accordance with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
9. Also takes note of the mission’s conclusion that the Rampal coal-fired power plant has a high likelihood for impacts on the property arising from air and water pollution, a substantial increase in shipping and dredging, and additional removal of freshwater from an already increasingly saline environment, and that there is insufficient evidence available to demonstrate that these impacts can be mitigated, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that these impacts are comprehensively assessed as part of the SEA, and in accordance with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and also urges it to not proceed further with implementation of the Rampal power plant in its current location;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. South China Karst (China) (N 1248bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007, extension in 2014

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2004)

Total amount approved: USD 20,100

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of extension of the property in 2014:

- Management systems/management plan (property-wide management plan not yet finalized, actions to manage tourism, water quality, agricultural and urban development impacts not implemented)
- Governance (Integrated governance arrangements not implemented)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/documents> and responds to Committee Decision **38 COM 8B.9**, as follows:

- A Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst (CMP-SCK) for the entire serial property was completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 29 February 2016. Since 2015, the responsibility for the overall coordination and administration of the property rests with the Protection and Administration Coordinating Committee for South China Karst World Heritage Sites (PACC);
- Construction within the property is forbidden, and the permissible scale of buildings in the buffer zone defined. There is also a limit on the number of tourism facilities;
- Illegal tourism activities in Guilin Karst have been much reduced by dismantling 762 stalls and 41 illegal buildings and by detaining rafts and canoes involved in illegal boating;
- Visitor capacity is monitored in real time and an early warning system is in place to prevent capacity overload. Regulations for tour operators are also in place;
- There are plans for two tourist roads which would cross Shilin Karst but the State Party notes that these will have a negative influence on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Wukeshu Village has been relocated outside the property. The people affected are reported to have received support from local government, including to set up new industries;
- Water quality within and upstream from the property is reported to be generally good, although there are some problems locally. Various measures are being taken to further improve water quality;

- Various measures are being taken to address impacts from agriculture, including the promotion of tourism as an alternative source of income;
- Measures are also being taken to coordinate and manage urban development, based on the principle that protection of heritage is preferred to its utilization.

The State Party notes that a high-speed railway project linking Guiyang to Nanning (GN Railway) is planned, which will cross the buffer zone of Libo Karst.

The State Party refers to a revision of the boundaries of Wulong Karst. However, no request for a boundary modification was submitted in the appropriate format, as laid out in Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. On 23 January 2017, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit the proposal in the required format for review by IUCN.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress achieved by the State Party in implementing an integrated management system for the serial property as a whole should be welcomed. The CMP-SCK covers the period 2016-2025, and complements the individual management plans of each component of the property by providing an overarching management plan that has the property's OUV at its core. It identifies threats at each component, including threats to biological values, which are not part of the OUV. It includes specific targets and management measures for water, solid waste, air pollution, light pollution, and noise control, as well as separate chapters on tourism, local communities, education, scientific research, and monitoring. The adoption of the CMP-SCK and the establishment of the PACC are significant steps to ensure an integrated approach to planning, governance and management of the serial property.

Impacts from tourism, agriculture, water pollution and urban development continue to be closely monitored by the State Party, and measures have been taken at individual sites to address these. The implementation of the CMP-SCK should enable further progress to be made in this regard. The effectiveness of these measures should be closely monitored by the State Party, to ensure that they are achieving the desired results. Particular care should be taken to ensure that the promotion of tourism as an alternative livelihood to agriculture does not exacerbate the current impacts and threats from tourism development and high levels of visitation.

The two planned tourist roads that would cross the property at Shilin Karst are a significant concern. While no further information on these projects has been provided, the State Party has noted that they are likely to have a negative impact on OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party not to proceed with these projects.

The planned Guiyang-Nanning high-speed railway (GN Railway) that would cross the buffer zone of Libo Karst (in between the two separate components of Libo Karst) is potentially of concern. Annex 2 of the State Party's report discusses the alternative alignments that were considered and clarifies why these were abandoned, and goes on to state that the project is unlikely to have any impact on the OUV of the property. However, a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project has not been submitted. It is therefore also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit an EIA, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, for the GN Railway project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The relocation of Wukeshu Village outside the property is noted, as is the support reported to have been provided to the affected people. It is recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to provide detailed information on the processes that were followed, in particular to ensure that the relocation has been carried out with the consent of the population concerned.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 8B.9, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes progress achieved by the State Party to integrate planning, governance and management across the whole serial property, including the finalization of the Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst (CMP-SCK) and the establishment of the Protection and Administration Coordinating Committee for South China Karst World Heritage Sites (PACC);
4. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to address impacts from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development, considers that the implementation of the CMP-SCK should enable the State Party to make further progress in this regard, and urges the State Party to closely monitor the effectiveness of the measures taken, in particular to ensure that the promotion of tourism as an alternative livelihood to agriculture does not exacerbate the current impacts and threats from tourism development and high levels of visitation in the property;
5. Notes with concern the two planned tourist roads that would cross the property at Shilin Karst, which according to the State Party would have a negative influence on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also urges the State Party to not proceed with these projects;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the planned Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway (GN Railway) that would cross the buffer zone of Libo Karst, including a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Takes note of the relocation of Wukeshu Village, and also requests the State Party to provide detailed information about the processes followed, in particular to ensure that the relocation was carried out with the consent of the population concerned;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

27. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003, minor boundary modification 2010

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Apparent decline in wildlife populations
- Water infrastructure (Major dams and related infrastructure)
- Mining
- Management systems/management plan (Inadequate management planning, including tourism planning; Unclear property boundaries)
- Illegal activities (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents> and includes a discussion of rural poverty as a fundamental challenge underlying conservation challenges.

Acknowledging that local livelihoods have been affected by conservation, the coincidence of protected areas and local communities is suggested as a “contradiction”. Laws and regulations are offered as the primary means to limit economic activities in an effort to minimize harm to the natural values in the property and its buffer zones, jointly referred to as “commitment area”. Development outside is allowed as long as it does not affect the “relative integrity” of the property.

The State Party also states its intention of moving towards a more meaningful consideration of a broader range of stakeholders, including additional governmental levels and agencies, non-governmental organizations, local communities and the private sector.

Furthermore, the report responds to Committee Decision **39 COM 7B.9** (Bonn, 2015), as summarized hereafter:

- Significant investments since inscription are highlighted and the strong commitment to the property is reaffirmed;
- Legal mining is categorically excluded in the “commitment area” according to national and provincial legislation, including specific subnational regulations for the property, and said to not occur anymore. Strict management measures are reported to apply elsewhere;
- Hydropower development and associated infrastructure, including the West-East Electricity Transfer Project (WEETP) are reported to not have any direct impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) due to their physical location outside of the “commitment area”. It is further stated that all works require previous approval of applicable Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA);
- Stressing the unusual scale, complexity and limited experience, preliminary achievements are reported as regards the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) at the level of Yunnan Province;
- Stressing the extraordinary biodiversity importance of the property, the need for better wildlife protection is recognized and a combination of law enforcement, research and monitoring is stated to have resulted in “obvious achievements”;
- The State Party endorses the necessity of a systematic approach to an encompassing Management Effectiveness Assessment, requiring refinement of the legal, policy and management frameworks; multiple activities at various governmental levels are reported to this effect.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The recognition of linkages between poverty, development and nature conservation is welcomed, while noting that a spatial separation of conservation and development is increasingly regarded as simplistic, and that effective conservation requires the best possible realization of the social and

economic benefits of protected areas sustaining development and the integration of conservation into wider development planning.

Pressure on the property primarily stems from infrastructure development. Spatially separating conservation and development is not, in and of itself, an effective strategy to “harmonize the coexistence and relationship between development and the nature”, as the State Party puts it in one of its fundamental objectives. The highly significant modification of the river systems, which gave the property its name, amounts to a profound landscape change, with additional threats from large-scale water diversion programmes. While the projects may be located outside of the “commitment area”, the effects of disturbance, loss of connectivity, improved road access facilitating illicit activities and species invasions inevitably accompany large infrastructure projects beyond their spatial footprint. Besides, there are linkages between freshwater biodiversity and processes affected by dams and terrestrial ecosystems. Although located outside the property, the massive hydropower projects and the associated infrastructure objectively change the natural beauty and aesthetic importance of the valleys and their numerous important views, which contribute to the property’s OUV under criterion (vii), and cannot be restricted to selected elements of a landscape. Therefore, the visual impact of these infrastructure projects is considered to exert a direct negative impact on the OUV.

Given the serial nature of the property, considerations beyond individual protected areas are particularly pertinent. An increasingly comprehensive consideration of the linkages between conservation and development is recommended and the related broadening of stakeholder involvement is most welcome.

The reaffirmation of the State Party’s commitment to consider the property and its buffer zones off limits with regard to mining is welcomed, as are the State Party’s rigorous efforts to close illegal mining operations. In line with Decision **37 COM 7B.12** (Phnom Penh, 2013), it is encouraged that any mineral exploration and extraction that would impact the OUV of the property is explicitly included in this commitment. Given past challenges with illegal mining, comprehensive monitoring and law enforcement responses, as required, are strongly encouraged.

Wildlife monitoring and protection efforts are noted, although they focus on selected wildlife species in selected areas, rather than on biodiversity at the scale of the property. As for the requested management effectiveness assessment, the State Party mostly refers to management planning activities, which do not amount to a comprehensive approach at this stage. Despite laudable signs of progress, the same holds true for the requested SEA. While fully acknowledging the scale of the challenges and investment needed, further strengthening of all related efforts is strongly recommended, including as regards tourism planning.

Even though no specific information was provided concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party’s considerable efforts to translate a strong commitment into effective conservation and management on the ground in a large and complex serial property are acknowledged. Reconciling conservation and development according to the national, provincial and local circumstances is a long-term task and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to stand ready support the State Party as desired.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the State Party’s reaffirmation of its commitment to consider the property and its buffer zone off limits with regard to mining and the closure of mining operations incompatible with this commitment, and encourages the State Party to expand its commitment so as to explicitly encompass any mineral exploration and extraction that would impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to rehabilitate all closed mines within the property and its buffer zones;*

4. *Welcomes the progress achieved so far with the development and conduct of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and also encourages the State Party to consolidate and broaden these efforts and to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;*
5. *Commends the State Party on the conceptual recognition of poverty-environment linkages and its intentions of broadening stakeholder involvement, and further encourages the State Party to integrate the conservation of the property into wider development planning;*
6. *Reiterates its concern that the information provided on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) continues to be incompatible with the scale and complexity of the planned hydropower development that may affect the property, in particular given that additional pressure is likely to result from planned water diversion programmes;*
7. *Notes with concern that the increasing visual transformation of all three river valleys and the impacts of the hydropower and related infrastructure projects on connectivity between component parts of the property are likely to have a direct negative impact on the property's OUV;*
8. *Also reiterates its concern about the limited progress achieved with the implementation of all the recommendations of the 2013 mission, and urges again the State Party to strengthen its efforts in that regard, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and other partners as appropriate;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-2011

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 165,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

March 1992: IUCN mission; January 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March-April 2005, February 2008, January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Forced evacuation of Park staff)
- Illegal activities (Poaching and logging, Illegal cultivation)
- Crop production
- Financial resources (Slow release of funds)
- Invasive species
- Impact of tourism/visitor/recreation (Uncontrolled infrastructure development by local tourism groups)
- Military training (Attempts by paramilitary group to set up base camps in the property)
- Land conversion
- Water infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents> and additional information was submitted on 23 December 2016. The State Party provided updates on issues previously raised by the Committee, as follows:

- There was no poaching in 2015. However, two rhinos were poached in early 2016 and their total number within the property has dropped from 32 in 2015 to 28 in 2016. Special training has been provided to the staff since February 2016, in collaboration with NGOs. The populations of Eastern Swamp Deer and Buffalo are reported to be increasing;
- Shortages of front-line staff are compensated for by engaging Armed Home Guards, casual labourers and service providers. Several measures are being taken to improve staff morale, including trainings, study visits, and procurement of additional arms and vehicles;
- An eviction operation was carried out on 22 December 2016 in Bhuyanpara Range, clearing some 1,600 hectares of encroachment. As eviction notices were served in advance of the operation, people had left their homes and the operation is reported to have been completed peacefully;
- A livelihoods support programme is being implemented around the property, with the support of the joint IUCN-KfW (German Development Bank) Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme (ITHCP). In addition, 18 Eco-Development Committees have been established, which will receive funding from Assam Project for Forest and Biodiversity Conservation (APFBC) and the Government of India;
- Little additional information is provided on the use of fire for grassland management and on activities undertaken to control invasive species. Manual uprooting of invasive species is undertaken in addition to the burning;
- The funding situation is reportedly improving and the Manas Tiger Conservation Foundation received some funds, which can be used by the property as a stop-gap arrangement when fund release is slow.

The State Party submitted a request for a minor boundary modification of the property, which will be examined by the Committee under item 8B of the Agenda.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Poaching was previously reported to have decreased in 2014, and it is encouraging that no poaching was recorded at the property in 2015. Nevertheless, the killing of two rhinos in 2016 demonstrates that poaching remains a threat to the property, requiring constant attention. In that regard, the efforts undertaken to strengthen capacities of front-line staff, in terms of providing specialized training and procurement of sophisticated weapons, should be welcomed. Furthermore, the provision of

motorbikes and other motorized vehicles has enabled rangers to cover large parts of the property on patrols. Efforts to address shortages in front-line staff by engaging Armed Home Guards, casual labourers and service providers are also welcome, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to provide them with specialized training, in an effort to fill vacancies in the long term.

It is noted that an eviction operation to clear parts of the Bhuyanpara Range of encroachment has been completed peacefully. The State Party notes that some of the affected people will be recruited as Armed Home Guards and casual labourers, and habitat restoration work will be undertaken by an Eco-Task Force of the Indian Territorial Army. Further activities will include the erection of fences and boundary posts to prevent further encroachment. The livelihoods support programme that is being implemented with support of the joint IUCN-KfW ITHCP since October 2015 is further implementing a number of activities to reduce poaching and unsustainable dependency on natural resources, focusing on villages in the Bhuyanpara cluster. This has included the establishment of an Information Network, which has already resulted in the apprehension of illegal traders and poachers. Other activities implemented under this programme are aimed at reducing cattle grazing and, by engaging women in the programme, at introducing improved cooking stoves to reduce dependency on fuel wood.

The lack of information on invasive species, and the role of the use of fire in grassland management in controlling or potentially facilitating their proliferation, is of concern. It should be recalled that the survey report on endangered grassland fauna provided by the State Party in 2015 noted that the spread of some invasive tree species, such as *Bombax ceiba*, may be promoted by regular grassland fires. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to undertake or commission a detailed study on the use of fire for grassland management and its role in the proliferation or control of invasive species.

It is regrettable that the State Party of Bhutan has not yet provided a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Project. No information has been provided regarding the current status of this project. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Bhutan to provide further information about the status of this project and reiterate its request to the State Party to submit a copy of its EIA, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It should be noted that the EIA should include an assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party of Bhutan to consult with the State Party of India on this matter.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the successful reduction of poaching at the property in recent years, but considers that poaching remains a significant threat to the property, which requires continued high priority attention;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts to boost staff morale and address shortages in front-line staff by engaging Armed Home Guards, casual labourers and service providers, and encourages the State Party to provide them with specialized training, in an effort to fill vacant positions in the long term;*
5. *Takes note of the report that an eviction operation was carried out peacefully in the Bhuyanpara Range and also welcomes the activities undertaken by the State Party, including in the framework of the joint IUCN-KfW (German Development Bank) funded livelihoods support programme, in an effort to reduce dependency on the property's*

resources, ensure the participation of women, and seek long-term solutions to encroachment;

6. *Regrets that no further information was provided on the use of fire in grassland management and its potential role against the proliferation of invasive species such as Bombax ceiba, and reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake or commission a detailed study on this matter, in order to ensure that the use of fire does not further complicate the long-standing threat of invasive species in the property;*
7. *Also regrets that the State Party of Bhutan has still not provided to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Project; also reiterates its request to the State Party of Bhutan to provide a copy of this EIA as well as the information about the status of the project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines; and urges the State Party of Bhutan to consult with the State Party of India regarding an assessment of potential impacts of this project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

29. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 41,400

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2004: IUCN mission; March-April 2008: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January-February 2011: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2014: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Human resources (Security limitations)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development threats)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Exploitation of marine resources)

- Management systems/management plans (Absence of a co-ordinating agency, Absence of a finalized strategic management plan, Park boundaries not physically demarcated)Financial resources (Inadequate financing)
- Other climate change impacts (Nothofagus dieback)
- Illegal activities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents>. The report provides an update on issues previously noted by the Committee, as follows:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Habbema-Kenyam road has been revised to consider IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and has been submitted with the report. It was approved by the Governor of Papua Province in 2015;
- A review of the zonation of the property is on-going and will involve a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities. The revised zoning system will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is approved;
- Research into the causes of the Nothofagus dieback continues. Results obtained so far indicate that road construction is not likely the major contributing factor. Climate change and parasitic fungi are assumed to be the primary causes;
- Large-scale poaching has so far not been recorded at the property. Limited hunting by local people occurs to meet their needs for traditional use and cultural ceremony. Nevertheless, preventive measures have been increased, including routine patrols and awareness raising campaigns.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing review of the zonation of the property is welcomed, as is the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities. The current zoning system is very complex and it is recommended that the revised zoning system should be simpler to manage, while taking into account not only the traditional uses and values of local communities, but also the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is noted that no large-scale poaching has been recorded at the property. The State Party's efforts to nonetheless increase preventive measures are noted with appreciation, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to implement the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in its patrols, in order to enable an efficient use of limited resources, and to ensure that the data collected on patrols are consistent and easily interpreted by park management. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide further information on patrol activities, including how much of the property is covered, and which species are being monitored, recalling that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN previously raised concerns about the potential threat posed to the property by the trade in wildlife species from Papua Province.

The continued research into the causes of the Nothofagus dieback is also welcomed, and it is noted that road construction, although it may be a contributing factor, is not considered a primary cause, given that dieback is found to occur randomly and sometimes at great distances from any road. The study submitted with the State Party's report suggests that dieback may be a natural factor in the population dynamics of Nothofagus species, which nevertheless appears to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Given that the high-altitude forests of the property are dominated by Nothofagus, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to continue to monitor the dieback, but also the Nothofagus' natural regeneration, in order to further the understanding of Nothofagus population dynamics and their response to the impacts of climate change.

Considering the sensitive high-altitude ecosystems of the property, including the alpine peat lands around Lake Habbema, the construction of the Habbema-Kenyam road continues to be a significant concern. The revised EIA concludes that significant environmental impacts from the road might potentially affect the property. While it further states that the road is "environmentally feasible", the basis for that conclusion is not clear, as there is no discussion of the severity of impacts before and after implementation of the measures foreseen in the Environmental Management Plan of the EIA

document. With the EIA approved by the Governor of Papua Province in 2015, it is unclear what the current state of advancement of road construction is, and how any impacts are being managed. Recognizing that the property appears to already be seeing the impacts of climate change, the road is considered to pose a significant additional risk to the fragile alpine ecosystems of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess the current status of road construction and the effectiveness of the Environmental Management Plan in avoiding impacts on OUV and mitigating any residual impacts.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the on-going review of the zoning system of the property and urges the State Party to ensure that it results in a simpler, more manageable zoning of the property, taking into account the traditional uses of local communities and the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Notes that large-scale poaching has not been recorded so far at the property, encourages the State Party to implement the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for patrols in the property, to ensure an efficient use of limited resources and consistent data collection to inform park management;*
5. *Recalling previous concerns on the potential threat posed to the property by the trade in wildlife species from Papua Province, requests the State Party to provide further information about patrolling activities, including how much of the property is covered, and which species are being monitored;*
6. *Also welcomes the continued research on the dieback of *Nothofagus* species; also notes that, while road construction is considered a potential contributing factor, the major causes for the dieback are considered to be related to impacts of climate change; and also encourages the State Party to continue monitoring *Nothofagus* species in order to further the understanding of their population dynamics and response to the impacts of climate change;*
7. *Notes with concern that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Habbema-Kenyam road has identified significant environmental impacts which may affect the property, and considers that the construction of the road represents a significant additional risk for the fragile alpine environments of the property, which may exacerbate the impacts of climate change;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess the current status of road construction and to review of the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan and its effectiveness in avoiding and mitigating impacts on the OUV;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

30. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/>

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (River engineering, in particular dams, impeding or restricting fish migration, including major runs of salmonids);
- Aquaculture (Management of commercial fisheries, including coordination and cooperation with neighbouring State Parties);
- Hyper-abundant species (Excessive population density of Sika Deer affecting forest regeneration and vegetation more broadly);
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation, Management system/Management plan (Tourism and visitor management);
- Climate change and severe weather events (Anticipated effects of climate change).

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents>. The report responds to Decision **39 COM 7B.13** (Bonn, 2015) with a focus on the management of Steller's Sea Lion and ongoing efforts to optimize fish habitat by removing or adapting human-made structures in or across watercourses. The report can be summarized as follows:

- Individuals of Steller's Sea Lion belonging to the Asian group of the Western subspecies are seasonally present in and around the property. In response to predation on commercial fish stocks and damage to gillnets, the Hokkaido Fishing Zone Coordination Commission sets an "Annual Catch Limit" (ACL), under the supervision of the Fisheries Agency of Japan and the Hokkaido government, by calculating a "Potential Biological Removal" based on data from past seasons. The State Party has recently moved to determining a separate catch limit for the Nemuro Strait, which includes the property. Acknowledging limited data for the Nemuro Strait, the ACL was maintained at 15 individuals, whereas it was strongly increased elsewhere in Japan. The current ACL for the Nemuro Strait is to be revised according to the results of future estimates and studies. The State Party acknowledges serious challenges in terms of establishing reliable numbers. Conventional visual counts are "not appropriate", as visiting Steller's Sea Lion have changed their behaviour due to disturbance from commercial and sports fishing, tourism and non-lethal deterrence activities;
- Further review of options to restore the Rurika River is reported. The river is located centrally in the property and of extraordinary importance for salmon runs. Under the overarching goal to

eventually restore the river to “as natural a state as possible”, further dam modifications to optimize migratory passage and spawning habitat are under ongoing discussion and modelling, including partial and complete dam removal. The efforts attempt to balance conservation with asset protection and coastal fishing. Pending further analysis of and experimentation with alternatives, the removal of the bridge crossing the Rusha River is under ongoing discussion, to be detailed in future reporting. The Committee recommendation to invite an IUCN Advisory mission will be discussed in 2018.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The further analysis of the competition between Steller’s Sea Lion and commercial fisheries is welcomed. While fully appreciating the State Party’s concerns about Steller’s Sea Lion, it is noted that the current IUCN Red List status of the subspecies occurring seasonally in the property (*Eumetopias jubatus ssp. jubatus*) is “EN” (endangered, <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/17367725/0>), whereas the status of the overall species was changed from “EN” to “NT” (near-threatened) in 2012 (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/8239/0>). The Red List information highlights that the drastic population collapse of the subspecies by 69% from 1977 to 2007 remains poorly understood. In light of the endangered status, the massive, recent and unexplained population collapse and the State Party’s acknowledgement of methodological and data challenges, the commitment to an adaptive and precautionary approach is welcomed. Even though the IUCN Red List entry notes that there is “no evidence to suggest that intentional killing of Sea Lions currently occurs at any level that could be limiting recovery”, it is questionable whether selective culling of wintering individuals of a population known for wide dispersal across the territorial waters of several countries can be a tenable management approach, even from the narrow perspective of commercial fisheries. Further analysis of both the population dynamics of Steller’s Sea Lion and the multiple pressures on commercial fish stocks and investment in alternatives to culling, such as reinforced gill nets, are recommended. As far as possible, such efforts should be coordinated among all range countries. Furthermore, the reported behavioural changes of Steller’s Sea Lion in response to disturbance and deterrence raises questions in terms of impacts on other species.

Further discussion of, and investment in, restoring the naturalness of watercourses by partially or fully removing constraints to the extraordinary salmon runs in the property are also welcomed. Given that salmon migration is a vital element of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including as a major component of food webs and a complex ecological link between terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, it is strongly recommended that the Committee request the State Party to fully implement previous Committee decisions in that regard. In line with the most recent Committee Decision (**39 COM 7B.13**) which considered that the benefits of the three check dams for disaster risk reduction are outweighed by their impacts on the OUV of the property, it is argued that, especially on the Rusha River, every effort should be made to remove persistent constraints to explicitly recognized conservation values in the property. It should be recalled that impacts of river engineering are not restricted to migrating salmon, but affect river and coastal ecosystems in many ways, and that river transportation of sediments and woody debris are important ecological processes, while solutions are needed to ensure access for local resource users and emergency access. An IUCN Advisory mission, possibly in conjunction with IUCN’s Species Survival Commission, could considerably contribute to an informed decision-making process.

Finally, it should be recalled that the 2008 Reactive Monitoring mission recommended, among others, the consideration of the establishment of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) and the revision of the management plans (including the Multiple Use Marine Management Plan), and also identified challenges as regards Sika Deer, tourism and climate change. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to include an update of all five of these issues in its future state of conservation report.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.12** and **39 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation that the State Party is committed to an adaptive and precautionary approach to the culling of the endangered subspecies of Steller's Sea Lion occurring seasonally in the property, and urges the State Party to reconsider the culling of this species in light of significant data and methodological challenges in establishing reliable Annual Catch Limits;
4. Encourages the State Party to coordinate with neighbouring States Parties on the management of fisheries to ensure the protection of the Steller's Sea Lion population;
5. Notes that further discussion and analysis of options to remove persistent obstacles to salmon migration and spawning is ongoing and, recalling that the benefits of the three check dams on the Rusha River for disaster risk reduction are outweighed by their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, strongly urges the State Party to continue and strengthen its efforts to restore the property to the most natural state possible;
6. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to consider inviting an IUCN Advisory mission, possibly in conjunction with the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Salmonid Specialist Group, to provide further advice on this matter;
7. Requests the State Party to provide updated information on the revised management plans (including the Multiple Use Marine Management Plan), the management of Sika Deer, tourism, consideration of climate change and the analysis of the usefulness and feasibility of the establishment of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in its future report to the Committee, and to submit an electronic copy of the most recent Management Plans to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

31. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988 to 1989)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Plans to construct a road and railway through the property, Proposed infrastructures projects)
- Spread of invasive species
- Human-wildlife conflict (encroachment of wildlife habitats in the buffer zone)
- Lack of appropriate inter-agencies and inter-ministries consultation and coordination for development proposals

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/>

Current conservation issues

From 14 to 21 March 2016, an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property as requested by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015). On 17 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents>. The State Party provides the following updated information:

- The alignment of the proposed East-West Electric Railway has been adjusted to avoid crossing the property, and a feasibility study for this new alignment has been completed. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN if the alignment crosses the property;
- The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) has objected against the proposed Terai Hulaki Highway and requested a deviation of its alignment to avoid the boundaries of the property, but has also recommended that the Thori-Madi and Madi-Kasara sections, where the proposed Highway would cross the property, should have sky bridges;
- An EIA for the proposed Trivenidham-Balmikiashram suspension bridge has been initiated and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon its finalization, for review by IUCN;
- An EIA for the optical fibre network that would cross the property has been completed, and the proponent will implement an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) after the ministerial approval of the EIA;
- No permission has been given for the construction of any infrastructure crossing the property, which could otherwise negatively affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Four years of zero rhino poaching have been achieved between 2011 and 2015. No rhino poaching appears to have occurred in 2016 but this was not definitely confirmed at the time of reporting. The rhino population is reported to have increased from 503 in 2011 to 605 in 2015.

The State Party notes that the property is facing additional challenges from human-wildlife conflicts, invasive alien species and habitat degradation due to both natural processes and human-induced disturbances, including climate change.

Additional proposed road developments that would cross the property are also noted by the State Party, i.e. the Dumkibas-Tribeni road, the Madi-Balmikiashram road (the DNPWC fully objected to both), the State 3 proposed China-India Trade Link, and an upgrading of the Bharatpur-Thori road. For the latter, the District Road Office has called a tender for tarmacking the portion through the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for achieving at least four years of zero rhino poaching. However, local news reported that poachers killed a male rhino in early April 2017, which serves as a reminder that poaching continues to be a threat, and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to uphold its current anti-poaching efforts, in collaboration with the Nepali Army.

The positive developments reported by the State Party should be welcomed, including the realignment of the East-West Electric Railway to avoid the property and the initiation of an EIA for the Trivenidham-Balmikiashram suspension bridge. However, it is noted that no final decision regarding the alignments

of the Railway and the Highway appears to have been taken at the time of writing this report. The March 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommended that the Railway and the Highway should not be approved, given their likely significant negative impacts on the OUV of the property. Such concern remains until the State Party has unambiguously confirmed that the Railway and Highway have not been approved, along with their proposed alignments through the property. In that regard, the option to construct sky bridges on the sections where the Highway would cross the property is not considered an appropriate solution, as this would not address the impacts on the OUV of the property in relation to criterion (vii).

The mission expressed concern about a number of other proposed road developments, including those reported by the State Party, as well as another China-India Trade Link proposed by State 4 (following the same alignment as the Dumkibas-Tribeni road), and the Thori-Malekhu road, which would all cause a fragmentation of the property. Some of these proposed roads follow the alignments of old trade routes that have been closed for public use. The mission concluded that if any of the aforementioned linear infrastructure developments were to proceed according to their proposed alignments through the property, they would form a clear basis for the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to make an unequivocal commitment not to approve any new roads or reopen/upgrade old roads passing through the property.

In addition, the proposed Thori-Birgunj road, although not crossing the property, should be subject to a thorough EIA, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, as the mission considered that this road has a high potential to increase the demand for transportation of commercial goods along the existing Bharatpur-Thori road to destinations beyond Thori, hence generating an increase in heavy traffic through the property. Finally, the fact that the District Road Office has called a tender for tarmacking the Bharatpur-Thori road through the property is of concern. It is recommended that permits to upgrade the parts of the Bharatpur-Thori road, which are located inside the property and are in good condition, should not be granted.

The State Party did not provide further information on the construction of a very large new temple and a boarding school inside the property at Gajendra Dham, nor does it provide an update on the progress achieved with the demarcation of the property's boundaries, as recommended by the mission. The mission also made a recommendation to address encroachment of important wildlife habitats in the property, which would contribute to addressing the State Party's concerns about human-wildlife conflicts and habitat degradation. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to fully implement the recommendations made by the mission regarding these issues, and to provide detailed information on the progress achieved with the implementation of all of the mission's recommendations in its next report to the Committee.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the State Party for achieving at least four years (2011-2015) of zero rhino poaching at the property and, noting that poaching continues to be a threat, urges the State Party to uphold its current anti-poaching efforts, in collaboration with the Nepali Army, in order to ensure their continued success;
4. Welcomes the State Party's decision to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the alternative alignment of the East-West Electric Railway that avoids the property, and the initiation of an EIA for the Trivenidham-Balmikiashram suspension bridge, and requests the State Party to submit copies of these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as they are available;

5. Also requests the State Party to make an unequivocal commitment not to allow the development of the East-West Electric Railway and the Terai Hulaki Highway to proceed along their proposed alignments through the property, and not to approve any other new roads or reopening/upgrading of old roads through the property, including the proposed Dumkibas-Tribeni road, the Madi-Balmikiashram road, the State 3 and State 4 proposed China-India Trade Links, and the Tori-Malekhu road;
6. Considers that if any of the aforementioned road and railway developments were to proceed according to their proposed alignments through the property, they would represent a clear potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and a clear basis for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Notes with concern that the Chitwan District Road Office has called a tender for tarmacking the Bharatpur-Thori road through the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that any upgrading of the parts of the Bharatpur-Thori road that are located inside the property, including black-topping and widening, shall not be permitted;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to undertake a thorough EIA of the proposed Thori-Birgunj road, including an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, considering that this road has the potential to increase the demand for transportation of commercial goods to destinations beyond Thori, which would generate an increase in heavy traffic through the property;
9. Regrets that the State Party did not provide further information on encroachment at Gajendra Dham and in important wildlife habitats of the property, and on progress achieved in the demarcation of the property's boundaries;
10. Taking note of the recommendations of the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, requests moreover the State Party to fully implement all these recommendations in the best delay;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including detailed information on the implementation of each of the recommendations made by the 2016 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

32. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)

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

33. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005 to 2011)

Total amount approved: USD 29,240

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impacts of a road construction project in the World Heritage site)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging and forest crimes (poaching))
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a visitor Management Plan, Inadequate Sustainable Tourism Development Plan)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (Cable car project to provide access to the Son Doong cave)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents>, which provides the following updated information:

- Permission has not yet been granted for the proposed cable car project to access Son Doong cave, pending an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The Quang Binh People's Committee has agreed to undertake research and surveys to identify the best option. It is stated that construction of the cable car will only be conducted with the endorsement of the World Heritage Committee;
- Based on the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan 2010-2020 and on the General Plan for Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park to 2030, the Special National Heritage Plan 2016-2025 has been developed and is being implemented. This includes periodic environmental monitoring and impact assessment at tourist sites;
- Law enforcement efforts have been made to deter illegal exploitation of forest products, hunting, trapping and wildlife transport. The number of violations is stated to have been significantly reduced compared to 2015;
- Various awareness-raising and educational activities have been carried out with the involvement of local communities, as well as community development activities to reduce human pressure on the property's natural resources;
- In terms of biodiversity conservation, various activities have been undertaken, including among others the completion of the Forest Inventory Programme, the demarcation of the property's boundary, and the monitoring of three key species (albeit unspecified in the report). A list of mammal species and their distribution in the property is provided;

- Additional conservation issues include the high density and low conservation awareness of the local population, inadequate funding for conservation, impacts from climate change, and invasive species, in particular *Merremia boissiana*, which covers an area of 4000 ha and is stated to cause biodiversity loss and affect the whole ecosystem.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's efforts to enhance law enforcement, increase conservation awareness among local communities and improve the conservation of biodiversity in the property are welcome. Nevertheless, the information provided does not enable an assessment of the effectiveness of law enforcement, and indicates that illegal logging and poaching remain on-going threats. Likewise the data provided on wildlife species cannot be considered an adequate baseline for further monitoring, as it only indicates whether a certain species occurs and has been recorded in recent field surveys, without providing population estimates and trends. It is noteworthy that among many other species, the tiger, the Asian elephant, the Asiatic black bear, the saola and the wild dog have not recently been recorded, which is of concern in light of the decline in large mammal species sightings noted by the 2015 IUCN evaluation.

In light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the State Party to submit updated data on the population status of key large mammal species, and to provide data on the results of its law enforcement activities, including in both cases clarifications on the methods used, the frequency of patrols and the areas covered, visualized on maps.

It is unclear whether the Special National Heritage Plan 2016-2025 replaces or is complementary to the other aforementioned plans. Recalling the Committee's request to the State Party to revise the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan to include the property's 2014 extension and ensure that visitor use remains compatible with Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the relevant tourism planning documents for the property to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

The State Party's confirmation that the proposed cable car project to Son Doong cave, located within the strictly protected zone of the property, will only be implemented upon endorsement by the Committee is noted. However, the facts that Quang Binh People's Committee has agreed to surveys and that research is being undertaken in the area indicate that the project remains under consideration. It should be noted that the cable car would facilitate access to the property and would therefore likely increase visitor numbers along with potential negative impacts on the cave's sensitive environment, and could lead to an increasing pressure from illegal activities. Furthermore, cave tourism and trekking currently provide job opportunities for local communities, which would be reduced if the need for guides and porters is eliminated. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its concern about this project and its potential impacts on OUV, and request the State Party to permanently cancel plans of the cable car development.

The inadequate funding for conservation, the impacts of climate change and the invasive species noted by the State Party are worrying. In particular, the statement that 4,000 ha of the property (>3%) are covered by *Merremia boissiana* and that the whole ecosystem is affected by this invasive species raises significant concerns. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide further information on the measures taken to address these issues.

Finally, in light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess its state of conservation and impacts from poaching, illegal logging, and invasive species, and to provide advice to the State Party regarding sustainable tourism that is compatible with OUV, including at Son Doong cave.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to enhance law enforcement, increase conservation awareness among local communities and improve the conservation of biodiversity in the property;
4. Notes that the data provided indicate that poaching and illegal logging remain on-going threats and do not enable an assessment of the effectiveness of law enforcement and the status and trends of wildlife populations, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide:
 - a) Data on the results of its law enforcement activities to address illegal logging and poaching,
 - b) Updated data on the population status of key large mammal species, including the tiger, Asiatic black bear, Asian elephant, giant muntjac, Asian wild dog, gaur and saola,
 and requests the State Party to include clarifications on the methods used, the frequency of patrols and the areas covered, visualized on maps;
5. Reiterates its concern about proposals to construct a cable car to provide access to the Son Doong cave within the strictly protected zone of the property and the project's potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to permanently cancel plans for its development;
6. Notes with concern that a number of other issues are affecting the property, including inadequate conservation funding, impacts of climate change and invasive species, and also requests the State Party to provide further information on the measures taken to address these issues, in particular to address the threat posed by the invasive species *Merremia boissiana*;
7. Recalling its request to the State Party to revise the property's Sustainable Tourism Development Plan in order to include the 2015 extension of the property and ensure that an integrated and environmentally sensitive approach to tourism is adopted so as to guarantee that visitor use remains compatible with the OUV of the property, further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the relevant tourism planning documents for the property;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess its state of conservation, the impacts of poaching, illegal logging, and invasive species, and to provide advice to the State Party regarding sustainable tourism that is compatible with the OUV, including at Son Doong cave;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at - its 43rd session in 2019.

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

34. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (C/N 99ter)

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

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

35. Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica) (C/N 1356rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iii)(vi)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1356/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2007-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 10,450

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1356/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of the inscription of the property in 2016 (**39 COM 8B.7**):

- Insufficient integration of “satellite sites” linked to Maroon tangible and intangible heritage into the interpretation programme of the property
- Forest loss and degradation through agricultural encroachment, primarily in the buffer zone
- Insufficient human and financial resources, including in regards to the facilitation of community involvement
- Deficient legislation and policy to unambiguously protect the property from mineral exploration and extraction
- Invasive alien species (IAS) of both flora and fauna
- Wildfires
- Climate change

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1356/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1356/documents/> and provides response to the requests and recommendations adopted at the time of the inscription of the property, as summarized hereafter:

- Through negotiations between ministries, governmental agencies and licence owners, the boundaries of all current Special Exclusive Prospecting Licences (SEPLs) have been adjusted to be outside the boundaries of the property. This information is detailed in an accompanying map, an annex signed by the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and confirmed by a separate accompanying Statement on Mining signed by the Minister of Transport and Mining. While three SEPLs (573, 574 and 565) are now outside of both the property and its buffer zone, two exploratory licenses (SEPLs 566, 559) continue to overlap with the buffer zone, for which the State Party notes current scheduling of further discussions;
- The 2010-2030 Draft National Minerals Policy is reported to be in the process of being amended to consider heritage sensitive areas, including World Heritage Sites;

- A revision of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act is planned in order to strengthen its enforcement role in heritage protection;
- A new policy and additional legislation for the protected areas system is being prepared in an attempt to increase coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies;
- Financial resources received in 2015-2016 by the National Park, which encompasses the smaller property, amounted to JMD 100 million (appr. USD 780,000), of which 35 million were spend annually on core operations and the rest on recreational infrastructure, described as an investment in sustainable funding mechanisms;
- Joint patrolling has been intensified in order to address the issue of agricultural encroachment with over 445 patrols undertaken between February 2015 and August 2016. However, breaches continue to be reported. Parallel awareness-raising by rangers through 'interpretive enforcement' is reported to have resulted in increased community support; eventual boundary demarcation is expected to further add clarity;
- The State Party continues to implement various programmes under the 2015-2017 Work Plan, including multiple activities with, and partially led by, the Windward Maroon communities. A Cultural Heritage Preservation Programme is ongoing and includes many activities, e.g. sites surveying and monitoring, guidelines for trails and sites development and operations, preservation plan for maintenance and conservation of the tangible cultural heritage, training of Maroon Cultural Assistants, intangible cultural heritage research and inventorying, and cultural events;
- A new Management Plan for the period 2017-2027 was nearing conclusion at the time of reporting;
- A new five-year licence agreement between the governmental National Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) and the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT) was signed in 2016; collaborative management is further facilitated through multiple governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, including Windward Maroon councils' representatives.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The strong commitment of the State Party to the conservation and management of the property is expressed in management responses to all requests and recommendations made by the Committee in its Decision **39 COM 8B.7** (Bonn, 2015). The State Party has made laudable progress in reducing risks from future mineral exploration and extraction. However, as acknowledged by the State Party, further efforts are necessary to unambiguously secure the full protection of the property and its buffer zone in this regard. Other factors identified as concretely or possibly affecting the property at the time of inscription, including invasive alien species and illegal commercial extraction of wild biodiversity, also require full consideration in future management.

The results of increased patrolling and awareness-raising are encouraging and need to be sustained by a combination of law enforcement, continuous dialogue between rangers and local communities, further clarification and eventual demarcation of the boundaries and the best possible support to communities in the buffer zone with sustainable land and resource use systems. The various initiatives undertaken to strengthen the role of the Maroon communities in the governance and management of the national park and the property, including the participatory identification and documentation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, are a critically important reflection of the integrated approach in the mixed property and likewise deserve and require the strongest possible support. The announced finalization of the programme for Maroon Cultural Assistants and related training programmes starting soon, as well as the Cultural Heritage Preservation Programme, will be crucial elements of the governance and management.

Resistance to the pressure to build new trails indicates a strong awareness of the need to balance visitation and conservation of sensitive and vulnerable cultural and natural values. The most visited trails and areas, including "satellite sites", require adequate monitoring and, if needed, management responses.

Despite remaining issues about the adequacy of resourcing, it is considered that the main concerns of the World Heritage Committee are currently being addressed. It is however recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue with the finalization of the overarching legal and

policy framework, such as amendments to the Draft National Minerals Policy, the revision of the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act and the development and consolidation of national protected area system legislation and policy. It is further recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to set up a robust programme to support the livelihoods of the local communities through environmentally and culturally compatible options in order to prevent any threats from human activity to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The new 10-year Management Plan should be finalized as a matter of priority and its implementation should be supported by the provision of adequate financial and human resources.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Highly commends the State Party for the actions undertaken in response to the Committee's requests at the time of inscription regarding threats from agricultural encroachment, legal protection of the property against mining prospecting licences and/or operations, as well as integration of the "satellite sites" linked to Maroon tangible and intangible heritage into the interpretation and presentation programme of the property; and recommends that these actions be continued;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continue supporting the livelihoods of local communities through initiatives related to environmentally and culturally compatible options in order to prevent any threats from human activity to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and consider developing a long-term programme to this end;*
5. *Requests the State Party to finalize, adopt and implement:*
 - a) *The amendments to the Draft National Minerals Policy so as to secure protection of sensitive cultural and natural areas sustaining the OUV of the property,*
 - b) *The new overarching policy and legislation for the protected areas system,*
 - c) *The training programme for Maroon Cultural Assistants and the Preservation Scheme for cultural heritage,*
 - d) *The new Management Plan 2017-2027, underpinned by adequate human and financial resources, in close coordination and cooperation between governmental actors, civil society and the Windward Maroon communities, and fully considering the factors identified by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **39 COM 8B.7** as affecting the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

36. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)

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

AFRICA

37. Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon) (C/N 1147rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (iii)(iv)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1147/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2002-2016)

Total amount approved: USD 68,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1147/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 300 000€ from the European Union, through the Central African World Heritage Forests Initiative (CAWHFI) project, from 2016 to 2018.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of management structure to deal with the cultural values of the property
- Need for training of conservation managers
- Road Development
- Project of optical fibre
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1147/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1147/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The Gabonese authorities have taken the decision to amend the Lastourville / Mikouyi road project, which was to pass through the Lopé, in preference for a route along the eastern buffer zone of the property. However, this project has been suspended for economic reasons. The Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN), the authority in charge of the management of the property, is closely following the possible resumption of work and is awaiting the submission of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project;
- The optical fibre project was implemented in accordance with an ESIA validated by the ANPN. The fibre was installed, along the traced route, between February and April 2016 under the supervision of the ANPN teams;
- The project "Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative" (CAWHFI) will make it possible to recruit in 2017 an assistant, based in the property and responsible for cultural aspects. An ANPN / Ministry of Culture team has been trained and will be in charge of the valorization of the archaeological values of the property. CAWHFI will also enable the elaboration of the development plan for the historic buildings, the rehabilitation of the eco-museum, and will facilitate new prospecting of rock art sites;

- The management plan has been updated and validated by the Local Management Advisory Committee (LMAC);
- A new tool to assess the effectiveness of the management has been established and the emphasis has been placed on resolving the "human-wildlife" conflict. With funding from the African World Heritage Fund, 3.5 km of fencing has been installed to protect agricultural fields from wildlife, notably elephants;
- Research activities continue with partners such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The ANPN ensures surveillance despite the small number of guards, but it recognizes that the pressure on the property is minimal due to the absence of roads in the property. With new financial support from the European Union, the ANPN will recruit 40 guards in 2017/2018 to strengthen its surveillance.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party's decision to deviate the proposed Lastourville / Mikouyi Road to the north of the property should be welcomed. It is noted that the State Party is awaiting the results of the ESIA for the road project, without specifying whether it will take account of the historic complexes. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure that the ESIA includes a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties. This HIA should include a specific section that focuses on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the historic complexes of the property in accordance with Decision **39 COM 7B.32**.

As regards the optical fibre, it is noted that the installation work was carried out under the control of the ANPN. No negative impacts are mentioned in the report since the fibre was laid along the existing railway line.

The reactive monitoring mission of January 2015 identified a series of conservation measures for archaeological sites. Since 2016, and in the framework of the CAWHFI project, the World Heritage Centre is providing 300,000 Euros in support of the ANPN over a period of three years. This funding enabled the recruitment of an agent in charge of cultural heritage. Throughout the project, support will also help to draw up a plan for the development of the historical complexes and to carry out numerous activities for their delimitation and valorization (geo-referencing, sign posting, etc.). International assistance for conservation from the World Heritage Fund was approved in May 2016 and also enabled training on the management of the cultural aspects of the property.

As concerns the surveillance of the property, the mission noted that the lack of personnel did not allow for adequate surveillance and reaction to the threat of poaching. The information that the ANPN will recruit 40 guards over the period 2017/2018 with the support of the European Union is therefore welcomed. This workforce will contribute to the increase in the number of patrols and the strengthening of the management of the property. The adoption by the ANPN of the IMET management tool (Integrated Management Effectiveness) should be welcomed by the Committee as this methodology will make it possible to assess the effectiveness of the management of the property and to meet the conservation objectives. The management plan for the property has been updated and validated. It is noted that pressures on the property, such as poaching, remain relatively low and that the ANPN stresses the resolution of the "human-wildlife" conflict. Electric fencing around agricultural fields can help protect crops in order to improve the lives of local communities. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to monitor closely the impacts of these fences on the OUV of the property to ensure that they do not constitute a barrier to wildlife movement and ecological connectivity between the property and the surrounding forests. In addition, the ANPN will, with EU funding, strengthen the involvement of the Local Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) in the management of the property, which should also address the "human-wildlife" conflict.

It should be noted that the report does not contain data on wildlife populations and trends. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre and IUCN with this information, if available, to assess wildlife populations and trends in the property since its listing in July 2007.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the State Party's decision to deflect the project for the Lastourville / Mikouyi road towards the north of the property, but requests the State Party, prior to the resumption of the project, to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the historic complexes of the property to allow for a rigorous review of the proposed options, and to submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Takes note of the completion of the optical fibre work under the supervision of the Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN) and in accordance with the ESIA validated by the ANPN;
5. Commends the State Party for the progress made in the conservation and management of the property in accordance with the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission, and encourages it to continue their implementation;
6. Notes with satisfaction the financial support of the European Union through the Central African World Heritage Forests Initiative (CAWHFI) project, which has made it possible to recruit an agent in charge of cultural heritage to conduct activities for the protection and enhancement of the historical and archaeological complexes, as well as new guards to reinforce the management of the property;
7. Also encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for consideration by the Advisory Bodies, the plans for the development of the historical complexes when they become available;
8. Also takes note that poaching remains relatively low and that the State Party stresses the resolution of the "human-wildlife" conflict and also requests the State Party to monitor closely the impacts of electric fencing around fields to ensure that the ecological connectivity of the property with the surrounding forests is maintained;
9. Further requests the State Party to update wildlife monitoring data in order to assess the populations and trends of key species and to better monitor and respond to the impacts of poaching, and to transmit them as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by IUCN;
10. Further encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure the conservation of the property and reminds it of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre in good time of any major development projects that could threaten the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decision is taken, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

38. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iii)(vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 2014)

Total amount approved: USD 20,736

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 40,000 in 2016-2017 for COMPACT community conservation programme (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities: Need to improve presentation of cultural aspects, in particular the San rock art sites within the Environmental Centre
- Legal framework: Revisions, amendments and enactment of relevant laws pertinent to the property not yet finalized in Lesotho
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure, particularly a proposed cable car
- Management activities: Continuation of a cautious approach to conservation interventions on rock art sites (except where rock art would otherwise become very fragile and vulnerable)
- Need for research and documentation to establish an inventory of rock art in Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)
- Need for an assessment of the potential cultural contribution of other landscape elements to the cultural values of Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)
- Management systems/management plan: Need to strengthen the Lesotho heritage management, including adoption of a comprehensive management plan, annual budget allocation, risk preparedness and disaster response plan, monitoring indicators, staff training and transnational collaboration
- The buffer zones surrounding the property are not yet formalized
- Renewable energy facilities: Proposed development of wind farms in areas neighboring the Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/>

Current conservation issues

In December 2016, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- A joint Fire Management Plan has been developed and submitted by the States Parties;
- An Invasive and Alien Species Management Plan has also been developed for the South African component of the property and will be extended to accommodate the Lesotho component too;
- The State Party of Lesotho has submitted the Sehlabathebe National Park Oral History, the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Sehlabathebe National Park and the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey of the Sehlabathebe National Park (3 Volumes) to the World Heritage Centre; It has however not yet finalized the proposed Biodiversity Conservation Bill;

- Work to delineate a buffer zone south of Sehlabathebe National Park on the South African side continues. Consultation and engagement with stakeholders including local and provincial authorities is occurring so that integrated Development Plans and the Spatial Development Frameworks will provide for development in the buffer zones to be compatible with the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Staff from both Sehlabathebe National Park and the Lesotho Department of Culture have continued to be trained, including on specific programmes as part of the rock art research project carried out by the University of Witwatersrand;
- Consolidation of the Sehlabathebe National Park Cultural Heritage Management Plan and the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the South African component continues. Risk preparedness and disaster response planning will be incorporated within the joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The State Party of South Africa has developed Terms of reference (ToR) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed cableway, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and ICOMOS' Guidance on HIAs for cultural World Heritage properties. Consultation on the ToR has occurred with affected stakeholders and the State Party of Lesotho, but there has been no further progress on this project;
- In addition, through UNESCO's support, the States Parties are currently finalizing a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, and initiating a community conservation programme.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The significant progress achieved through the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey, based on thorough research and documentation, and the study on the potential cultural contribution of landscape elements, are to be commended. It would be appropriate for this work to be reflected in an updated statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property, as originally envisaged, and in the revised Maloti-Drakensberg Joint Management Plan.

Recognizing that substantial progress has been made with the training of staff, particularly through the above-mentioned rock art project, there is an ongoing need to build adequate capacity within the State Party of Lesotho to instigate a programme for the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations from this research and inventory work. In the meantime, the moratorium on non-urgent conservation interventions at the rock art sites should continue.

The high priority given to the development of the Biodiversity Conservation Bill (previously called the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill) was welcomed by the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7B.33**, but is yet to be completed. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party of Lesotho to expedite the development of this bill as a pressing matter.

Progress in the development of integrated management plans for fire, invasive alien species and cultural heritage, as well as stated provision of resources for their implementation is appreciated. However, recalling that the joint Management Plan for the property expired in 2013, and that the Committee had requested the States Parties to update it by addressing fire and invasive alien species (IAS) amongst others, it is unclear whether the joint Management Plan for the property has now been completed as a separate document to the fire, IAS and cultural heritage management plans. Should they now be developed as separate documents, it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to also submit the updated overall Maloti-Drakensberg Joint Management Plan, which considers management from both the natural and cultural perspectives, and the fire, IAS and cultural heritage management plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are available.

It is appreciated that a sustainable tourism strategy for the property is currently being finalised and that a community conservation programme will be initiated. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to conduct the necessary stakeholder consultations to finalize them, and carefully align each document with the overall management framework mentioned above. Similarly, on-going efforts to delineate the buffer zone in South Africa through a consultation process are noted. Recalling that local communities were consulted in the earlier stages, it is important that they continue to be involved in the decision-making processes and that progress is communicated in a transparent and fully inclusive manner.

The confirmed commitment of the State Party of South Africa to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed cableway project, in line with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS, is noted. It is important that the EIA and the HIA be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are available, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.18** and **39 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the reported progress by the States Parties on:
 - a) *Preparation of a joint Fire Management Plan and an integrated Invasive and Alien Species (IAS) Management Plan,*
 - b) *Completion of the Sehlabathebe National Park Oral History, the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Sehlabathebe National Park and the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey of the Sehlabathebe National Park,*
 - c) *Progress with staff training and the development of a joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan,*
 - d) *Finalization of a sustainable tourism strategy and initiation of a community conservation programme;*
4. Requests the States Parties to complete the above-mentioned documents currently underway through appropriate stakeholder consultations, carefully align them with the revised Maloti-Drakensberg Joint Management Plan for the property, and submit all documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
5. Welcomes the continuing transnational collaboration and efforts towards establishment of a buffer zone to the south of Sehlabathebe National Park, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to continue involving the local communities, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre a minor boundary modification to recognize the buffer zones, as soon as they have been formalized;
6. Commends the State Party of Lesotho for preparing the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey and the study on the potential cultural contribution of landscape elements and also requests the State Party of Lesotho to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a programme for implementation of the recommendations of the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey;
7. Further requests the States Parties to review the findings of these surveys, with a view to refining the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property and incorporating this information into the above-mentioned revised Joint Management Plan;
8. Encourages the State Party of Lesotho to continue with and further expand the training of staff within the Sehlabathebe management base and to expedite the development of

the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, and requests it furthermore to provide a copy of this bill to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it is approved;

9. Also reiterates its request to the States Parties that the moratorium on non-urgent conservation interventions at the rock art sites is continued, pending completion of staff training and instigation of a programme for implementation of the recommendations of the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey;
10. Also notes the State Party of South Africa's renewed commitment to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed cableway, including a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS and further reiterates its request to the State Party of South Africa to submit the completed assessments, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

39. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1989

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1979-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 290,386

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 50,000 from Switzerland, USD 35,000 from the Netherlands, USD 20,000 from the United Nations Development Assistance Plan (UNDAP) and USD 8,000 self-benefitting funds from the United Republic of Tanzania in 2013-2014; USD 50,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust in 2014-2015

Previous monitoring missions

April 1986: IUCN mission; April-May 2007 and December 2008: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Increased human population
- Poaching
- Spread of invasive species
- Tourism pressure
- Grazing pressure

- Governance of the property and community involvement
- Challenging situation of community livelihoods
- Potential impact of lodge development project on the crater rim
- Impact of project for upgrading Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road and access road to Olduvai museum
- Proposed museum building at Laetoli
- Condition and conservation of the Laetoli hominid footprints
- Geothermal energy development project (issue resolved)
- Management System/Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/39/documents/> and which presents progress in a number of conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- Reaffirmation that all development projects are directed away from the crater rim and will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS;
- An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and HIA to upgrade the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road, and the Access Road to Olduvai museum from gravel to hardened standard were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in July 2016;
- The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) has held open dialogues with key stakeholders including local communities on sustainable livelihood and wildlife protection to reduce the impacts of livestock grazing and increased population pressure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. A preliminary report on the situation analysis and tourism needs assessment is underway and will be integrated into the holistic sustainable strategy for the property;
- The Cultural Heritage Department within the NCAA will continue recruitment of staff in April 2017;
- The HIA for the proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum and associated facilities has been completed and submitted in July 2016 to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
- An international assistance request will be submitted to prepare a report on the footprints discovered in 2014 and to invite an Advisory mission in 2017;
- Two ranger posts have been established in poaching-prone areas, leading to the elimination of elephant poaching during the reporting period;
- Clarification that the 2011 Invasive Alien Plants Strategic Management Plan is still valid and the addition of *Parthenium hysterophorus* to the Plan has brought the species under control;
- The General Management Plan (GMP) is being updated to comply with the Committee requests, with an intention to share it with the World Heritage Centre for review.

On 31 January 2017, ICOMOS and IUCN submitted a joint analysis of the proposed upgrades of the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road and the access road to Olduvai museum, and on 9 February 2017, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre met with the State Party at UNESCO Headquarters to discuss the proposed project. Additional information was requested during this meeting, some of which were submitted on 24 April 2017, namely a map of the road with the project locations including borrow pits, and an analysis on the downstream impacts on the OUV of Serengeti National Park World Heritage property and the proposed mitigation measures.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The road surface upgrade project aims to reduce the maintenance costs of the road and demand for construction materials inside the property. With a heavy traffic volume of over 500 vehicles/day, the proposed upgrade may further increase traffic and give easier access for poaching.

A closure of the road to heavy commercial traffic could contribute to its reduced wear, and therefore to a less frequent need for resurfacing. In this respect, during the 9 February 2017 meeting, the State Party indicated that the Southern Bypass road outside of the property is being considered as an alternative road for commercial use and may ease traffic inside the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to put on hold the upgrading of the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road until the results of the feasibility study of the Southern Bypass road are available and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Should the feasibility study rule out the option of the Southern Bypass road, the ESIA/HIA should be extended to cover the entire road traversing the property and Serengeti as previously requested by the Committee. Nevertheless, in considering the proposed road upgrade, the identification of potential downstream impacts of the road on the OUV of Serengeti and their proposed mitigation, represent encouraging efforts on the part of the State Party, if effectively implemented. The submission of the map with locations of the borrow pits is appreciated but the ESIA/HIA for the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road currently does not assess the impact of the proposed opening of new borrow pits within the property or the implications of wetland restoration on wildlife migration patterns. The EIAs/HIAs of the extraction activity, dredging and deepening of water sources in proposed locations for sourcing of material for the upgrade of the road are additionally required.

Although the ESIA/HIA acknowledges impacts on cultural/archaeological attributes, which are likely to be permanent and irreversible, in particular in relation to Middle and Late Stone Age sites at Malombo, Meshili and Bashay sites in Olduvai Gorge, as well as along the length of the project location site, it does not include a detailed inventory of cultural/archaeological sites, whereby the impact could be greater than indicated. Further details are therefore needed on the location of cultural/archaeological attributes and ESIA/HIAs on the impact on these sites based on adequate preliminary survey work and documentation.

The State Party has achieved a commendable zero recorded cases of elephant poaching within the property during the reporting period. The State Party should take a dynamic and adaptive approach to anti-poaching, and continue to monitor the rate of population growth to ensure successful recovery of the species. It is appreciated that *Parthenium hysterophorus* has reportedly been brought under control through the addition of this invasive weed in the Strategic Management Plan, but no data have been submitted.

Given the growing interest for tourism developments, the State Party's reaffirmation that all development projects will be subject to EIAs and HIAs in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS is welcomed. The continuation of an open dialogue with local communities to address sustainable livelihoods and wildlife protection is also noted, and should continue to be used as an opportunity to review wide-ranging governance issues, feeding into the revision of the General Management Plan.

Although an HIA has been completed for the proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum and associated facilities, further progress with that project should await the findings and recommendations of the Advisory mission proposed by the State Party. However, as such a mission should advise on a number of issues, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to address conservation of the additional set of footprints discovered at the Laetoli site in 2014, advise on the proposed Laetoli Museum project, the road upgrade project and proposed tourism developments, as well as review progress in balancing conservation, livelihood and development needs.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.34, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Commends the State Party for achieving zero recorded elephant poaching within the property during the reporting period through the establishment of two new ranger posts*

in targeted poaching-prone areas, and encourages it to take an adaptive approach to anti-poaching and continue to monitor the rate of elephant population recovery;

4. Appreciates the inclusion of Parthenium hysterophorus in the Invasive Alien Plants Strategic Management Plan that has been implemented since 2011, and the progress reported to bring it under control inside the property;
5. Welcomes the State Party's reiteration that all development projects are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also welcomes the continuation of dialogue with the local communities, the progress made to update the General Management Plan (GMP) for the property, and the State Party's intention to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review;
7. Requests the State Party to ensure the Lodoare Gate to Golini Main Road is closed to heavy commercial traffic, and to put on hold its planned upgrade until the results of the feasibility study for the Southern Bypass road outside of the property are available and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party, should the feasibility study for the Southern Bypass road rule out that option, to undertake an EIA/HIA for the entire road traversing both the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Serengeti National Park World Heritage properties, which includes assessments of downstream impacts of opening new borrow pits and restoring wetlands, and of all known cultural/archaeological sites, before any decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse, and to submit this EIA/HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to provide advice to the State Party on the conservation of the additional set of footprints discovered at the Laetoli site in 2014, proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum, road upgrade project and proposed tourist developments as well as review progress in balancing conservation, livelihood and development needs;
10. Acknowledges the completion of the HIA for the proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum and associated facilities and further requests the State Party to ensure that further development of this project is postponed in order to take into account the outcomes of the Reactive Monitoring mission;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

40. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2002-2016)

Total amount approved: USD 49,956

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,367,014 was provided by the Government of the Republic of Albania within the framework of the 2006 project 933 ALB 4000 "Safeguarding and restoration of selected monuments within the World Heritage site of the Old City of Gjirokastra – Albania"

Previous monitoring missions

November 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- Illegal activities (Illegal construction dating from the late 1990s and later on)
- Lack of specific monitoring indicators
- Lack of programme of archaeological excavations
- Lack of detailed tourism development plan
- Management activities (e.g. restoration work at the Berat Castle)
- Management systems/ management plan
- Development projects within Gjirokastra (by-pass road and conversion of the bazaar into a pedestrian area)
- Other threats (Lack of adequate firefighting arrangements in the historic urban zones)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2015 and 21 November 2016 respectively, the State Party submitted reports, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>, responding to the recommendations and issues raised by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), as follows:

- *Legal framework:* In November 2016, the new draft Law "On Cultural Heritage and Museums" was transmitted to the relevant institutions and stakeholders for consultation. The regulations for the protection, integrated conservation and administration of the Historic Centre of Gjirokastra have been adopted in 2015. New general local plans are being prepared for both municipalities;
- *Controlling illegal constructions:* The National Council of Restoration has proclaimed an additional 332 buildings within the Historic Centre and buffer zone of Gjirokastra as 2nd category monuments. The numerical codification system and identification is an on-going process;

- *Risk management*: A number of training workshops have been carried out to continue the work on the preparation of the risk management plans;
- *Monitoring indicators related to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*: In the framework of International Assistance, an ICOMOS workshop was held in April 2016 to train site managers of World Heritage properties in Albania, including local government representatives, Institute of Cultural Monuments, Ministry of Culture and interested NGO's;
- *Rehabilitation project of Çerçiz Topulli Square in Gjirokastra*: The preliminary design proposal for the square, including a plan for underground parking, was provided in May 2016, and the comments provided by ICOMOS are currently being reflected in the final implementation project, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to its approval;
- *Gjirokastra Bypass Road and Bazaar project*: The decisions of approval from the National Council of Restoration of the design of the Bazaar restoration and the design of the Bypass Road as well as the removal of two houses from the list of cultural monuments of second category were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in September 2016. The State Party informs that the ICOMOS recommendations will be reflected in the final implementation project, following the approval phase of the National Restoration Council. In a letter dated 12 April 2017 the State Party further informed the World Heritage Centre that the bypass project was temporarily suspended until further evaluation of the needs and other possible options to regulate traffic within the property;
- *Rehabilitation project Berat Castle*: No further rehabilitation projects have received funding.

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

The efforts undertaken by the State Party to continue improving the conservation and management of the property, the maintenance and restoration works, carried out during 2015 and 2016, are noted. With regard to the draft Law "On Cultural Heritage and Museums", it is recommended that the Committee reiterate the urgency of its timely adoption and implementation.

The progress made with the development of monitoring indicators related to the protection of the OUV, during the workshop held in April 2016, is welcomed. Authorities and stakeholders are encouraged to proceed with their finalization and continue monitoring and controlling development. The workshop highlighted yet again the fundamental and urgent need for an overarching Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and appropriate control mechanisms for the property and its buffer zones, and beyond. Regrettably, no progress has been reported on the development of such IMP for the property, which has been repeatedly requested by the Committee. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to develop, as a matter of priority, an overarching IMP, including a risk management component with threat mitigation measures.

Currently, the protection of the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra is based on a building-by-building approach, not taking into account the socio-economic and cultural developments. In order to adequately respond and meet development and conservation requirements, it will be necessary to prepare an integrated urban conservation and development tool, which is to be an integral part of the overarching IMP. This must be based on a detailed survey and documentation of all buildings and environmental features that are located in the urban settlement and within its context, using, if necessary, the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011). This process requires strong inter-institutional cooperation in particular with the entities responsible for urban planning. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool, which takes into account these observations as part of the territorial administrative reform and the opportunity this tool offers for revising strategic documents, such as the general local plans. It is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to maintain the moratorium on new constructions within the property and buffer zones in place since 2013, until approval of the above-mentioned tools for protection and management of Berat and Gjirokastra.

The proposed rehabilitation project of Çerçiz Topulli Square, including construction of underground parking in Gjirokastra, has been reviewed by ICOMOS and is deemed to be well conceived and shall considerably enhance the condition of the historic monuments. Some minor recommendations have been provided to the State Party. The projects for the Bazaar restoration and Bypass Road in Gjirokastra have been professionally prepared. The Bazaar restoration will have no negative impact on the OUV of the property, however the use of historic materials for new windows and doors, as well as

the future use of these buildings should be carefully considered. As for the Bypass Road design, it should be noted that the World Heritage Centre has received a number of concerns from civil society as well as from the World Bank regarding the potential negative impact of the bypass on the OUV of the property. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consider carefully the ICOMOS technical review submitted in November 2016, to reassess the real needs and to revise the parameters (carrying capacity) in order to minimize potential adverse impacts of this development project on the property; and to provide to the World Heritage Centre the results of the previously requested Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the entire rehabilitation project at Berat Castle in case of future funding opportunities.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to continue to improve the conservation and management of the property, notably the maintenance and restoration works carried out in 2015 and 2016, and strongly encourages the State Party to proceed with the timely adoption and implementation of the draft Law “On Cultural Heritage and Museums”;*
4. *Welcomes the progress made with the development of monitoring indicators related to the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) during the April 2016 workshop, and also encourages the State Party and stakeholders to proceed with their finalization and continue monitoring and controlling development;*
5. *Recalling the fundamental and urgent need for an overarching Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and appropriate control mechanisms for the property and its buffer zones and beyond, regrets that, despite its repeated requests, no progress has been reported on the development of such IMP for the property and urges the State Party to develop, as a matter of priority, an overarching IMP, including a risk management component with threat mitigation measures, and to:*
 - a) *Develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool, based on a detailed survey and documentation of all buildings and environmental features in the urban settlement and its wider context, using if necessary the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), and ensure strong inter-institutional cooperation in particular with the entities responsible for urban planning,*
 - b) *Maintain the moratorium on new constructions within the property and buffer zones, until approval of the above-mentioned tools for protection and management of Berat and Gjirokastra;*
6. *Requests the State Party to take into consideration the review and recommendations provided by the Advisory Bodies concerning the infrastructural projects, and in particular, with regard to the Gjirokastra Bypass Road project, reassess the carrying capacity and scale in order to minimize potential adverse impacts of this development project on the OUV of property;*

7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) concerning the entirety of the rehabilitation project at Berat Castle, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Further encourages the State Party to continue to provide to the World Heritage Centre any development proposals before their official approval, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 September 2015, 14 March 2016, 3 June 2016, and 29 December 2016, the World Heritage Centre has received information from third parties regarding the state of conservation of the "Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg", in particular regarding the Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz.

On 1 October 2015, 24 March 2016, 6 June 2016, and 20 January 2017, letters were sent to the State Party, requesting information on the state of conservation of the property.

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/documents> and addresses the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- *Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz (Residential Buildings City Life Rehrlplatz)*: copies of the final plans of the project were submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 30 April 2016;
- *Development at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2*: a modified project was built and a report was sent to the World Heritage Centre on 2 June 2016;
- *Project at Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstraße / Bahnhofsvorplatz*: taking into account the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission, such as the reduction of the overall height of the building, construction work of a modified version of the project has already started;
- *Residential Building Priesterhausgarten*: following serious concerns expressed in the report of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission, the project has been halted;
- *Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad*: following the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission, the original project was abandoned, and a new project has been designed, dividing the building into two parts and reducing its overall height;
- *Revision of the Management Plan including provisions to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)*: the legal process to harmonize the boundaries of the property with the Protection zone I has been completed. The incorporation of provisions in the Management Plan to ensure adequate protection of the OUV is ongoing, however, the Management Plan is not completed yet;
- *Apparent lack of adequate legislative and planning mechanisms*: the State Party does not mention the development of a comprehensive urban land use plan, a draft of the recommended amendments to the protection framework was initiated, and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared regarding the Monikapforte project. Subsequently to the analyses of the HIA a revision of the plans has been initiated. Currently, the authorities of the City of Salzburg are waiting for the presentation of the revised plans. The complete project documentation will be immediately be provided to the World Heritage Centre once available.

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

Although the State Party submitted copies of the final plans of the *Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl-Platz project*, the World Heritage Centre continued to receive information from civil society concerning the potential impact of this project on the state of conservation of the property. ICOMOS recommended in a Technical Review (October 2016) that the latest version of these plans should be further revised before approval of the project, as the recommendations of the 2013 mission remain unfulfilled, such as reducing the height of the project.

Regarding the development at *Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2*, no clear information has been provided on whether the project has been reduced in height, nor if there have been any improvements as to the over-dimensioned openings of the loggias, as expressed by the 2013 mission recommendations.

Regarding the *Project at Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstraße / Bahnhofsvorplatz*, it is noted that construction work of a modified version of the project has already started. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more visual information on how exactly the recommendations of the 2013 mission were taken into account.

It is noted that, following concerns expressed in the 2013 mission report, the *Residential Building Priesterhausgarten* has been halted. It is however recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed with regard to any future developments of this project.

Regarding the *Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad*, it is noted that the original project was modified, following the 2013 mission. However, it is also recommended that the Committee request more information on how exactly the recommendations of the mission are taken into account.

Progress made with regard to the Management Plan is noted. However, it is regrettable that the Management Plan has not been completed yet. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee strongly encourage the State Party to complete it as soon as possible and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regarding strengthening the legal mechanisms for the protection of monuments in their setting, progress is noted, however, it is regrettable that no further progress has been reported concerning strengthening legislative and planning mechanisms through the development of a comprehensive urban land-use plan, as recommended by the 2013 mission.

It is noted that the results of the HIA concerning the new bypass at *Monikapforte* project has prompted the authorities to revise the project and updated project information will be made available to the World Heritage Centre; and it is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue carrying out HIAs for all major projects, which may threaten the OUV of the property, such as the development project at *Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2*, the project at *Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstraße / Bahnhofsvorplatz*, and the *Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad* project.

Difficulties in controlling developments, which can threaten the OUV of the property, will persist until adequate planning and management mechanisms are put in place. Progress has however been achieved since January 2017 in the revision of the local Protection Act for the Historic City of Salzburg which incorporates the core zone of the World Heritage property and now corresponds to the area of the Historic City, which as a whole is protected by the local protection act.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.76, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Noting that the final plans concerning the proposed new development at Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz (Residential Buildings City Life Rehrlplatz) were submitted to the World Heritage Centre, requests however the State Party to further revise these plans before approval of the project, as long as the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission remain unfulfilled;*
4. *Also noting that a modified version of the development project at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2 has already been built, regrets* that the State Party did not provide more detailed information with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission;
5. *Further noting that the construction work of a modified version of the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project has already started, also requests* the State Party to provide more information on this project as well as details on the modified project of the Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad, with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any future developments regarding the halted Residential Building *Priesterhausgarten*;
6. *Reiterates its concern about the apparent lack of adequate legislative and planning mechanisms to protect the property from the various proposed urban and infrastructure developments and further requests* the State Party to:
 - a) *Develop a comprehensive urban land use plan, which includes provisions for protection mechanisms and regulatory measures to ensure the adequate protection and control of the property and its landscape setting,*
 - b) *Strengthen legal mechanisms for the protection of monuments in their setting,*
 - c) *Carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for projects, which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, such as the*

development project at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2, the project at Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstraße / Bahnhofsvorplatz, and the Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad project;

7. *Notes that the legal process to harmonize the boundary of the property with the Protection zone I has been completed and strongly encourages the State Party to complete the revision of the Management Plan, including provisions to ensure adequate protection and conservation of all attributes, which convey the OUV of the property, and its setting and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

42. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

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

43. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009-2016

- Lack of a management mechanism
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted using unacceptable methods

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1997-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 96,160

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: Funds-in-Trust. Georgia-UNESCO Agreement: Cultural heritage advisory service to the NACHP (National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia) to be implemented under the Third Regional Development Project (RDP III). Total budget: USD 250 000

Previous monitoring missions

November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, and April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank Advisory mission and Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015, February and December 2016: World Heritage Centre technical assistance mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management mechanism (issue resolved)
- Lack of definition of the unified buffer zone (in progress)
- Lack of Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta (in progress)
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Natural erosion of stone
- Loss of authenticity during previous works carried out by the Church
- Inappropriate urban development within a sensitive historical environment (under control)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents>. A request for a minor boundary modification was also submitted in December 2016. The State Party provided information on the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) Sectional Replacement (SR) Project and the rehabilitation project of a fragment of the Western Wall of the Defense Wall at Svetitskhoveli Cathedral. The progress made with the implementation of the decision adopted by the Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) is reported as follows:

- *Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP)*: The submitted document continues to be revised and improved according to recommendations received in December 2016 by the World Heritage Centre technical mission. In the scope of the tripartite agreement between the State Party and UNESCO, and the World Bank (Georgia/UNESCO Agreement) technical assistance is being provided to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation (NACHP) regarding the revision of the ULUMP and development of the Urban Master Plan, and reinforcement of capacities for town administrators and all relevant stakeholders;
- *Moratorium on urban development*: The moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta has been prolonged until 31 December 2018 with the condition that a full set of town planning documentation including the ULUMP and Historical-Cultural Base Plan be elaborated;
- *Strategic spatial planning*: Further work is needed, and the December 2016 World Heritage Centre mission provided assistance with setting up a revised action plan and in defining the cultural protection zones for the town of Mtskheta;
- *Governance, planning and management*: Since January 2017, the Mtskheta City Municipality has established a Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning in charge of the technical elaboration and implementation of the ULUMP. Its work is overseen by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the main stakeholders (Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, NACHP, the Patriarchate, etc.);

- *Stakeholder involvement:* The Steering Committee ensures sharing and communication between all stakeholders as well as awareness raising to promote participation and involvement of the public;
- *Jvari site:* the NACHP has developed a guiding document for Conservation Plans for all components of Mtskheta. The document includes assessment of implemented conservation and identifies needs for long-term conservation;
- *Minor boundary modification:* The unified buffer zone, including the panorama along the rivers and mountain setting was adopted by Decree of the Minister of Culture in June 2016. The proposal for a minor boundary modification of the unified buffer zone was submitted to the World Heritage Committee;
- *Mtskheta Archaeological Museum:* The conservation and management of the collection and the new building project are ongoing.

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

Overall progress with the implementation of the recommendations has been achieved by the State Party. Regarding the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP), it was rejected by the Municipal Council as it didn't provide the adequate land use analysis and zoning. It will be revised in line with the recommendations provided by technical advisory missions in the framework of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement and further progress is expected with the elaboration of a full set of town planning documentation (Master Plan) and an improved regulatory framework applicable to the whole City of Mtskheta. The Committee may welcome the extending of the moratorium and encourage the State Party to develop a detailed operational workplan for the revision and finalisation of the ULUMP and launching of the Master Plan.

The State Party should be encouraged for the progress made and the ongoing process to create comprehensive measures and joint steering mechanisms between major stakeholders to eliminate the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); however, the situation is still fragile. Specifically in relation to the Master Plan, the World Heritage Centre stresses the importance for the State Party to define feasible procedures for strengthening the working relationship between all stakeholders concerned, in particular the National Agency (NACHP), the Department of Spatial Planning and the city of Mtskheta.

In accordance with the recommendations elaborated in the scope of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement in January 2017, the Mtskheta City Municipality Council has established a Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning and the Steering Committee. This is a further positive step towards ensuring adequate planning, efficient management and decision-making.

The Memorandum of Collaboration on Cultural Heritage issues, signed between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, provides an important tool for coordination of actions and cooperation between the two institutions.

It is recommended that the Committee invites the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, before any tender is launched or decision taken.

Detailed analysis and recommendations of the projects on the WREP SR pipeline, the rehabilitation of the fragment of the Western Wall of the Defense Wall at Svetitskhoveli Church and the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum have been provided to the State Party. Therefore, the State Party should review the projects in question according to the recommendations provided.

The proposed unified buffer zone is certainly a positive step. However, additional and detailed analysis of the current situation and trends within the historic core of the city and the surrounding areas should be undertaken, as part of the process of the development of the Urban Land Use Master Plan and Master Plan, as well as in line with the technical assistance recommendation provided within the framework of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement. A minor boundary modification for the buffer zone of the property will be examined by the Committee under item 8B of its Agenda at its 41st session.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 40th session, has been formally invited by the State Party and should be undertaken before 31 December 2017.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.17**, **39 COM 7A.41** and **40 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations, notably improvements to the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP);
4. Also welcomes the progress made by State Party in establishing a Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning and Steering Committee;
5. Takes note of the tripartite agreement signed between the State Party and UNESCO, and the World Bank (Georgia/UNESCO Agreement,) to provide technical assistance in the elaboration of the Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta;
6. Encourages the State Party to develop a detailed operational workplan and procedures for the revision and finalisation of the ULUMP and development of the Master Plan, as well as ensuring stakeholder involvement and proceed with the finalisation and implementation of the ULUMP and Master Plan, as a matter of priority;
7. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations and advice of the technical assistance reports provided in the framework of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement;
8. Requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, any projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, before any tender is launched or decision taken to implement projects;
9. Recommends that the State Party reviews the projects, such as the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) sectional replacement, the rehabilitation of the fragment of the Western Wall of the Defense Wall at Svetitskhoveli Church and the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum collection conservation and new building finalisation, according to the recommendations provided;
10. Takes note with satisfaction that the State Party has submitted the proposal for a minor boundary modification of the unified buffer zone;
11. Also takes note that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission has been invited by the State Party and also requests that it be undertaken **before 31 December 2017**;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

45. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2012: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Noise pollution and traffic increase
- Potential impacts of the Rhine crossing project
- Lack of a Master Plan for the sustainable development of the property
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Input of excess energy
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Renewable energy facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/>

Current conservation issues

On 10 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/documents/> and provides information on the implementation of requests of the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), as follows:

- *Appraisal for Rhine crossing*: Planning for a permanent Rhine crossing at St. Goar in form of an infrastructure project has been resumed by the regional parliament. Spatial planning procedures are being prepared and visual impact studies, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and traffic surveys will be updated and re-conducted. UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies will be consulted in the process. The Master Plan will be amended to include the river crossing and other infrastructure projects;
- *Sight line studies and wind turbine policies*: The Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate has amended the current Regional Development Plan according to the findings of sight line studies, to the effect that development of wind turbines in a World Heritage property and its buffer zone are not permitted. The Federal State of Hesse adopted special regulations concerning wind energy, defining World Heritage properties as non-priority areas for wind energy. Wind energy is generally permitted in and adjacent to buffer zones, but consideration is given on a case-by-case basis. The Complementary Plan on Renewable Energies includes a priority area within the buffer zone north of Lorch. An application for approval of a *wind farm in Lorch-Ranselberg* has been filed. Two studies regarding environmental assessments and sight line analysis for the planned wind farm project were submitted by the State Party on 10 November 2016, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The State Party expressed concern regarding the differing conclusions, noting that the study commissioned by the investor still does not accord “in terms of

methodology, quality of implementation, or the assessment criteria” with the one commissioned by the Federal State of Rheinland-Palatinate;

- *Noise reduction from trains:* The Federal Government has declared its intention to significantly improve noise reduction by banning freight trains not fitted with low-noise tracking system as of 2020. In addition, an application has been prepared to develop an alternative route outside of the valley to be included in the Federal Transportation Infrastructure Plan and the Federal Railway Development Act;
- The *Master Plan* and the *Management Plan* will be consolidated into one document upon their revision, setting out the governance processes, policies and measures for future development of the property as suggested by the Committee;
- A revised project proposal for the *Holiday Resort Sankt-Goar-Werlau* has been prepared, taken into account the issues raised and recommendations provided by ICOMOS, relocating the hotel to a non-critical area and reducing the scale of the hotel building. A visualisation will be submitted;
- The project proposal for the *Loreley Landscape Park* on the Loreley plateau, chosen through an EU-wide architectural competition, is considered compatible with World Heritage status and is closely followed by representatives and experts of relevant national authorities and heritage organizations;

The report provides further information on past and future projects and activities, with a positive impact on the property, such as Germany's horticultural shows 2008-2011 (the next show, on the Loreley Plateau in 2031, is currently under consideration) and youth projects for World Heritage.

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

The information provided on the resumption of planning for the permanent river crossing is noted and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to closely involve the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, at the earliest possible stage, in the development of options appraisals, which should be undertaken in a wide regional, strategic context.

The commitment of the State Party to reduce noise levels from trains in the property is positive, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to prepare and adopt relevant legal regulations for railway noise reduction.

The two Federal States of Rhineland-Palatinate and of Hesse have very different approaches concerning wind turbines and renewable energy, adopting different policies and regulations concerning wind farms and turbines within World Heritage properties and their buffer zones. It is therefore recommended that the Committee note with concern the policies and regulations adopted by the Federal State of Hesse. The Upper Middle Rhine Valley is one entity and therefore common regulations and policies should be adopted for this property. There is also a need for common criteria for wind farm assessments and for independent and impartial entities to be chosen to carry these out. This concerns in particular the proposal for a wind farm on Ranselberg hill near Lorch. ICOMOS reviewed two environmental assessments and sight line studies, and concluded that the wind turbines have a very high adverse visual impact on the property due to their visibility from several different points within the boundaries of the property.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to send the revised plans for the Holiday Resort Sankt-Goar-Werlau to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are made.

Progress on the revision of the Master Plan and the Management Plan is noted with satisfaction as well as the intention to consolidate them together in a single document.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.78, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Noting the resumption of exploratory planning for a permanent river crossing, requests the State Party to closely involve the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, at the earliest possible stage, in the appraisal of options undertaken in a wide regional strategic context, and before any decisions are taken;*
4. *Welcoming its commitment to reduce noise levels from trains in the property, encourages the State Party to prepare and adopt relevant legal regulations for railway noise reduction;*
5. *Notes with concern the policies and regulations adopted concerning wind turbines within World Heritage properties and buffer zones by the Federal State of Hesse and urges the State Party to work towards common policies and regulations to exclude wind farms from World Heritage Properties and their buffer zones; and strongly encourages the State Party to develop common rules and criteria for the assessment of the impact of wind farms on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zones;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to halt the project for the installation of a wind farm on Ranselberg hill near Lorch, which has a very high adverse visual impact on the OUV of the property, due to its visibility from different points within the boundaries of the property;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to provide revised plans for the Holiday Resort Sankt-Goar-Werlau to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and before any decisions are taken;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the revised and consolidated Management Plan and Master Plan, prior to their consolidation into one document, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

46. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add (more time required for the review of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

47. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy) (C 829)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 183 487: Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

December 2010 and January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- A series of structural collapses at the property
- Building projects in the vicinity of the property
- Management system
- Inadequate restoration and maintenance; lack of skills
- Inadequate funding
- Ineffective drainage systems
- Visitor pressure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, as well as the completed Management Plan. Both documents are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report as follows:

- Progress has been reported with the extension of the *Grande Progetto Pompei* (GPP) and the allocation of financial resources. Works to safeguard and restore the five buildings have been commissioned and are partly ongoing;
- Most legal issues have been resolved, allowing for the consolidation works of the Schola Armaturarum, and the visitor access to the Antiquarium was opened in April 2016. The dispute concerning the completion of the store building at Porta Nola has yet to be resolved;
- Further progress has also been made with the extensive drainage works, namely in the Regions III and IX which are nearing completion;
- Mitigation measures for hydrogeological risks in the Regions I, III, IX, IV and V will commence in the first quarter of 2017;
- The functions of the General Project Manager and activities of the support structure are maintained until 31 January 2019;
- The project for the new visitor centre building is being developed and will be provided to the World Heritage Centre. The design takes into account the archaeological surroundings and the discovery of the sea-facing facade of the Villa A at Oplontis.

A request for a minor boundary modification, including a proposed change to the buffer zone, was resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with the recommendations of the Decision **38 COM 8B.51**. It was considered incomplete by the Secretariat, who advised the State Party on a future submission.

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

The State Party's efforts to address the conservation and management issues have led to substantial improvements of the property. Overall, the Management Plan has many excellent features and is an improvement on the previous draft seen by ICOMOS. However, there are still some major gaps in its content. In particular, the management of the property is not linked to the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) through use of the draft Statement of OUV or the identification of attributes. There is a lack of detail about the condition of the components and the Action Plan or programme of works need further improvement. The Management Plan also identifies some issues relating to the management structure for the property.

The creation of an independent Herculaneum Archaeological Park at first sight appears to weaken the overall management of this serial property, and clarification is needed on how effective coordinated management will be achieved. It would also be helpful to have more clarification on how coordination is achieved between the site managers and the Great Pompei Unit, which is responsible for what happens in the buffer zone and more widely. A clear statement on where responsibility lies for the implementation of the Management Plan is highly desirable.

While the prolongation of the GPP until 2019 and the extensive financial contributions are very much welcome, it is essential that beyond 2019 long-term resources, both human and financial, are identified and ensured to adequately deal with the continuing needs for conservation and visitor management at the property. The inclusion of the five threatened buildings within the GPP is noted, and it is hoped that consolidation and restoration works progress according to schedule. Justifiably, the structural stability of the buildings at the property receive priority treatment, however, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to develop a programme for long-term conservation and restoration of the decorative surfaces.

The State Party has resolved almost all legal issues and the necessary safeguarding, and restoration works at Schola Armaturarum have been commenced. It is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to continue to resolve the remaining issue at Porta Nola, in order to complete the conservation of the major storage building.

Works to address the drainage issues in Regions III and IX have almost been completed. It is recommended that these works be carefully monitored and that the mitigation measures in the Regions I, III and IX, IV and V of the archaeological site be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is further recommended that the design for the service building at Villa A of Torre Annunziata be sent as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to address the conservation and management issues that have led to substantial improvements of the state of conservation of the property;
4. Noting the improvements made to the Management Plan, requests the State Party to address the following issues, which need further clarification, detail and further improvement:

- a) *The linking of the management of the property to the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),*
 - b) *The condition of the components and the Action Plan or programme of works,*
 - c) *The coordinated management between the site managers and the Great Pompei Unit and the responsibility for the implementation of the Management Plan;*
5. *Welcomes the prolongation of the Grande Progetto Pompei (GPP) until 2019 and the extensive financial contributions, and also requests the State Party to ensure that both human and financial resources are identified beyond 2019, to adequately deal with the continuing needs for conservation and visitor management at the property;*
 6. *Also welcomes the consolidation and restoration works of the five threatened buildings within the GPP, and encourages the State Party to develop a programme for long-term conservation and restoration of decorative surfaces;*
 7. *Also encourages the State Party to continue to resolve the remaining issue at Porta Nola, in order to complete the conservation of the major storage building;*
 8. *Notes the progress reported on drainage works, and further requests the State Party to carefully monitor the mitigation measures foreseen in the Regions I, III, IX, IV and V of the archaeological site and provide results to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
 9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the design for the service building at Villa A of Torre Annunziata, as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
 10. *Requests moreover the State Party to provide more detailed information and clarifications on the coordinated management of the Herculaneum Archaeological Park, the Great Pompei Unit and the Torre Annunziata;*
 11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination of the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

48. Venice and its lagoon (Italy) (C 394)

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

49. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)

See Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add (information received late)

50. Diyarbakir Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Concern over the situation prevailing in Diyarbakir

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 June 2016, the World Heritage Centre sent to the State Party the information received from third parties regarding the state of conservation of the property, in particular regarding the destruction in the Surici District, within the buffer zone of the property.

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/> and addresses the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee in its Decisions **39 COM 8B.32** and **40 COM 7B.60**, and provided information on the state of conservation on Surici District as follows:

- The restoration process of the City Walls and the Inner Castle are under protection with specific regulations and all construction and conservation work at the Buffer Zone 1 (Surici District) will only be applied upon the Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Heritage;
- Activities have been conducted in order to raise awareness about the protection of the historical and cultural richness of the property;
- The Site Management Scientific Commission has started work on the determination and improvement of the hydraulic system, agricultural activities as well as soil and water quality in the Hevsel Gardens;
- A task force, which was established in 2016 to assess the damage to the property and its monuments, concluded that there exist no major damages to the property in areas such as Diyarbakir Fortress, İç Kale (the citadel) and Hevsel Gardens;
- Temporary conservation measures such as the placement of concrete blocks in front of the walls and bastions, which were undertaken for security reasons in line with a decision by the Diyarbakir Regional Board of Conservation of Cultural Heritage, have caused no damage. The blocks will be removed at a later stage;
- In Surici District, documentation, project work and restoration related to the damaged monuments is still ongoing under the supervision of a newly created scientific commission and the Site Manager. It will be completed as soon as the security situation allows it.

In the report, the State Party identifies several other current conservation issues, which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), such as the amendment to the law

regarding the repair of non-movable cultural properties under private ownership, and the urban design project for Cevatpaşa Neighbourhood İç Kale Valley.

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

According to information received from third parties on the situation, the World Heritage property and its buffer zone have been exposed to widespread attacks and consequent security operations in the past two years. As such, it has been reported that the historic structures of the property, and in particular a number of historic buildings and monuments in the buffer zone suffered serious damages.

In its report, the State Party provided information on the state of conservation on Surici District within the buffer zone, which included emergency measures to address damages. It is encouraged that the State Party continue the work related to rehabilitation of the Surici District.

The security situation in Diyarbakir remains challenging for heritage preservation. Notwithstanding these difficulties, some progress has been made with small-scale conservation initiatives. The State Party's initiatives in ensuring that the OUV of the property - including authenticity and integrity - is sustained, are to be noted.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to safeguard the property to prevent further damage, and to submit a Master Plan for restoration and rehabilitation activities for all buildings within the property, which should include information and documentation on technics and materials. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design projects such as "Urban Design Project for Cevatpaşa Neighborhood İç Kale Valley", which may threaten the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite, when the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and propose appropriate measures to be taken.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined* Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. *Recalling* Decisions **39 COM 8B.32** and **40 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in previous Decisions, as well as the initiatives taken by the State Party to protect the property and its buffer zone and *underlines* the importance of preventing any further damage to the property;
4. *Encourages* the State Party to continue with work related to rehabilitation of Surici District within the buffer zone,
5. *Requests* the State Party to initiate the elaboration of a Master Plan for restoration and rehabilitation activities within the property, which should include information and documentation on techniques and materials;
6. *Also requests* the State Party, to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design projects such as "Urban Design Project for Cevatpaşa Neighborhood İç Kale Valley", which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;

7. *Further requests the State Party to invite, when the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and to propose appropriate measures to be taken;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

51. Ephesus (Turkey) (C 1018rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1018/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1018/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Insufficient legislative protection of the buffer zone
- Incomplete Management Plan
- Need to assess the management planning proposals, including visitor management, infrastructure, landscaping, and transport/coach park

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1018/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1018/documents/>, informing that:

- Progress has been made to achieve the highest level of legislative protection for the entire buffer zone, and it is anticipated this would be completed by the end of 2016;
- The normal cycle for revising the management plan is every 5 years after approval, with the next cycle to be completed in 2019. It also advises that registration of the conservation status of the entire buffer zone, due for completion at the end of 2016, will enable studies to commence for revising the management plan;
- There are no major restoration, alteration and/or new construction projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) either within the property or buffer zone;
- With regard to the cable car project, a range of options for the alignment have been considered, many have been rejected by the regional conservation council, because of their impact on the

property. An alignment outside the property and buffer zone is being considered for approval by the Ministry for Forestry and Water Affairs, which has instructed the relevant company that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken for the project in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties (2011). Project details and the HIA will be provided to ICOMOS when available.

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

The reported progress in achieving legislative protection for the entire buffer zone, and the commitment to revise the management plan are welcome. It is however recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide confirmation of this legislative protection.

However, the lengthy delay in revising the management plan is unfortunate. These revisions are to include the research and conservation programmes for the overall property, with provision for findings to be integrated into future management, education and interpretation, as well as the extension of the monitoring system to relate to the inventory/database of the property. The earliest possible revision of the management plan should be encouraged, and the date of completion confirmed.

Information about the cable car project is also welcomed, in particular the choice of an alignment outside of the property and buffer zone. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the details of the project and the results of the HIA, as soon as they are available, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and before any irrevocable decisions are taken about this project.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.37** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Requests the State Party to confirm that the legislative protection sought for the entire buffer zone has been achieved;
4. Recommends that the State Party take into account the matters raised in Decision **39 COM 8B.37** in the earliest possible revision of the management plan, and also requests the State Party to confirm the planned date for completion of this revision and to submit the revised version of the management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it becomes available;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit details about the cable car project as well as the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of this project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they become available, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, well before any irrevocable decisions are taken about the construction of the cable car;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

52. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

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

53. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527bis)

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

54. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1215)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Resumption of mining activities
- Inappropriate development (particularly a new supermarket built at Hayle Harbour)
- Potential impact of new development projects
- Improvements to the planning tools and approval processes not yet completed and implemented

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215>

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party provided information to the World Heritage Centre on improvements to the planning tools and state of conservation of the site, and on 29 November 2016, a state of conservation report. Both documents are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents>. The report addresses the Committee's requests and provides information on:

- *Improved planning tools, development guidance, working practices, decision-making processes, Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and project application appraisal, specifically:*
 - Production by the three local authorities, in partnership with Historic England, of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD, adopted by Cornwall Council, will

be used as interim advice by the other local authorities pending adoption, following revision to the applicable Local Plans,

- Appointment of a World Heritage Site Planning Advice Officer (PAO) to advise local authorities and other relevant parties,
 - Creation of a new working practices protocol between Cornwall Council and Historic England, which focuses on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), requires HIAs, and improves planning processes,
 - Organization of training events for Municipal Councillors and planning officers to raise awareness;
- *Development in Hayle Harbour:* the State Party recognizes that the supermarket has a negative impact on the property's OUV. Regarding the South Quay development, this can only proceed once the detailed design is approved. To guide the redesign of this project, outline principles have been agreed between Historic England, Cornwall Council, the PAO and the developer. The State Party proposes to invite an Advisory mission to help guide the design;
 - *South Crofty Mine:* a new operator, Strongbow Explorations Incorporated (SEI), who purchased the interest in the mine, maintains mining permission, and has entered into a Planning Performance Agreement with Cornwall Council. SEI is raising funds, and after three and half years the mine could resume operation. Cornwall Council and the State Party have discussed the recommendations of previous Reactive Monitoring missions with SEI, who will reconsider design changes. Current pre-conditions related to heritage comprise archaeological work, including an archaeological watching brief, and agreement on boundary treatment. Historic England and the PAO are developing cost-effective mitigation measures and will continue to liaise with SEI;
 - North Quay and Foundry Car Park housing developments, in Hayle Harbour and Tavistock, currently in various stages of planning and consent, were examined by Historic England and Impact Assessments have been commissioned.

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

At the time of inscription, the ICOMOS Evaluation highlighted threats arising from uncontrolled development in priority areas for economic growth such as Hayle Harbour, as well as the need for sensitive planning. Ten years later, the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission reported that "*the supermarket development in Hayle Harbour had a negative impact on the OUV of the property and [...] could warrant an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in and of itself*". Furthermore, it recommended that "*the State Party immediately halts the implementation of the consented development on the remainder of the South Quay [...] if the development continued it would be recommended that the Committee consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 41st session in 2017.*"

The State Party and local authorities have recognized negative impacts on OUV caused by the completed supermarket in Hayle Harbour, and have made progress to ensure future developments do not have similar impacts. Actions have been taken to appoint the PAO, prepare and endorse new planning and guidance tools, and implement a new working practices protocol.

However, even though planning tools have been improved, the situation remains unresolved. Some local plans and the SPD which form part of the proposed strategy for preserving the OUV remain incomplete. Stronger protection tools and more detailed planning outlines for the ten serial property components should be established to strengthen the SPD and planning processes for sensitive areas, especially for regeneration. The new working practices protocol should be extended to the two other local planning councils.

The State Party's invitation to undertake an Advisory mission to Hayle Harbour is welcomed. However, the scope of the mission should be broadened to advise on the revision of Local Plans and establish a firm timeframe to define detailed planning outlines.

Concerning the South Crofty Mine, it is recommended that the Committee welcome the State Party's monitoring efforts, although it should request that the site remains under high scrutiny and dialogue with the new operator is encouraged. In addition, an update of archaeological reports should be provided, as well as details of boundary treatment, planning and information on any future development, especially regarding surface elements.

The current development proposals at Hayle Harbour, South Crofty and Tavistock, and any future substantial developments in the property should be evaluated in detail to avoid or minimise and mitigate any further adverse impacts on the OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit such plans for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies for any issues to be addressed, well prior to any construction approval, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The property remains at risk, and an inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be considered if the proposed improvements to the planning tools and approval processes outlined by the State Party are not completed, endorsed and strictly implemented.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Recalling the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring missions of October 2013 and January 2015, urges the State Party to complete their implementation as a priority;*
4. *Welcoming the State Party's efforts for improving planning tools and their implementation in order to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), commends the State Party for the progress which has occurred and requests it to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on further improvements, finalization and implementation of the planning tools and approval processes, which will contribute to preserving the OUV of the property;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to establish stronger protection tools and more detailed planning outlines for the 10 components of the property, in order to strengthen the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the associated improved planning processes; and that these two latter be endorsed and implemented by the two other Councils responsible for local planning in the property;*
6. *Welcomes the State Party's invitation for an Advisory mission to Hayle Harbour to guide the redesign of the South Quay project and invites the State Party to broaden the scope of the mission to advise on the revision of the Local Plans and proposed timeframe to define detailed planning outlines for other areas of the property;*
7. *Taking note of the new operator of the South Crofty Mine, Strongbow Explorations Incorporated (SEI), also welcomes the State Party's monitoring efforts and further requests it to continue to keep the site under high scrutiny and maintain dialogue with SEI, and to submit an update of the archaeological reports as well as on the agreement of details of the boundary treatment and detail planning tools and information on any future development especially regarding any surface elements at the South Crofty Mine;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that details for any substantial future projects in the property or its immediate and wider setting, together with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. ***Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, with a view to considering, if the proposed improvements to the planning tools and approval processes outlined by the State Party are not completed, endorsed and strictly implemented, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

55. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 426bis)

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

56. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)

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

57. The Forth Bridge (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1485)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1485/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1485/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Need to create key indicators that are more specific and relate more to the attributes
- Need to extending the Property Management Plan to include an interpretation and tourism plan
- Need to select key viewsheds and views of the bridge for inclusion in the appropriate planning instruments and management plan
- Proposed visitor centre

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1485/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1485/documents/>, addressing the Committee's concerns raised at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), at the time of inscription of the property. The report provides information on the selection of key viewsheds and views of the bridge for inclusion in the appropriate planning instruments and management plan, together with a brief summary of other advancements relating to the management of the property.

The protection policy (the “*de facto* buffer zone”) utilizes the existing range of natural and cultural designations and planning systems that protect the immediate setting of the Bridge. As requested by the Committee, a limited number (10) of key views and viewsheds within its wider setting were defined. The management of these key views and viewsheds via the appropriate planning instruments will allow for the assessment of their effectiveness in the on-going protection of the property. If a development is proposed within any of these 10 view cones, additional scrutiny by the appropriate planning authority will be triggered to ensure that it will not harm the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), through, inter alia, the request for a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

The current technical management and conservation issues of the bridge are unchanged since the inscription of the property. Nothing has damaged the OUV of the property, which is still being maintained by its owner, Network Rail.

The main developments relate to the property's management, following the Committee's recommendations:

- The *Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Group* has been established;
- A *Forth Bridges Tourism Project Group* has also been formed, its aims include the development of a Tourism Strategy, and support for the development of a common signage strategy;
- A *Forth Bridges Communications Group* has also been established.

During the last year, the Scottish Government agency, Transport Scotland, has invested in the creation of an accurate and detailed baseline record of the Forth Bridge. This was achieved by the Centre for Digital Documentation and Visualisation (CDDV) through 3D Digital Recording, using laser scanning.

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

The improvement of the protection policy by the determination of 10 key views of the property and associated protected view-cones is noted. The detailed analysis and justification of how the key views and viewsheds were identified can be used as a baseline and should allow for assessing the efficiency of the key views and viewsheds in the management of the property and further adapting them if necessary.

In addition, the progress relating to management is noted, including the establishment of the Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Group for the property and of specialized commissions for tourism and communication. This is an improvement of the management mechanism by reaching out to local communities, addressing sustainable economic strategies for tourism, and should positively reinforce the management system. The recommendations of the Committee at the time of the inscription of the property are recalled however, in particular with regards to identifying key monitoring indicators relating to the attributes that convey the property's OUV, the extension of the property's management plan to include an interpretation and tourism plan, and the submission of the plans for any proposed visitor centre to the World Heritage Centre for review.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate these recommendations to the State Party in order to request the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation, and an update of the management tools and mechanism detailed above.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.33**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in responding to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations, especially:
 - a) The improvement of the protection policy by means of the identification of 10 key views of the property and associated protected view-cones,
 - b) The reinforcement of the management system by the creation of the Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Group and specialized commissions for tourism development and communication;
4. Reiterates its previous recommendations to the State Party to consider the following:
 - a) Creating key monitoring indicators that are more specific and relate more directly to the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value,
 - b) Extending the Management Plan of the property to include an interpretation and tourism plan,
 - c) Submitting plans for any proposed visitor centre at the earliest possibility to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

58. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 42,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993: technical mission; November 2001: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; March 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban pressure that may affect the original city plan (Plano Piloto) that warranted inscription in the World Heritage List
- Lack of a Master Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents> and presents the following information:

- A working group of the Federal District Agency for Territorial Management and Housing (SEGETH) restarted the process of the preparation of the Preservation Plan of Brasilia's Urban Area (PPCUB) in January 2016, and established a work plan and methodology. This is presently being implemented in collaboration with the Federal District Council on Preservation and Territorial Planning (CCPPTM/DF) that includes civil society. It is expected that the third version of the PPCUB Draft Bill will be presented to the Legislative Branch in the course of 2017;
- In March 2015, a Technical Support Agreement was signed between SEGETH and the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN) to create a Technical Support Group and establish a shared agenda for the management of the Urban Ensemble. In June 2016, two other federal agencies - the Culture Agency (SeCult) and the Fiscalization Agency (AGEFIS) - joined the Agreement. To date, the Technical Support Group held 57 meetings to address issues such as urban drainage, land developments in the Embassies Sector, guidelines for commercial kiosks in public spaces, renewal/restoration of the Bus Central Terminal (*Rodoviária do Plano Piloto*), completion of the IPHAN Ordinance nr. 314/92 and changes to the road access (*Eixo Rodoviário Norte*);
- Following consultations with the Technical Support Group and architects and urban planners, IPHAN issued Ordinance nr. 166/2016 (dated 11 May 2016 and attached to the State Party report in Portuguese and English). This Ordinance complements Ordinance 314/1992 and

organizes the World Heritage area of Brasilia in two protected areas (A and B) according to their historical and urban importance. The Ordinance defines strict criteria for the Plano Piloto and its four preservation zones (Area A) and specific parameters and levels of preservation for the three other preservation zones (Area B).

Among other measures for the conservation of the property, the State Party refers to IPHAN Ordinance 184 for the conditions for temporary structures on the Esplanada dos Ministérios, Praça dos Três Poderes and their surroundings, the declaration as national monuments of 23 individual structures of Oscar Niemeyer, initiatives of the Technical Support Group to involve inhabitants of the *superquadras* in cultural heritage preservation and issues of housing and commercial spaces, and the adoption of a heritage education policy by the Federal District Education Agency.

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

The State Party report provides limited information regarding the preparation of the PPCUB and the cooperation agreement between the two institutions (IPHAN and SEGETH). However, an analysis of the text of the cooperation agreement confirms that the objectives and methods of operation of the agreement are clearly spelled out. The fact that to date more than 50 working meetings of the Technical Support Group were held demonstrates that the Group is operational and forms an appropriate mechanism for cooperation and coordination. It is noted however that the duration of the agreement is 48 months. It should be recommended that after this period, the effectiveness of the agreement be assessed and a long-term mechanism of cooperation be established.

As to the third version of the PPCUB, the State Party informs that this will be concluded in 2017. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit this document as soon as it becomes available to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 as a complement to Ordinance 314/1992 is an important document in the process to preserve the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia. The Technical Document that accompanies the Ordinance recalls the origins of the Plano Piloto and its development over time and the efforts to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) through specific legislation by the Government of the Federal District (GDF) and IPHAN. The document underscores that the dynamics and rapid growth of the city require new approaches, new instruments and new management practices.

The Federal Legislation now consists of Ordinance 314/1992 (to which is attached Lucio Costa's study and recommendations: *Brasilia Revisited 1985/1987 Complementation, Preservation, Densification and Urban Expansion*) that is now complemented by Ordinance 166/2016. This Ordinance defines two main protected areas (A and B) and a number of preservation zones, for which specific guidelines regarding use, occupancy and height, among others, are established. Area A includes the Plano Piloto itself and the land up to the lake shore, stressing the intimate relation between the city and the lake and its surrounding landscape.

The final provisions of Ordinance 166/2016 stipulate that interventions in the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia should be submitted for analysis and approval by the Federal District and that IPHAN's approval will be mandatory only in specific cases. It is noted that the Ordinance does not define the mechanisms for the implementation of these provisions. An effective cooperation and coordination between the two bodies through the Technical Support Group and other mechanisms is considered indispensable, as is the alignment between the Ordinances and the PPCUB.

ICOMOS' Technical Review of the Ordinance concludes that an important result has been achieved, but it points out that a great number of civic and other organizations signed in May 2016 a Manifesto that expresses very serious concerns about the implications of the Ordinance regarding the changes in use and heights, the use and functions of the residential areas and the *entrequadras*, the original concept for the use and functions of the border of Lake Paranoá, among other matters. Therefore, a public debate about Ordinance 166/2016 would be desirable with the participation of the population and civil organizations, and this should eventually lead to a review of the Ordinance in order to clarify any imprecision and contradiction with previous ordinances, and to strengthen the integrity and preservation of the property.

The same Review points out that Ordinance 184 should be more restrictive and should only allow for the temporary uses of the Esplanada associated with its symbolic values, and should further minimize the time and dimensions of the installations and temporary structures.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the progress made in establishing institutional mechanisms for the cooperation and coordination between the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN) and the Federal District Agency for Territorial Management and Housing (SEGETH), and other parties, and that a joint Technical Support Group has been operational since 2015; and recommends that the effectiveness of this agreement be assessed after the initial three-year period in order to establish long-term mechanisms for institutional cooperation and coordination;
4. Welcomes IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 as a complement to Ordinance 314/1992 that establishes protective areas and protective zones for the World Heritage site and defines criteria for functions, density, building heights and open spaces; notes however that a number of civil and professional organizations expressed serious concerns about its impact and implications on core values and attributes of the property and therefore recommends that the State Party initiate an open debate to discuss these concerns and eventually review the Ordinance in order to strengthen it as a tool to preserve and enhance the OUV of the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia;
5. Equally welcomes IPHAN Ordinance 184 that establishes conditions for temporary use and structures on the Esplanada dos Ministérios, Praça dos Três Poderes and their surroundings, and also recommends that the State Party consider even more restrictive regulations in this respect;
6. Also notes that the process for the preparation of the Preservation Plan of Brasilia's Urban Area (PPCUB) has been restarted and that a third draft will be finalized in the course of 2017, and requests the State Party to submit the final draft of the PPCUB as soon as it becomes available to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a report on:
 - a) the alignment and interaction of the IPHAN Ordinances 166/2016, 314/1992 and the PPCUB,
 - b) the assessment of the effectiveness of the Technical Support Agreement and Technical Support Group as a mechanism of institutional cooperation and coordination,
 - c) the provisions for the review and approval of interventions in the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia as defined in Title IV of IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and the PPCUB;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the Advisory Bodies, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

59. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of boundaries
- Construction of a shopping mall in the vicinity of the Castro Church
- Insufficient legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas of each component

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2016, the State Party submitted a progress report on the state of conservation of the property. ICOMOS conducted an extensive Technical Review of this report, which was transmitted back in October 2016. On 9 December 2016, the State Party submitted an updated version of the state of conservation report. Summaries of both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents>. The State Party submitted a traffic impact study in April 2017. The main issues addressed in the updated report are the following:

- As part of the implementation of all previous recommendations in 2016, strong emphasis was placed on the participation of the communities, in the identification and protection of values in the areas surrounding the churches, and in their management, restoration and maintenance. An important element in this process is the revitalization of the “minga” (a form of traditional communal work) and educational and communication activities;
- Buffer zones were formally established for 10 of the 16 churches in the form of “Typical Zones” as foreseen in the National Monuments Act. Four of these have been validated by the communities (Nercón, Detif, Vilupulli and Chelún). Vilipulli is an outstanding case thereof as this boundary was enlarged by request of the community. Work on other cases will continue in coordination with the newly elected municipal authorities;
- The construction of the shopping mall in the city of Castro was concluded in 2016 with all municipal permits. Emphasis is now being placed on actions to prevent such cases to happen in the future. The Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM) through the National Monuments Council (CMN) is working with the owner of the mall to design and implement mitigation measures to break the visual continuity of the mass of the facade on the seaside through texture, colors and materials. Slender trees that will reach the height of the building will be planted in public spaces. The owner of the mall committed to submit a proposal for visual mitigation to DIBAM/CMN by end January 2017, the implementation of which is expected to take place in 2017;
- A study on the traffic impact of the shopping mall on the church of Castro and its surroundings was completed in January 2017. The study concludes that the traffic increase since the

construction of the Mall was limited (8,7%) and that other factors in the area such as the construction of an underground parking at the Plaza de Armas and possible increase the number of buses at the terminal north of the church may have a much more significant impact. On the other hand, the construction of the Castro by-pass will be concluded in 2018 and will considerably reduce the traffic flow through the centre of Castro and near the church;

- The CMN is in the final stage of issuing Act 17.288 that regulates all interventions in “Typical or Picturesque Zones”. Guidelines for the application of these regulations have been developed and will be applied in the already declared “Typical Zones” and will provide protection specially for the components of the property that are located in rural areas and do not have Municipal Zoning Plans (*Planos de Regulación Comunal*);
- Progress has been achieved in the studies to modify the Municipal Zoning Plans for Dalcahue (churches of Tenaun, San Juan and Dalcahue) and Pulqueldón (churches of Aldachildo, Ichuac and Detif) with resources of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development;
- Efforts to develop an Integrated Management Plan continue with the involvement of all stakeholders;
- The CMN continues to strengthen its presence in the region and dedicates considerable human and financial resources to the restoration and conservation of the churches.

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

The State Party should be commended for the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and of subsequent recommendations of the Committee and the Advisory Bodies. It should also be congratulated for the concerted efforts to ensure the proper management and conservation of the churches and their surroundings, and the broad and participatory approach that is being applied.

While recognizing that the implementation of several of the recommendations requires a relatively long timeframe, it should be reiterated that a number of them are of extreme urgency, particularly those relating to the protection of the wider setting, including the review of the buffer zones, arrangements to improve the legal framework, and measures to mitigate the visual impact and better integration of the Castro shopping mall. The ICOMOS Technical Review on the progress report transmitted to the State Party in October 2016 includes a great number of specific considerations and recommendations to this effect.

As to the buffer zones, 10 of the 16 churches have now formally established “Typical Zones. The State Party should be urged to accelerate this process for all 16 components of this serial property as this is an essential requirement for the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is recommended that boundaries of the buffer zones be defined on the basis of the proposals made by the CMN in 2013, by the 2013 mission and the more recent ICOMOS Technical Review, to ensure that the extraordinary natural and landscape setting of the churches and their relations to the sea is taken into account. In particular, the boundaries of Chonchi, Colo, Quinchao, San Juan and Tenaun should be reviewed. The two recently adopted Typical Zones for Vilipulli and Chelín shall also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its implementation.

It is noted that CMN Act 17.288 will establish regulations for the “Typical Zones” and that guidelines for their implementation will be applied in Chiloé in 2017-2018. A review of the effectiveness of these regulations and guidelines will need to be undertaken in due time. It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for the participatory approach in the definition of heritage components, management and maintenance of the “Typical Zones” and the extensive education and communication strategies. The revitalization of the “minga” as a means to involve and commit local communities in the maintenance of the churches is commendable.

As to the Integral Management Plan, it is noted that progress has been made in the diagnosis of institutional and legal issues and the promotion of a broad participation of institutions and civil society, and that work will continue in 2017.

Regarding the shopping mall in Castro, it is welcomed that there is a general recognition that such constructions should not be allowed in the future and that the State Party is undertaking an inter-institutional effort in this respect.

At the same time, it is highly regrettable that no adequate solution has been provided to mitigate the impact of the mall on the visual characteristics and setting of Castro’s San Francisco Church and the

city. It is noted that the DIBAM/CMN and the owner of the mall are working together to develop proposals. However, the superficial intervention on the north-east facade, facing the sea, with colors, materials and structures, as well as the planting of trees in public spaces around the mall are most likely not sufficient to reduce its impact significantly. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the designs that will be prepared by the owner of the mall as soon as they become available for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The information on the continued construction of the Castro By-Pass that will be concluded in 2018 is welcomed, as is the completion of the Study of Traffic Impact of Castro Mall on the immediate surroundings of the church. The traffic impact study concludes that the impact of the shopping mall on traffic flows is moderate, particularly as long as the entrance to the parking garage at the Calle San Martin remains closed. At the same time, it reveals that there are other factors that may have a much more significant impact such as the construction of a parking garage under the Plaza de Armas and a potential increase the number of buses at the terminal north of the church. It is to be noted that the Plaza de Armas constitutes the buffer zone for the church and that any intervention would require extensive archaeological studies and could seriously affect the setting and the OUV of the property. It is recommended that traffic flows be carefully monitored and that Heritage Impact Assessments be undertaken for all projects in the surroundings of the church. An integral approach to the urban area is required and it is therefore welcomed that the process to update Castro's urban regulation through the Study "Modifications on the Communal Regulation Plan" is ongoing.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of its recommendations and for the participatory approach it has taken in the definition of protective areas around the churches, as well as for concrete restoration, communication and education programmes that are under execution;*
4. *Urges the State Party to finalize the identification of buffer zones around all remaining churches and to proceed urgently with their submission as a minor boundary modification proposal encompassing all 16 components of the property;*
5. *Notes the progress made in the preparation of the Integrated Management Plan;*
6. *Welcomes the progress made with the construction of the by-pass in Castro and the conclusion of the traffic studies related to the shopping mall in Castro, and recommends that the State Party:*
 - a) *Continue to monitor the traffic flows around the church including the impact of the bus terminal north of the church,*
 - b) *Keep the vehicular access to the shopping mall in Calle San Martin closed,*
 - c) *Undertake Heritage Impact Assessments of projects in the surroundings of the church, particularly of the proposed parking garage in the buffer zone under the Plaza de Armas that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
7. *Highly regrets that the construction of the shopping mall in Castro was completed without significant modifications to its design and that the mitigation measures that are now being considered are limited to the application of colors, texture and material on*

the facade facing the sea and the planting of trees; and requests the State Party to submit the designs and mitigation measures agreed between the owner of the mall, the Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM) and the National Monuments Council (CMN), as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation;

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

60. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 140,688

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interventions planned at the port, such as the Baron Port and the Prat Dock, as well as for touristic facilities and real estate projects
- Fragmentation of competencies and mandates by sectors and by different levels of government, as well as by the different types of specific protection and use of different areas, which does not allow for the management of the property with respect to its Outstanding Universal Value and within a broader perspective
- Emergency situation due to massive fires of April 2014 and January 2017

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/>

Current conservation issues

In July and November 2016, the State Party submitted reports on the Archaeological Management Plan, modifications to the Puerto Baron Project and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) of the Terminal 2 and Puerto Baron projects. On 13 December 2016, it submitted a comprehensive state of conservation report that is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents>. The earlier submissions are included as Annex 4 of this report. The State Party informs on the following matters:

- It is not possible at this point in time to provide a timetable for the implementation of the Urban Development Policy (UDP) in Valparaíso. This policy will be overseen by the Urban Development Council and will be gradually and incrementally implemented. A working group on *Identity and Heritage* has been established and a *Proposal for a New Integrated Urban Planning*

for Chile is under preparation. Once the necessary legal and regulatory instruments are adopted, it is expected that results will be seen within a three to four year period;

- An extensive analysis by the State Party of the current planning mechanisms recognizes that there are weaknesses and dispersion - institutional, procedural, instrumental and conceptual - in the treatment of urban matters and to that effect, urban heritage. The UDP and the management structures that will evolve will be characterized by the coordination of initiatives and the growing convergence of interest parties. In the meantime, coordination efforts are undertaken by all entities and levels of government to resolve the present deteriorated situation in the city as a whole;
- A Port Development Master Plan was in existence at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and only a part of the Terminal 2 project falls within the buffer zone, while the Puerto Baron Project lies 2.5 km away. However, at the request of the World Heritage Committee and under the guidance of the Conservation Committee of the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaiso, the project for Puerto Baron was revised considerably (reducing new volumes and giving a more prominent presence to the Simon Bolivar Warehouse). Furthermore, an Archaeological Heritage Management Plan was approved by the National Monuments Council in April 2016 and a HIA was conducted by an independent expert. The State Party considers that it has favourably responded to the Committee's observations and that this case can now be closed.

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

The State Party should be commended for its constructive response to the observations and recommendations of the Committee and for the high-level of documentation and restoration projects of elevators and other structures in the property.

It is noted that the implementation of the new UDP will be a process of a number of years and that it is currently impossible to provide a timeline for its application in the case of Valparaiso. The State Party recognizes that present mechanisms are deficient and it is important to provide for transitional measures to ensure the proper management of the World Heritage area and its buffer zone in a complex urban environment under strong development pressure.

The implementation of the Port Development Master Plan, the opening of new spaces along the coast line, the opening of the passenger cruise terminal and Puerto Baron Project, and the considerable number of interventions that are planned in public spaces, within or outside the property and its buffer zone, together with the fragility and conservation needs of the property, call for strong inter-institutional and comprehensive planning tools. The Historic Urban Landscape approach is again strongly recommended.

The redesign of the Puerto Baron Project responds to the observations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission and subsequent World Heritage Committee decisions. It is recommended that the Committee thank the State Party and all parties involved for their open and constructive attitude and for the results achieved.

Regarding Terminal 2, it is important to recall that the HIA submitted highlights the importance of mitigation and compensation measures to reduce the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. In this case, it stated that only five of the 14 measures proposed by the concessionaire in May 2016 could be considered as mitigation and compensation. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a progress report on the conclusion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - also foreseen in the Port Development Master Plan - and eventual mitigation measures that will subsequently be proposed.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.90, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. *Expresses its appreciation for the substantive response that the State Party provided to its recommendations and for the high level of the documentation and intervention projects of elevators and other structures in the World Heritage property;*
4. *Notes that the implementation of the Urban Development Policy and its application in Valparaiso will take a number of years and urges the State Party to implement transitional measures to remedy weaknesses in the present mechanisms for the management and conservation of the property and in its relation to the urban development context of Valparaiso;*
5. *Also expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the revisions to the Puerto Baron Project and the undertaking of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and the adoption of an Archaeological Heritage Management Plan and considers that the State Party has responded in a positive and constructive manner to its recommendations;*
6. *Commends the use of the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties and encourages the State Party to continue using the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in the impact assessment;*
7. *Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed about heritage impact mitigation measures and further developments regarding the Terminal 2 Project and also requests the State Party to ensure the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the mitigation measures or compensation plan that may be proposed in relation to the World Heritage property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

61. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)

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

62. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/129/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 11 (from 1979-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 226,513

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/129/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1999: ICOMOS expert mission; 2003: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2004: World Heritage Centre mission; 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- The foreseen construction of an airport in the vicinity of the World Heritage property in a national protected area (issue resolved)
- Deterioration of construction materials due to natural decay phenomena
- Risk of structural failure of archaeological complexes resulting from tunnels excavated for archaeological purposes
- Deterioration derived from uncontrolled visitation and potential to exceed carrying capacity at specific time periods
- Legal issues concerning the ownership of the land and the delimitation of the property and its buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/129/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/129/>. Subsequently additional information was provided in March 2017, which includes maps of the property, a proposal for the buffer zone and the no-fly zone around the site, as well as the planning for revision of the Management Plan. Progress in conservation measures is reported as follows:

- The State Party informs that the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) have been accepted and that all the mitigation measures at the Rio Amarillo airport are in execution. A no-flying zone of a radius of 1,850 meters around the Maya Site of Copan has been confirmed;
- The boundary of the property is physically marked by a wire fence built in 1975 and enclosing the principal group of ruins (15 ha), corresponding to the description in the nomination dossier. The buffer zone covers an area of 452 ha around the World Heritage property, with the river as its southern border, and limits at an average of 1,000m from the property to the east, north and west. The property is under the exclusive management of the Honduran Institute for Anthropology and History (IAHA) whereas its surroundings include visitors services and agricultural and livestock pasture;
- The State Party accepts the recommendations of ICOMOS regarding the Management Plan. The management strategy now includes participation of local authorities and communities, awareness, education and communication programmes and a high priority to sustainable development and employment generation;
- Significant advances were achieved on stone conservation thanks to the Santander Program for Research and Conservation of Maya Sculpture. Regarding the Hieroglyphic Stairway, further on-site and laboratory tests will be conducted during 2017 and 2018. A final decision about the protective shelter is expected to be taken by the end of 2018. Construction can then begin in 2019;
- Finally the State Party mentions that IAHA envisages buying the land on the eastern side of the property, to create a park of cultural and natural attractions.

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

It is noted with satisfaction that the State Party responded positively to the recommendations of the Committee and ICOMOS regarding the management of the property.

Following the opening of the Rio Amarillo airport, the establishment of a no-fly zone is an important measure to reduce impact of flights at the property. Mitigation and rescue interventions around the

airport have been completed. The opening of the airport did not cause a significant increase in visitor numbers that remain relatively low.

The clarification of the boundaries is an issue that has required the Committee's attention since 2011 (Decision **35 COM 8B.59**). The State Party confirms the boundaries of the property that were defined and physically constructed in 1975. These are consistent with the maps submitted at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and with the new cartography submitted in March 2017. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the accomplishment in clarifying the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory.

However, regarding the proposal for a buffer zone, as requested by the Committee in its previous decisions, the map included in the most recent report, and resubmitted in March 2017, differs from the map included in the 2015 state of conservation report provided by the State Party. This implies a reduction of the proposal for the buffer zone. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to clarify this matter and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Progress can be noted in the management approach that now explicitly includes the local communities and authorities. A financing strategy, tourism management, interpretation for young people and disaster preparedness are among the issues that are being addressed. These matters will need to be incorporated in the 2014-2020 Management Plan, as per ICOMOS recommendations issued in 2015.

Finally, it is noted that the use of technology in the conservation programmes is of high standards. This is being applied for the documentation of stone sculptures (3D scanning of reliefs), mapping of the tunnel systems (robot topographic survey and 3D modeling) and the creation of a conservation laboratory. The protective structures for the hieroglyphic stairway are continuously tested and monitored. This will lead to decision making by the end of 2018 and the construction of the structure in 2019.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the work accomplished in the clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory exercise and for the positive response it has given to the Committee's recommendations and to ICOMOS advice;*
4. *Welcomes the introduction of a no-fly zone over the property and the completion of mitigation and rescue measures at the Rio Amarillo airport;*
5. *Notes the information provided on the definition of the buffer zone and urges the State Party to finalize this process and to submit a final proposal for a buffer zone, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning minor boundary modifications;*
6. *Expresses its appreciation for the progress in the revision in the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a final version of the Management Plan as soon as it becomes available;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of further developments in the design and testing results of the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway and any other development projects that may have an impact on the property;*

8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

63. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: on the occasion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Portobelo and San Lorenzo, a technical visit to the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and the Historic District was undertaken, as requested by the authorities of Panamá; October 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2013: Joint High level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Severe deterioration of historic buildings
- Conflicting interests of different stakeholders with regard to the use, management and conservation of the historic centre
- Limited capacity for the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic structures
- Deficiencies in the implementation of the legislative framework for protection
- Lack of implementation of clear conservation and management policies for the property
- Demolition of urban ensembles and buildings
- Forced displacement of occupants and squatters
- Urban development projects within the protected area (i.e. Cinta Costera)
- Visual impact of the Cinta Costera project Maritime Viaduct
- Inadequate long-term financial sustainability of conservation and management efforts

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents>. The State Party clarifies that the baseline for this report is the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV), as adopted by Committee Decision **37 COM 8E**. Regarding specific recommendations of Decision **40 COM 8B.34**, it is informed that:

- ICOMOS was requested to assist with capacity-building in Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) during an Advisory mission foreseen for 2017;
- Preliminary activities have been undertaken on the view-shed and view corridor analysis, and the preliminary conclusions, recommendations and proposed corrective measures are expected in 2017;
- Preliminary reduction and mitigation measures of existing developments have been identified for Panamá Viejo in the form of strategic tree-planting and for the Historic District in the form of further efforts to regulate building heights in nearby areas;
- Long-term and sustainable government funding is being secured through fixed allocations from the National Institute for Culture (INAC) (yearly contribution of USD 400,000 to the Patronato de Panamá Viejo), budgets on a project basis commitments of the Mayor of Panama (12 million for the Cathedral of Panama), or in the framework of major projects such as the 45-million project between INAC and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) aimed to support the conservation and management of cultural heritage.

In addition, the report includes updated information on pressing areas related to the property's state of conservation, such as:

- Update of the planning framework (revision of the 1995 Management Plan for the Historic District of Panama and implementation of the Management Plan for Panama Viejo 2014-2019);
- Improving mobility and accessibility for pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the Historic District and surrounding neighborhoods;
- Improving waste management in the Historic District, which has increased due to growing tourism developments;
- Interpretation tools and educational activities, among others.

Finally, the State Party reports on a number of urban development projects in the vicinity of the property:

- Construction of a business centre within the buffer zone of Panama Viejo: participation of the Patronato de Panamá Viejo in the planning process ensured the application of national guidelines for the buffer zone and mitigation measures;
- Ocean front development to the east of Panama Viejo outside of the buffer zone: the construction of five high-rise residential buildings;
- Real estate developments that comply with legislation in force: a 164-room Hotel Casco Viejo at the waterfront of the Historical District that involves the restoration of the Club Unión, and towers of up to 27 stories outside of the property.

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

The report includes an overview of the inscription history, past Reactive Monitoring and Advisory missions' recommendations and a substantive analysis of the state of conservation of both components of the property, namely the *Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo* and the *Historical District of Panamá*. It outlines the requirements for management and conservation actions, as well as potential threats. It responds, at times in a preliminary manner, to the recommendations of the Committee and of the previous World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS missions.

It is noted that the report does not address in a substantive matter the significant boundary modification requested by the Committee, except in the observation that the State Party requested ICOMOS' assistance on how to proceed in this matter. A new proposal is due by 1 February 2018.

It is appreciated that the State Party requested the advice of ICOMOS on incorporating the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for projects and developments.

The urgent need to incorporate such assessments in planning mechanisms and regulations is made evident by ongoing developments including the significant restoration of the Hotel Casco Viejo, the construction of the high-rise towers to the east of Panamá Viejo and similar projects to the east of the Historic District. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to give the highest priority to the implementation of its previous recommendations to put in place mechanisms to protect

specific sensitive areas in the buffer zone and wider setting of the property as part of the preparation of the significant boundary modification.

As to the Hotel Casco Viejo, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide the designs of the hotel including the restoration project of the Club Unión, together with studies on vehicular access, waste management and other relevant aspects for assessing impacts on heritage as soon as possible for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted with concern that the State Party report confirms that most of the previously identified factors affecting the property continue to exist and that tourism and urban development pressure is accelerating. While the entities in charge of the property (the Patronato de Panama Viejo and the National Directorate of Historical Heritage) have increased their management capacity, it is emphasized that heritage values of the property can only be protected if heritage is incorporated in overall urban, tourism and development policies and priorities with the participation of all stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 37 COM 8E and 40 COM 8B.34, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its appreciation for the commitment of the State Party to implement the Committee's recommendations;*
4. *Notes that the State Party is in the process of developing a proposal for a significant boundary modification for the property as recommended by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and submit this proposal by **1 February 2018**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;*
5. *Expresses its serious concern that in spite of numerous public and private conservation initiatives, most of the factors affecting the property that were identified in earlier reports continue to exist and requests the State Party, until the significant boundary modification proposal is concluded and considered by the Committee, to take the necessary measures to maintain the authenticity and integrity of both site components of the property, particularly in the buffer zone and wider setting of Panama Viejo;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, the designs of the Hotel Casco Viejo restoration project of the old Club Unión, together with studies on vehicular access, waste management, and other relevant aspects for assessing impacts on heritage;*
6. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

64. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 94,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1994: Systematic monitoring report UNDP/UNESCO; 1998: expert mission; March-April 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fires in 1998 and 2001 (issue resolved)
- Formalization of the procedures to set up a Management Coordination Unit to implement the Strategic Plan
- Revision of the Master and Strategic Plans
- New development projects within the Historic Centre including urban transportation systems (Corredor Segregado) and interventions in historical buildings
- Development of the Cable Car project for tourism purposes (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>. Moreover, additional information on several issues was received on 24 February 2017. In its report, the State Party addresses the following issues:

- With regard to the Cable Car project, the State Party decided by means of Management Resolution No. 02-2015-MML-GPIP of 22 January 2015 to cancel the Concession Contract with the company Operadora de Teleféricos SAC in charge of the project. By this Resolution, the State Party considers that the Lima Cable Car project is terminated and informs that the Municipality has not received any other similar project initiative within the property;
- Regarding the High Capacity Segregated Corridor, the General Management of PROTRANSPORTE of the Metropolitan Institute of Transport of Lima was commissioned by the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties for the sections of the project that could have an impact on the property. The interventions on the stations concerned of Jirón Quilca, Colmena, Ramón Castilla and Central, have been completed taking into consideration the urban requirements of the Historic Centre. The Municipality of Lima continues the work on the revision of the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Lima, approved in 1998. Due to the technical reviews formulated by the Ministry of Culture and the change of Municipal Government in December 2016, a new update is underway by the new administration.

Moreover, due to the awareness on the fragility of some vulnerable areas of the Historic Centre and the current state of conservation of some historic buildings, the State Party informs on the establishment of an inter-institutional working group that will address the current conservation issues

faced by the property. In this context, the State Party invited the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to conduct an Advisory mission in the course of 2017.

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

The efforts made by the State Party regarding the management of the property are appreciated, in particular the decision taken by the Municipality to cancel the Cable Car Project in order to avoid any negative impact to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and following the recommendations made by the Committee in past decisions.

Regarding the High Capacity Segregated Corridor, and taking into consideration that the project was completed without the submission of the HIAs as requested in previous decisions, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalize and submit the requested studies with a particular analysis and a clear explanation on how to mitigate any possible impact on the OUV of the property, that could affect its physical, environmental or urban integrity at the identified stations (Colmena, Jirón Quilca, Ramon Castilla and Central).

Despite the efforts made on the review of the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Lima requested by Decisions **37 COM 7B.102** and **39 COM 7B.92**, the process has not been completed. No specific timeframe was provided by the State Party for the finalization and approval of the updated Master Plan for the property. It is important to recall that in the context of a complex and very extensive urban area as that comprised by this World Heritage property, it is crucial to possess updated management and conservation tools to ensure its integrity and OUV.

Furthermore, it is essential to give particular attention to the state of conservation of some historic buildings in the Historic Centre and to enhance management arrangements in all the components of the property within the Master Plan in order to ensure the preservation of the values that sustain the OUV.

Moreover, due to the high importance of a Master Plan for the property, it is strongly recommended that the Committee request its finalization and approval as soon as possible, and that special attention be given to the most vulnerable parts of the site.

The invitation by the State Party to send a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist in the identification of suitable measures to ensure the proper management and conservation of the property is welcomed.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.102** and **39 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party regarding the management of the property and notes with satisfaction that the State Party decided to cancel the Cable Car Project to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with regret that the High Capacity Segregated Corridor project was completed without the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) requested in past decisions and, therefore, urges the State Party to submit these assessments as soon as possible, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, and to include an analysis of the scale and a clear explanation on how to mitigate any potential impacts of the concerned stations;

5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize the process for updating the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Lima and ensure its approval as soon as possible to enable the integral protection of all the components of the property;*
6. *Welcomes the invitation by the State Party of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to provide technical assistance regarding the issues concerning the management and conservation of the property;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

65. Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape (Uruguay) (C 1464)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1464/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 11,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1464/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Insufficient legislative protection of the entire buffer zone
- Incomplete Management Plan
- Need to complete the arrangements for representation of local communities on the Management Committee

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1464/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report that is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1464/documents/>. The report responds to the recommendations and requests made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2015, as follows:

- *Legislative protection of the entire buffer zone:* The highest possible protection has been given to the entire buffer zone at the national and local level by Act Number 14040(2016), Act N. 16466 and Fray Bentos Local Plan (Decree 222/013). All interventions and actions in this area are under the supervision, and require the approval of the Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape Site Committee. In addition, the declaration as national monuments of the Stella Movie Theater

and Constitution Square, both in the buffer zone of the property, is underway. Furthermore, the Departmental Government of Rio Negro (IDRN) has passed a Heritage Departmental Law and will annually allocated USD 35,000 to the site;

- *Representation on the Management Committee:* In June 2016, the Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape Site Committee was established with the participation of local authorities, national ministries and representatives of educational institutions, local communities and commerce sector. An Executive Board was created and a site manager appointed. Functions and responsibilities for the property and its buffer zone are defined in formal agreements between parties;
- *Completion of the Management Plan:* In November 2016, a technical cooperation agreement was signed between the Departmental Government of Rio Negro (IDRN) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for an amount of USD 546,000, for a duration of 30 months and with the objective to prepare and implement a strategic plan for the management and sustainable development of the property and the City of Fray Bentos. Following the implementation of this project and other cooperation agreements, the State Party will submit in November 2017 a conservation plan, an impact assessment plan, guidelines regarding new functions and a monitoring plan. Specific recommendations of the World Heritage Committee on these issues will be incorporated in the mentioned instruments. Progress was also noticed in the inventory of the machinery and in the enhancement of archaeological research;
- In accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party indicated its intention to undertake restoration and rehabilitation works and the potential installation of educational institutions in some of the buildings within the property.

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

The actions taken by the State Party concerning the protection of the buffer zone and the arrangements for the management of the property are satisfactory. It is recommended that the Committee congratulate the State Party for the creation of the Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape Site Committee, its broad composition and the appointment of dedicated staff.

The management and sustainable use and development of the industrial landscape, its buffer zone, the surrounding landscape and the City of Fray Bentos are challenging tasks. The great number of cooperation agreements with universities, educational and other institutions, as well as the technical cooperation agreement with the IADB should provide a firm basis for such endeavour. The completion/revision of the Management Plan with all its new instruments should be a priority task. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress and results of the IADB technical cooperation and that the new instruments of the Management Plan be submitted as soon as it becomes available for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.39**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the actions it has taken for the protection of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property and for the management arrangements it has put in place, particularly the creation of a multistakeholders Site Committee and the appointment of dedicated staff;
4. Welcomes the cooperation agreements with local and national institutions and the technical cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for the strategic planning and management of the City of Fray Bentos and the Industrial Landscape, and requests the State Party to:

- a) *Pay particular attention to the completion/revision of the Management Plan taking into account the specific recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List,*
 - b) *Submit the Management Plan and related new instruments, as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - c) *Keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress and results of the technical cooperation agreement with the IADB;*
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above.

AFRICA

66. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1985-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 118,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 450,000 from the Government of Japan and from the Riksantikvaren (Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in April 2016. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 8 December 2016 and updated information on 2 March 2017. A summary of this report and the mission report are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents>. The State Party provides the following information:

- Following the fire of 14 January 2015, the ministry responsible for Culture implemented a programme of work to restore the eight huts of the Houégbadja Palace and rehabilitate the damaged parts of the Gbéhanzin Palace;
- The Ministry of Tourism and Culture has appointed an official responsible for the management of the collections and administration of the Historical Museum of Abomey and plans to appoint a person responsible for the collections and buildings;
- Non-compliant construction of private residences of the royal families took place on the property and in the buffer zone;
- The district of Dosseme is no longer occupied by the Dadassi;
- The entire property is in a state of advanced degradation due to various factors, including vandalism, fires, inclement weather, insecurity and insalubrity (termites, tall grass).

The following actions are planned for 2017:

- Additional staff for the property;
- Restoration of the roof of the Tomb of the 41 Wives of King Glèlè;
- Evaluation of the 2007-2011 Management Plan, and drafting of the new Management Plan for the property (implementation 2018);
- Improvement of the museum's facilities and collections, and the opening of an "archaeological" space and the installation of new permanent exhibitions on the property.

The Reactive Monitoring mission made it possible to collect the following additional information:

- Fire hydrant installed by the Albi project is not operational due to lack of connection to the water supply network;
- Rehabilitation of certain components of the property that does not comply with the rules and principles of heritage protection;
- Dysfunction of the bodies responsible for management;
- Existence of various cultural projects proposed by national and foreign partners.

As part of the national strategy to make Abomey one of the main tourism hubs by enhancing the heritage, the State Party informed the Centre that feasibility studies are underway for restoration works and museum projects in Abomey (Estimated cost: 123 billion CFA francs – approx. USD 204 million).

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

The information provided in the State Party's report reflects its efforts to address the main concerns expressed in recent Committee decisions. It is encouraging to note that the State Party has foreseen funding for the evaluation of the 2007-2011 lapsed management plan and for the development of a new management plan for the property. The completion of the management plan remains the highest priority. It is recommended that the Committee take note of the State Party's intention to revise the management plan and urges it to finalize the plan as soon as possible.

Restoration works on the parts of the property damaged by the January and December 2015 fires have been completed. However, it is regrettable that the report does not provide sufficient information on the December fire. It is also recommended that the Committee take note that the State Party has carried out the restoration work on the parts of the property damaged by the fires.

While acknowledging the progress made, the overall state of conservation of the property remains a concern. It is imperative that measures be taken to prevent degradation related to vandalism, fire, insecurity, insalubrity, and termite attacks. It is regrettable that the State Party does not provide information on the development of the risk management plan and on fire prevention measures. It is also a matter of concern that some of the rehabilitation work on the components of the property, including the construction of private residences of the royal families on the property and in the buffer zone, are not in conformity with the rules and principles of heritage conservation, safeguarding and protection.

The State Party's decision to appoint an official with special responsibility for the management of the collections and administration of the Historical Museum of Abomey, together with a building overseer, is commendable, but the recruitment has still not been carried out.

Various tourism and cultural projects proposed by the State Party, national and foreign partners, and in particular activities undertaken in the framework of cooperation with the city of Albi, should be continued. The results of ongoing feasibility studies for the upgrading of Abomey as a tourism hub will be submitted to the Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to develop a holistic tourism management strategy as part of the management plan.

Insofar as the various dysfunctions noted continue to be a serious threat to the property, it is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the actions carried out but that it express its concern about the general state of conservation of the property and the inadequacy of progress since the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2007, and that it encourages the State Party to implement, as soon as possible and in close collaboration with the various stakeholders, all the recommendations of the mission reports of 2012 and 2016.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.37**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Noting that the State Party has made available funds for the evaluation and revision of the management plan, urges the State Party to act as soon as possible to start this process and to transmit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Takes note that the State Party has carried out renovation work on the eight huts of the Houégbadja Palace and parts of the Gbéhanzin Palace, which had been damaged by fires in 2015;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that intrusive or non-conforming construction work on the property is prevented, and that priority is given to finalizing the plan for the management of risks, disasters and other hazards to the property, including fires, and to transmit it to the World Heritage Centre, and recalls the obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any significant project or restoration that could modify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, or of any incident;*
6. *Also takes note of the feasibility studies for projects aiming to enhance Abomey as a tourism hub launched by the State Party and encourages it to develop a holistic tourism strategy in the framework of the management plan;*
7. *Recognizes the actions taken since the State Party's last report in 2015 but expresses its concern about the general state of conservation of the property and the insufficient progress since the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger In 2007, and requests the State Party to implement as soon as possible all the recommendations of the 2012 and 2016 Reactive Monitoring missions;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the*

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 57,734 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement

Previous monitoring missions

2013 and 2014: Technical assistance missions in the framework of the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for management in 2013 and restoration of the ancient Palace of Justice in 2014 ; Technical Assistance mission for the AfriCAP2016 project financed by the European Union in the framework of the ACP Cultures+ Programme

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Clarify the property's limits for the land parts following the cadastral boundaries
- Enlarge the property's unified buffer zone to the Petit Paris neighbourhood and the lighthouse
- Clarify the land ownership situation (N'zima village, land lots with no property deed)
- Inscribe all the "buildings of heritage interest" in the property on the National Cultural Heritage List
- Define operational monitoring indicators which correspond to precise, periodic and quantified monitoring actions
- Strengthen and give details of the permanent human resources of the Local Committee and/or of the Cultural Heritage House
- Confirm the suspensive role of the Cultural Heritage House's views in the functioning of the Building Permits Commission of Grand-Bassam for conservation purposes
- Reinforce the practical and operational dimension of the Plan for the Conservation and Management of the property
- Confirm the measures to provide encouragement for the restoration and conservation of the privately owned buildings
- Need to strengthen financial resources

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2016, the State Party sent a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/>. This report indicates the progress made on a certain number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions:

- Urban conservation, planning and integrated urban development, taking into account the historical urban landscape and archival documentation:

- Initiation of an inventory taking into account the architecture, landscape environment and the urban fabric, and design of an interactive database management software,
- Establishment of the land ownership of the property with recourse to all the cadastral data,
- Identification of the roads to be restored and definition of a methodology and a pluriannual plan, based on consultations with all the parties concerned with the management of the property,
- Realization of a Sanitation Master Plan (SMP);
- Capitalization on the traditional know-how of fishermen to address the issue of sanitation and salubrity at the property;
- Training and capacity building in architectural, urban and landscape conservation at local and national level:
 - Organization of two capacity-building workshops in the field of architectural, urban and landscape conservation in the framework of the AfriCAP2016 project;
 - Training and tools for sustainable management of the property through two internships in France;
- Strengthening the financial resources and technical and administrative capacities of the Cultural Heritage House (CHH) to raise funds and implement activities:
 - Establishment of a Committee of Ambassadors and Patrons of the Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (HTGB), and mobilization of the local communities and public-private partnerships;
 - Establishment of a revenue management system within the CHH;
 - Acquisition of public funding for the restoration of the CHH and equipment of the offices, and private funding for the rehabilitation and equipment of the Information Centre;
 - Revision and updating of the texts governing the functioning of the Building Permits Commission and the Local Management Committee of the HTGB, clarifying the levels of competences and improving work conditions;
- Application of emergency measures and restoration in conformity with the ancient Palace of Justice: In view of the inadequate expertise available for this restoration, the State Party has received technical assistance in the framework of international cooperation.

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

The State Party's report provides concrete information on the actions taken since 2015, in particular with regard to ongoing and future restoration projects, building inventories, capacity building, mobilization of funds, and also initiatives for the sanitation and salubrity of the site. The report reaffirms the State Party's commitment to the conservation and enhancement of the property.

The extensive documentation annexed to the report provides a more detailed description of the restoration projects for the CHH and the Palace of Justice, the redevelopment of the Boulevard Treich-Laplène, as well as the inventory work carried out on the land status of the property.

It is commendable that the measures initiated following the inscription of the property have been pursued and continue to benefit from assistance for the restoration and conservation of the public and privately-owned buildings in the framework of international cooperation and programmes such as AfriCAP2016, enabling support for training programmes. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue these programmes, ensuring the sustainability and capitalization on these measures.

The work carried out on the land ownership situation through inventory and documentary research, involving several national and international partner universities, as well as the methodology established to formulate restoration priorities, are also appreciated. Documentary research on the property should be carried out more thoroughly to ensure that the inventory is kept up to date, and to regularly verify the applicability of the regulatory texts for the conservation and sustainable and efficient management of the property.

The report again raises the issue of sanitation and salubrity at the property, notably emphasizing recourse to the traditional know-how of the fishermen of the village of N'zima to prevent the rooting of aquatic plants. It also highlights initiatives that mobilize the local community around projects through public-private partnerships. This approach is commendable, and it is necessary to strengthen the promotion, valorization and awareness of the local community for a greater appropriation of the conservation of the property by the community. In this sense, the creation of a revenue management system within the CHH is a positive measure and indicative of the community involvement by ensuring both the mobilization and management of funds, as well as artistic events and cultural activities to promote the property.

Concerning the project to reopen the mouth of the Comoé River, previous reports have already referred to the expected benefits of such a measure on the ecosystem as well as the important socio-economic impact, in particular enabling the return of the fishing activity in the lagoon. The report confirms that this project is still relevant and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep it informed of its implementation and impact.

The efforts undertaken for the promotion of the property through the installation of information panels in the town, and the awareness-raising and promotion campaigns to increase attractiveness for tourists are appreciated.

The State Party is aware of persistent anthropogenic and natural constraints such as sand extraction, illegal construction, coastal erosion, high humidity, and other factors that affect the property in the medium and long term. It is important that these factors are taken into account in the planning of conservation actions, and in particular, it is necessary to develop further measures to combat coastal erosion.

Draft decision: 41 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.17**, **37 COM 7B.37** and **39 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the implementation of the conservation and valorization measures in response to the points raised by the Committee in its previous decisions, notably Decision **39 COM 7B.38**;*
4. *Takes note with satisfaction of the continuation of international partnerships, in particular for training in conservation and management, as well as the involvement and mobilization of local communities and efforts to promote the property;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue to implement the specific actions requested by the Committee in its previous decisions and reflected in the Action Plan aimed at strengthening the protection and conservation of the property, further the documentary research on the property, keep the inventory up to date, and regularly verify the applicability of the reglementary texts for a sustainable and efficient conservation and management of the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of the implementation of major projects, namely the restoration in conformity with the ancient Palace of Justice, restoration of the Grand Bassam Cultural Heritage House, the development of the road network for the property, operational projects in the framework of the application of the Sanitation Master Plan, and the reopening of the river mouth, and reminds the State Party of the need to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any*

future projects likely to affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before hard-to-reverse decisions are taken;

7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned points.*

68. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 17,018

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds (and other sources)

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

Previous monitoring missions

April 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents> and responds to some of the recommendations of the Committee at its last session and of the April 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission. It includes the following:

- Geographical coordinates have been provided together with an outline description of the main parameters of the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation project (Kuraz project);
- The State Party has assembled a team of experts to revise the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Kuraz project and submitted Terms of Reference (TOR) for the new HIA;
- Two local consultants were engaged in 2016 as part of a European Union funded project to undertake a baseline survey on community engagement, tourism development and site protection, and include consideration on boundary delineation, legal protection and the development of a management plan;

- The Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage has established a protocol on back-filling and rehabilitation of excavation areas. The other recommendations of the 2015 mission relating to visitor management, risk management, involvement of local communities, and soil erosion monitoring, will be addressed as part of the above-mentioned EU-funded project.

On 2 October 2017, the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia submitted a report on their bilateral talks on conservation of Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property in Kenya, and on 26 January 2017 the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to address the cumulative impacts of developments within the Lake Turkana Basin.

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

Although repeatedly requested by the Committee in 2014 and 2016, full details of the Kuraz sugar development project, including precise locations of the five sugar processing plants, the sugar plantations, the 1,000 km of canals and drainage canals, the four towns and 40 villages and the road network that will service this major industrial centre, are still to be provided. Similarly, no information is provided on the relocation of pastoral communities, resulting from the Kuraz project, and which could change the landscape of the property. The project is now under way with one factory almost completed and with permission given for extensive development of sugar plantations.

It is of utmost concern that the project is advancing without sufficiently documenting the property as regards the known fossil-bearing outcrops and potential areas of archaeological importance, and without assessing the potential impacts of road networks, settlements and changes in water table and grazing patterns. Furthermore, the potential impacts of soil salinization and possible changes in river levels have so far not been considered.

The TOR to improve the HIA of the Kuraz project have been provided, but these do not currently address the main purpose of the HIA, which is to assess impacts on the attributes of the OUV, nor do they conform to the ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*. The HIA process can only be adequately carried out if full details of the Kuraz project are made available, if the boundaries of the property are adequately delineated and if the attributes of OUV are clearly defined.

Although requested by the Committee since 2012, little progress has been made on the SEA to assess the potential cumulative impacts of the Kuraz project and other major development projects in Ethiopia and Kenya. A joint report on bilateral talks between Ethiopia and Kenya and the draft ToR for the SEA focus only on protecting the OUV of Lake Turkana National Parks, rather than also considering impact on the OUV of the Lower Valley of the Omo. This appears to be contrary to the intentions of Decision **36 COM 7B.3**, which requested assessment of cumulative impacts on the Lake Turkana basin where both properties are located, and Decision **40 COM 7B.80**, which requested that the SEA identifies mitigation measures and the least damaging and most sustainable alternatives for all developments impacting on the basin. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.4** and **40 COM 7B.80** in which the Committee requested a SEA to be submitted by 1 February 2018, the lack of progress, whilst project developments continue, is deeply concerning.

It is positive that two consultants started work on a baseline survey in 2016 under the three-year EU funded project. There is a clear need to prioritize the work on clarification and delineation of boundaries as the outcomes of that work are crucial to underpin both the HIA of the Kuraz project and the management plan of the property. Therefore, the timeframe for the completion of the boundary work, which is currently not set out, should be agreed upon as soon as possible.

Overall, given the large scale and scope of the Kuraz project, there remains an urgent need to clarify its extent, including associated infrastructure and the indirect as well as direct impacts it may have on the property, in order to understand how it can move forward in a way that recognizes and supports the OUV of the property as well as respects the needs of local communities. Until such adequate details have been provided to address these issues and a structure has been put in place relating to boundaries, protection and management, the property remains at considerable potential threat, as explained in the 2015 mission report.

In light of the above, it is recommended that the Committee welcome the launching of the EU project, which provides an opportunity to address many outstanding issues, but express its concern about the lack of sufficient documentation regarding the Kuraz project and the limited progress in the SEA, placing the property under considerable threat.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B**, **39 COM 7B.48** and **40 COM 7B.11** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Noting with utmost concern that work on infrastructure and agricultural projects associated with the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation Project (Kuraz project) is progressing without sufficient documentation on the property, before impact assessments have been undertaken and before clarification of boundaries has been completed, reiterates its request to the State Party to provide full details of the project, including clear and precise information on its scope and all locations of sugar processing plants, plantations, dams, canals, roads and new villages, as well as information on the relocation of pastoral communities, as a matter of urgency and by **1 December 2017**, as requested by the Committee at its 38th and 40th sessions, respectively in 2014 and 2016;
4. Whilst welcoming the commencement of the EU-funded project that will address tourism development, property boundaries, legal protection and management, including risk preparedness and community involvement, urges the State Party to give priority to delineating boundaries as the outcomes of this work are needed to underpin the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Kuraz project and the Management Plan, and to agree as soon as possible on a timeframe for the completion of the boundary work;
5. Requests the State Party to revise the draft Terms of Reference of the HIA of the Kuraz project to focus on the impact on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to be compatible with accepted international standards and with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and to ensure that the HIA is based on defined property boundaries and on clear and adequate details of the Kuraz project;
6. Regrets the limited progress made in advancing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts of all major developments impacting on the Lake Turkana basin, requested by the Committee since 2012, and also reiterates its request to the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya to submit the completed SEA, covering both the Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) and the Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) World Heritage properties, by **1 February 2018**, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also noting the scale of the ongoing Kuraz project, its potential direct and indirect impacts on the property, the lack of progress with the HIA and the SEA, the lack of clarity on the boundaries, and the lack of a clear understanding as to how the Kuraz project can respect and support the OUV of the property, considers that the property remains under considerable potential threats;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

69. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 31,776

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: for a Heritage Impact Assessment in 2014: 85,000 USD: Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; for a workshop on Historic Urban Landscapes in 2011: 22,943 USD: Flanders Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

March 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission; February 2005: World Heritage Centre Advisory mission on water and sanitation assessments; May 2010 and February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management and conservation plan
- Clarification of boundaries and buffer zone
- Pressure from urban development
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Air transport infrastructure
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Housing / deterioration of dwellings
- Solid waste

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report along with a PowerPoint presentation (PPT) on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project, which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/> and report on the following issues:

- The process for carrying out an SEA on the LAPSSET project was initiated in August 2015, and a summary of the tenders received was published in March 2016. Repcon Associates was selected as the consultant, and in June 2016 a stakeholder meeting was held on Lamu Island in cooperation with the National Museums of Kenya (NMK). The PPT used during the stakeholder meeting gives general background to the concept of an SEA, and provides the scope of the work to be carried out in Lamu including basic summary information on stakeholders to be consulted, general observations, existing concerns, and priority concerns and issues to be explored;
- A new chapter of the Management Plan, taking into account the LAPSSET project, has been written and sent to the Lamu County government (along with the Heritage Impact Assessment – HIA – for the first three berths) for consideration and adoption. Concerning the airport at Manda Island, the project to upgrade the airport is not part of the LAPSSET project, but rather part of an effort to improve air transportation in the country. The project consisted of the construction of a new terminal building and the paving of the runway. According to the report, the work carried out is not visible from the World Heritage property;

- The NMK has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LAPSSET Authority to cater for its heritage conservation interests.

The State Party also submitted the following documents to the World Heritage Centre:

- The LAPSSET Feasibility Study and Master Plan (dated 2011) received on 23 December 2016;
- A PPT on the LAPSSET Corridor Investment Framework for a workshop held in February 2017 received on 18 April 2017;
- Brief on LAPSSET Corridor Programme in relation to Lamu Old Town (not dated) received on 18 April 2017; and
- SEA for the LAPSSET project (dated January 2017) received on 2 May 2017.

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

Owing to their late submission, the extensive PPT submitted on 18 April 2017 and the SEA submitted on 2 May could not be fully taken into account in this analysis. However, the SEA does not appear to deal adequately with the World Heritage status of the property, nor does the SEA reference the HIA carried out in 2014, as was requested by the Committee (Decision **39 COM 7B.40**). Therefore, it is regrettable that the scoping study of the project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comment by the Advisory Bodies before the SEA was undertaken, as requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.12**.

It is recommended that the Committee note the receipt of the SEA, but request the State Party to revise it in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies taking into account the World Heritage status of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee recall that the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission to Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property considered that the cumulative impacts of the LAPSSET project could also affect Lake Turkana, and recommended that the SEA take into account Lake Turkana and other potentially impacted World Heritage properties. As requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.12**, the SEA should serve as a basis for ensuring that the project and its associated infrastructure and development do not have a major negative impact on the properties and their settings and thus on their OUV.

The LAPSSET Feasibility Study and Master Plan (dated 2011) submitted by the State Party in December 2016 does not contain any updated information with regard to the 2014 HIA or changes in timelines. Initially, the resort city associated with the LAPSSET project was foreseen to be finished in 2017. In Decision **40 COM 7B.12**, the Committee noted the State Party's assurance that the project would exclude the Lamu Archipelago, but this remains unclear. The ambiguities surrounding the LAPSSET project make it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to make any sort of informed evaluation of its actual and potential impact on the property. Furthermore, there is concern that if the SEA was carried out based on the 2011 document, it might have missed important changes subsequently made to project. Although the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on heritage conservation between the LAPSSET Authority and NMK is welcomed, it is regrettable that cultural heritage does not appear to be adequately addressed in the LAPSSET-related documents submitted by the State Party.

It is also regrettable that a formal report of the stakeholders meeting regarding the LAPSSET project held in June 2016 and the draft Management Plan of the property have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for comment by the Advisory Bodies. Moreover, the Brief on the LAPSSET Corridor Programme in relation to Lamu Old Town submitted in April 2017 does not refer to either Lamu Old Town or to the Lake Turkana National Parks, both World Heritage properties.

No HIA was carried out, and no detailed information was received prior to completing the work for the upgrading of the Manda Island Airport, although requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.12**. The report states that the airport is not visible from the property, but there are other potential impacts that should have been taken into account such as noise, pollution, and related infrastructure developments. Therefore, although the airport project has already been completed and may not be part of the LAPSSET project, the possible impact on the OUV of the property still needs to be evaluated.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.40** and **40 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Authority and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) according to which NMK should provide heritage advisory services to the LAPSSET project, but regrets that the World Heritage status of the property does not appear to be adequately addressed in the LAPSSET-related documents submitted by the State Party;
4. Also regrets that the 2011 Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the LAPSSET project have not been updated to take into account the new timeline, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in 2014 and the State Party's past commitment to exclude the Lamu Archipelago from any LAPSSET developments, and reiterates its request that full details of the LAPSSET project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2017**;
5. Reiterates its concern that the LAPSSET project will significantly increase the development pressures for the entire region, including the Lamu Archipelago, and that consideration must be given to all potential impacts on the World Heritage property caused by such pressures;
6. Recalls the outcomes of the 2012 mission to Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property, which considered that the cumulative impacts of the LAPSSET project could also affect Lake Turkana, and that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is needed as a basis for ensuring that the project and its associated infrastructure and development do not have a major negative impact on the properties and wider settings;
7. Notes the late submission of the above-mentioned SEA of the LAPSSET project to the World Heritage Centre, but strongly urges the State Party to revise it, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as a matter of priority, to take into account both Lamu Old Town and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties, any changes to the project since 2011, the recommendations of both the 2014 HIA and the 2015 mission, and submit this revised SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than **1 December 2017**;
8. Notes with concern that an HIA for the already completed Manda Airport upgrade has not been undertaken, although requested by the Committee, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake such an HIA as soon as possible in order to identify any adverse impacts on the property and ways to mitigate these impacts, and to submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Requests that the revised Management Plan, including the new chapter covering the LAPSSET development project, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and no later than **1 December 2017**;

10. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to clarify the current scope of the LAPSSET project in relation to its actual and potential impacts on the Lamu Old Town and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties, to examine work already carried out for the LAPSSET project and on the Manda airport developments, and to examine the overall state of conservation of the Lamu Old Town property;
11. Continues to consider that in the absence of a comprehensive SEA including adequate consideration of heritage aspects, detailed information on the overall LAPSSET project, and on measures to mitigate the identified negative impacts, the property is under potential danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

70. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development close to the property
- Road construction around the property
- Pollution of the Osun River
- Bush fires within the property
- Adverse impact of the commercialization of the annual festival
- Fragility of spiritual, symbolic and ritual qualities of the Grove in the face of a growth in visitor numbers and the lack of a tourism management plan
- Road through property not re-aligned

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

Current conservation issues

In October 2015, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents>), at the request of the Committee.

On 21 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at the above-mentioned web address, and provides an update on the state of conservation but does not refer directly to the detailed recommendations of the mission. The report includes the following:

- *Management Plan – urban development, tourism and risk preparedness plans:* A revised Conservation Management Plan 2015-2019 has been prepared and incorporates Cultural Tourism Management, Risk Preparedness Plans and new measures to eliminate development impacts and potential development threats. New measures have also been introduced during the Festival for crowd control and protection of sensitive sites. The revised Conservation Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review on 13 August 2015 prior to the ICOMOS mission;
- *Conservation approach and forward planning for conservation work on sculptures:* Major restoration work on the monumental sculptures in the grove has been started with a project launched on 24 November 2015. The restoration project has three phases and is planned to last four years. The project is in its second phase and has recorded the restoration of 13 sculptures and 27 motifs on the wall/ fence around the grove;
- Details are provided on the materials to be used in future work. The conservation unit of the National Museum, Osogbo, now has a plan for on-going maintenance work;
- The Festival Committee has agreed to release 5% of the funds realized by the Annual Festival to the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, to be used for conservation and restoration works in the grove after each festival;
- *Conservation of natural resources:* Work on cleaning and clearing the polluted river has continued and has been supported by radio and television enlightenment campaigns. Together, these actions are said to have reduced the pollution levels in the river, which is used for medicinal and spiritual purposes by those attending the annual Osun Osogbo Festival.
- A programme for replanting trees in areas that were previously disturbed is on-going.

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

While welcoming the progress reported, the lack of details means that it is not readily possible to understand whether and how the detailed recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission have been addressed.

One of the main priority recommendations of the mission was the need for conservation work on the sculptures to be underpinned by a more carefully considered conservation methodology which addresses the philosophy behind the conservation and how it should be carried out. Such an approach needs to be based on research into appropriate materials for shelter coats of the mud sculpture as an alternative to cement which cracks over time. These recommendations have so far not been responded to as no overall conservation approach is suggested and the materials set out include different colours of cement but no suggestion as to how a more flexible shelter coat might be developed. Thus, while the planned programme of conservation is to be welcomed, there is concern that this is being implemented without adequate guidance being put in place.

As the waters of the river flowing through the Grove are considered sacred and used by devotees during the annual Festival, the mission considered that it was essential that the water quality be monitored through laboratory analysis on a regular basis and, if the river was found to be polluted, visitors should be warned of the hazards of touching the water. Assurances that these recommendations have been carried out have not been provided.

Although the fact that 5% of the Festival income is now provided for conservation work, it is said that this is all spent on reversing the negative impacts of the Festival crowds. As the mission pointed out, the Sacred Grove is what attracts participants to the Festival and it is the conservation of the Grove that should benefit from its success. This means that an appropriate percentage of income should be allocated to support long-term conservation, not just reversing the impact of the Festival activities.

The recommendations of the mission to what was seen as an over-commercialization of the Festival, incompatible with its sacred status, were not addressed in the report.

The mission acknowledged the need to document the complex three dimensional sculptures and set out recommendations for graphic, photographic and photogrammetric documentation that could be used for monitoring; details as to how this need has been addressed need to be provided.

In terms of regeneration of the sacred forest (to reverse former agricultural encroachment), the mission considered that knowledge of staff should be supplemented with advice from professional nature conservation specialists on appropriate methods for forest regeneration. This does not appear to have been followed.

Moreover, in its report, the mission stressed the need to undertake further revision of the Conservation Management Plan 2015-2019, including the Tourism Management Plan, by incorporating the detailed recommendations of the mission. It appears that this revision has not been carried out and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to undertake such an update as a matter of urgency.

Other recommendations of the mission that were not addressed in the report are those relating to community engagement, lack of resources for professional staff, inclusion of staff in Festival planning, fencing the buffer zone, and plans for a proposed new road and bridge.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in regard to the development of a conservation project for the sculptures;*
4. *Recognizing the vulnerabilities of the property, as identified by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, expresses its concern that the detailed recommendations of the mission were not specifically addressed in the submitted report and that no progress appears to have been made with significant mission recommendations relating to the development of defined conservation methodology, analysis of the polluted river water, over-commercialization of the Festival, support of the Festival for on-going conservation work, community engagement, lack of resources for professional staff, fencing the buffer zone and plans for a proposed new road and bridge;*
5. *Considers that more clearly-defined progress is needed across a wide range of activities in order to put the management of the property onto a more sustainable basis;*
6. *Urges the State Party to address, as a matter of urgency, the detailed recommendations of the mission, in particular the review of the Conservation Management Plan, with, if necessary, advice from ICOMOS, and to halt further conservation work until a conservation methodology has been developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

71. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis)

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

72. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/912assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground water pollution
- Mining
- Surface water pollution
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Other Threats: Acid mine drainage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents>. Progress on addressing water pollution, acid mine drainage and management is reported in response to requests made by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015, as follows:

- *Water Management Monitoring:* The monitoring programme, which has been in existence for four years, collects data from 17 boreholes in the south-west part of the property on a quarterly basis. Across the rest of the property it is collected from eight springs and from surface and groundwater samples. This monitoring has shown that the main problem lies in the south-west of the property;
- *Second phase of Western basin works:* As was indicated in the previous reports, the current mine treatment work is inadequate during summer rains. A second phase for these works for the East, Central and West Rand Mining Basin will increase capacity and provide a longer term solution. This phase was approved in principle in May 2016;
- *Programme for mitigating risks to fossil sites in the south-western part of the property:* The State Party confirms that water resources are severely compromised in this part of the property by poor quality allogenic water from the outflow of the waste treatment works that infiltrates the karst aquifer. Damage to the fossil sites continues to be the focus of water monitoring. The State Party considers that threats to some fossil sites are low, particularly those in dolomite

compartments, although the threats to the Sterkfontein and Bolt's Farm sites remain high. Climate change increases the risk of higher rainfall leading to a rising water table that could adversely impact on fossils;

- *Management framework, including external factors:* The State Party clarified that the National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is the main management authority for water management at the component site. It works through two government offices for Gauteng and North-West Provinces. The water resource monitoring programme is managed by the Cradle of Humankind Management Authority. Responsibility for water management upstream of the property rests with the State through an inter-ministerial task team and an inter-ministerial committee. In addition, a Catchment Management Forum coordinates stakeholder interests.

On 1 June 2016, in response to a letter sent by the World Heritage Centre on 12 December 2015, the State Party reported progress in its engagement with stakeholders, including private property owners within the property.

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

The water monitoring programme is beneficial in so far as it has helped identify the major problems within the property. However, precise technical details have not been provided by the State Party regarding what is being monitored and water quality targets, as requested by the Committee.

There remains considerable concern about the high pollution levels in the vicinity of the fossil remains and the associated high risk to these sites. This situation is not expected to improve until the second phase of the Western Basin treatment work project is completed and operational so that no polluted effluent flows to these areas. Meanwhile a detailed risk prevention strategy needs to be developed in response to the potential threats.

The approval in principle of this second phase in May 2016 is a major step forward. However, no details have been provided on the design specifications for the project or on an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which were requested by the Committee, in order to assess the scope and outputs of the proposed scheme.

The State Party has indicated that no designs or detailed specifications can be provided until the Professional Service Provider (PSP) has been appointed by April 2017. The PSP has been asked to undertake the EIA, which is expected to be completed by June 2017 although it is unclear how this EIA can be undertaken if the specifications have not yet been agreed upon. It is therefore suggested that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit the design specifications and the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they are available and by 1 December 2017 at the latest, and before the parameters of the project have been determined and a construction contract awarded, in order that the review can inform the project.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee take note that details on water management of the property have been provided, and reiterate its request to the State Party to provide technical details on water quality targets as well as further information on the overall management framework for the property, including an update on its engagement with stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.44, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes that the water monitoring programme has been effective in confirming that the main areas of high water pollution are located in the south west part of the property, but expresses concern that the polluted effluent from the current water treatment plant continues to present a high risk to fossil sites;*

4. Also notes the arrangements for water management within the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide more detailed information on:
 - a) Water quality targets,
 - b) The overall management framework of the property, including an update on the State Party's engagement with stakeholders;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare a risk prevention strategy for the vulnerable fossil sites and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Welcomes the approval in principle given in May 2016 for the development of the second phase of the Western Basin treatment work project, which will improve the quality of water effluent, thus reducing the threat to the fossil remains, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the design specifications for the project and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they are available, and by **1 December 2017** at the latest, and before the parameters of the project have been determined and a construction contract awarded, in order that the review can inform the project;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

ARAB STATES

73. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 92,600

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for an international experts meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers (Japanese funds-in-trust)

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; from November 2007 to November 2009: Six World Heritage Centre missions financed by the State Party for the Safeguarding Plan and the issue of the metro. June 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Natural erosion
- Lack of maintenance of dwelling places
- Loss of traditional conservation techniques
- Uncontrolled land use
- Non-operational safeguarding plan
- Lack of coordination of actions
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Land conversion

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2016, a report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party. A summary of this report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents>. This report presents a progress report on the implementation of the "plan of attack" launched in the second quarter of 2014 and a list of actions taken since the last report on the state of conservation of the property, at the beginning of 2015, as follows:

- Field surveys conducted in 2015 and 2016 indicate that the number of empty plots and ruined buildings in the property has increased. The advanced state of degradation also appears to concern public space and certain networks such as sanitation, water supply, electricity and gas. Intervention on occupied buildings is complicated by the need to relocate residents temporarily or permanently. The completion of this operation is contingent on habitat actions at the national level. The legal status of immovable property in private law constitutes a major obstacle to the intervention of the responsible authorities, in particular in the case of properties abandoned by

their owners or when it is impossible to identify them. To this is added the question of properties dependent on the religious authorities or Awqaf.

- The State Party has transferred responsibility for the implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS) as well as the significant public funds allocated to its implementation, from the Ministry of Culture to the Wilaya of Algiers.
- Concerning the proposed metro station located on the Place des Martyrs, the report refers to the one submitted by the State Party on 30 November 2015 concerning archaeological excavations and the initiation of studies on the process for the museological display of the archaeological vestiges discovered. The full report on the preventive excavation operation announced for the year 2016 in the report of 30 November 2015 was not transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.
- Finally, it should be noted that an international experts meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers will be organized jointly by the World Heritage Centre and the Ministry of Culture of Algeria before the end of 2017, with funding from the Government of Japan.

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

The report submitted by the State Party shows that it is making significant efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and is taking the necessary measures to this end.

It should be noted that although the Wilaya was responsible for the implementation of the PPSMVSS, coordination between the many actions carried out remains the major challenge both for the effectiveness of the PPSMVSS and for the effectiveness of the system put in place. The multiplicity of institutional actors adds an additional level of complexity to the process of safeguarding the property. The intersectoral action that has been established, notably through committees, specialized subcommittees and a counselling unit, is an important step towards the effective implementation of the PPSMVSS, but it is crucial to clarify the structure and mechanisms of this action and to establish a timetable for its implementation. Legal issues relating to private law are an essential point to be addressed, and it is appropriate that a study has been launched to clarify the situation concerning the property and to find durable solutions guaranteeing the maintenance of a social and economic fabric without which the Kasbah would be emptied of its inhabitants and its urban functions. This concerns, in particular, empty plots which, besides the legal dimension, pose a major challenge in relation to the structural integrity of the Kasbah (strong slope of the terrain) and their treatment on an urban scale (reconstruction of buildings or transformation into empty areas).

The actions undertaken to renovate the electricity network, manage garbage disposal and clean up the public space are all initiatives that, while not directly affecting the heritage elements of the Kasbah, are essential to improving the state of conservation of the property as an urban entity. This underlines the necessity to approach the Kasbah not only from the patrimonial point of view but also taking into account all the urban components that compose it. This implies that the numerous operations carried out in the property can be analyzed in a global approach, on the scale of the territory of the Kasbah and the neighbouring districts. This would provide an overview of the state of conservation of the property in all its dimensions and on the basis of the relationships between the latter. To this end, the historic urban landscape approach, carried out by the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation, remains the most appropriate tool.

It is recommended that the meeting of experts on the safeguarding of the Kasbah address all key issues relating to the conservation and management of the property raised by this report, and attempt to clarify and propose improvements aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of the PPSMVSS, as well as the coordination among the participating institutions. The meeting should also provide a better understanding of the relationship between the implementation of the PPSMVSS and other projects related to the conservation of the heritage of the Kasbah of Algiers and which are currently under way.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Takes note of the continuing efforts of the State Party and its commitment to improve the management and state of conservation of the property but, noting the increasing deterioration, urges the State Party to deploy all necessary efforts to ensure the protection;
4. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to adopt an integrated approach to the management and conservation of the property, focusing on the historic urban landscape to define a comprehensive framework for the effective implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS), and the conduct of all other actions to improve the state of conservation of the property;
5. Noting further that an expert meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers will be organized before the end of 2017, strongly recommends that all the issues raised in this report on the state of conservation of the property are addressed within the framework of the approach described in paragraph 4 of the present Decision;
6. Commends the State Party for the results of the preventive excavation carried out in connection with the proposed Place des Martyrs metro station, aimed at reconciling the imperatives of urban development with the need to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, the final report on the preventive excavation operation carried out in connection with the Place des Martyrs metro station project, for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

74. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

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

75. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1192ter)

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

76. Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)

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

77. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1979-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 398,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: Special Account for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Egypt: USD 2,203,304 for the Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo project (URHC). For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/663>

Previous monitoring missions

August 2002, March 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the Cairo Financial Centre; October 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2009-2013: several World Heritage Centre missions for the URHC project; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission;

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake in 1992 (issue resolved)
- Inappropriate restoration works (issue resolved)
- Rise of the underground water level
- Dilapidated infrastructure
- Neglect and lack of maintenance
- Overcrowded areas and buildings
- Uncontrolled development
- Absence of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan
- Absence of an integrated socio-economic revitalization plan linking the urban and the socio-cultural fabric of the city core
- Housing
- Lack of a management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents>. Progress in addressing the recommendations of the Committee at its 39th session and the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission of November 2014 is presented as follows:

- *Stricter controls on demolition and development:* A Ministerial decree to regulate construction work and changes to elevations within the boundaries of Historic Cairo was issued by the Ministry of Antiquities in 2016 and is considered to be a remarkable step towards the unification of decrees laws, rules and conditions for the preservation of the urban fabric. The Governor of Cairo has also issued a decree to Cairo district heads, obligating them not to issue any demolition decrees without his personal approval. The Governorate's Heritage Unit and the Technical Bureau of the Governor, with the participation of the Technical Supervision Department of the Governor's Office, have also reviewed all demolition and repair decrees as well as construction licenses;
- *Strategic areas:* Urban regeneration strategies have been adopted by the Ministry of Antiquities, in coordination with the Cairo Governorate, for Moez Street, Souk al-Selah, and Bab al-Wazir Street and Khalifa Street areas;
- *Restoration projects:* The Ministry of Antiquities has provided lists of on-going and completed major conservation projects totalling some USD 800 million;
- *Awareness-raising:* A community engagement and awareness programme for local residents has been created by the Ministry of Antiquities, in coordination with the Ministries of Culture, Education, and Youth and Sports, museum departments, and civil society organizations. A Children Cultural Clubs Project will soon be inaugurated, which will be focused on the *Sabils* (drinking fountains);
- *Planning for a large-scale revitalisation project:* A large-scale, long term Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo Project (URHC) is currently being prepared by the Ministry of Antiquities. This project will encompass the whole urban landscape and its urban activities. It aims to revitalize the city's structures and activities so that it may become a major interactive component within the modern city. The Ministry will sign a contract with a consultant (the Engineering Centre for Archaeology and Environment, Cairo University), in addition to experts in specialized fields. The detailed administrative urban, cultural, economic and social goals of the project are clearly set out;
- *Management:* The Ministry of Antiquities, in discussion with the General Consultant of the URHC Project, is considering appointing a General Council for the management of the property, which would be legally constituted and have an independent budget. A final draft of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has been submitted for approval.

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

Progress has been made in addressing the recommendations of the Committee and the Advisory mission in terms of putting in place both short and long term policy and administrative measures to address the urgent problems facing the urban fabric of the Old City and its socio-economic structures. With its buffer zone, the property stretches to some 5 sq.km, Structures and measures commensurate with the major scale of the problems are needed as well as appropriately high levels of commitment and support.

The new decrees to control construction work and demolition are an absolutely necessary first step as measures to halt the rapid and irreversible deterioration of its urban fabric. Initiatives have been taken to raise awareness of and foster engagement with local communities and visitors. For the long-term, to revitalise the Old City as a crucial and sustainable part of the modern city of Cairo, work on the URHC project has begun under the aegis of the Ministry of Antiquities. Consultants have been appointed and clearly defined multi-disciplinary goals set out as well as planned work on new social, economic and legislative studies to complement others on the built fabric of the city. It is envisaged that over a period of twelve months initial studies will be carried out and analysed and the structure of the overall Master Plan will be set out. The State Party does not specify how this project relates to the UNESCO implemented project of the same name, completed end of 2014.

New structures for the management of the property are being considered that envisage a new legally appointed body with members having relevant national and international experience. This new body would be instrumental in driving forward the URHC project. Discussions on the way forward took place with the Director of the World Heritage Centre during her visit to the property in February 2017.

The scope and ambition of the URHC is clearly in line with the needs of the property. How the goals and aspirations will be taken forward need to be defined in the Master Plan along with structures, resources and actions as well as agreed stages to allow progress to be defined and monitored against a range of parameters.

The Committee might wish to take note of the measures taken so far by the State Party to strengthen constraints on construction and demolition, to begin to revitalise the structures of the city through a long-term and far-reaching multi-disciplinary project and to consider ways to strengthen governance arrangements. Given the challenges to be faced to halt and reverse the decline of the property, it is crucial that the State Party take all needed measures to halt the rapid deterioration observed at the property, while the new administrative and management measures are being put in place, and closely monitor the situation. From the information provided by the State Party it is not clear whether concrete results have begun to be achieved within the property to prevent illegal constructions and the rapid and irreversible deterioration of its urban fabric. In this regard, it is clearly desirable that benchmarks are established and shared with the Committee in order that progress can be monitored over time.

In March 2017, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that it plans to renovate the al-Azhar pedestrians' crossing bridge. However, to consider the request, the World Heritage Centre requested more detailed information on this project.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes the progress that has been made by the State Party in conformity with the recommendations of the Committee and of the 2014 Advisory mission in terms of putting in place both short and long term measures to address the urgent problems facing the urban fabric of the Old City and its socio-economic structures;*
4. *Also notes the immediate measures on the control of conservation and demolition of structures, on urban regeneration strategies for specific areas, and on awareness raising, as well as the revival of work on major conservation projects, and the planning of new ones;*
5. *Welcomes the steps that have been taken to start and plan a major Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo Project (URHC), under the control of the Ministry of Antiquities, and the scope of its urban, cultural, economic and social goals aimed at revitalising the Old City structures, and a one year work programme to undertake studies and define an overall Master Plan;*
6. *Given the challenges to be faced to halt and reverse the decline of the property, urges the State Party to take all needed measures to halt the rapid deterioration observed at the property, while the new administrative and management measures are being put in place, and closely monitor the situation;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to give high priority to the work of the newly-established URHC project; and requests the State Party to submit the draft Master Plan and*

established benchmarks in order that progress can be monitored and defined over time;

8. *Also welcomes proposals for a new management structure that envisage a legally appointed body that could be instrumental in driving the URHC project forward and also requests the State Party to provide further details about this structure;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to consider the progress with the development of the Master Plan and the impact of the new policy and recent administrative measures;*
10. *Recalls that the State Party needs to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including for the planned al-Azhar pedestrians' crossing bridge;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

78. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

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

79. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Lack of integration of the management procedures on maintenance, visitor management and disaster response in the management system
- Lack of design and construction guidelines for the Churches to be constructed in the buffer zone
- Need to ensure the protection of the western banks of the Jordan River to preserve important vistas and sightlines of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 October 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1446/documents/>, informing that the changes required by the Committee's decision had been included in a revised nomination dossier and management plan. These documents were provided, along with a copy of the construction activity moratorium.

In particular, the management plan now incorporates provisions for maintenance (Implementation Guidance for Maintenance), visitor management (Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Management) and disaster response, as well as guidelines for churches that might be constructed in the buffer zone.

Overall, the management plan presents information about the identification and description of the property, an assessment and analysis of values, the existing and previous site conservation and interpretation works, the tourism and management context. It provides policies and objectives related to site conservation, maintenance, interpretation and presentation, tourism and visitor management as well as site management, details about future strategies, actions and guidance about monitoring.

Maintenance and visitor management are addressed at both the policy and objective levels, as well as in future strategies and actions. The section on maintenance included within future strategies and actions reflects a structured approach, includes key actions, responsibility, and frequency of maintenance. The disaster response text identifies the main and other threats to the property, and measures to prevent or respond to disasters. The guidelines for church construction in the buffer zone are part of future strategies and actions.

On 21 August 2016, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre by letter that high electricity towers with a negative visual impact had been built on the other side of the Jordan River.

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

The reported progress by the State Party on the development of the management plan is acknowledged, which includes all of the recommended components, these being management procedures on maintenance, visitor management and disaster response.

The policy and objectives text regarding maintenance is relatively short but adequate, while the text included within future strategies actions is more detailed. Overall, the guidance provided on maintenance appears to be adequate.

In the case of visitor management, the policy and objectives text is also brief, and while it suggests areas for policy development, these are not actually provided in this section. On the other hand, the text within future strategies and actions is again more detailed providing both some policy framework as well as specific visitor management actions. This guidance also appears adequate.

The disaster response text is generally adequate except in the case of earthquake response, which only refers to who issues orders but not what actions will protect the property.

The management plan also includes the recommended design and construction guidelines for Churches, which are to be constructed in the buffer zone. While brief, they provide a framework of guidance for future Church construction. The guidelines do not address a range of possible issues, such as the height of new constructions, visibility from the property, colours to be used or avoided (although the guidelines indicate that visual pollution is not acceptable, and also the need for harmonizing with the setting), as well as overall masterplanning for the buffer zone to manage developments in the landscape.

The implementation of the guidelines should be finalized in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in future reviews of the management plan; the State Party needs to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.10** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively;
3. Commends the State Party on the revisions of the management plan in response to the Committee's recommendations;
4. Requests the State Party to supplement the disaster response guidance in the management plan regarding earthquakes, in particular to address specific response actions to protect the property in the event of an earthquake;
5. Also requests the State Party to consider supplementing the design and construction guidelines for the Churches which are to be constructed in the buffer zone to address construction regulations, visual impact, as well as the need for overall master planning for the buffer zone to manage developments in the landscape, and to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Reiterates the need to ensure the protection of the western banks of the Jordan River to preserve important vistas and sightlines of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

80. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 167,079

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 1 million from the Italian Fund-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Heavy flooding in 1996 (issue resolved)
- Insufficiency or non-existence of sewage disposal facilities (issue resolved)
- Insufficient conservation of antiquities (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled development of villages in the vicinity of the site)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction or road widening projects leading to the site)
- Other encroachments upon the integrity of the site
- Lack of management plan for the property
- Lack of clear boundary delimitations
- Land conversion
- Commercial development and major visitor associated infrastructure in the property (proliferation of shops), and its vicinity (new hotels under construction, Petra Museum project)

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted a report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>, addressing the requests made by the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015) and providing information on the management and conservation of the property, and the development of projects in the planned buffer zone.

- Integrated Management Plan (IMP): currently under elaboration in collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Amman, following a wide participatory approach, with 14 advisory groups, based on previous management documents. The IMP, which includes the definition of conservation priorities and scheduling of conservation projects is expected to be completed end of 2017;
- Planned buffer zone and related regulatory measures: the State Party mentions that it has decided not to submit a minor boundary modification proposal;
- Risk management: the implementation of the Siq Stability Monitoring Programme, which includes capacity-building initiatives, continues, particularly targeting members of the local community, with the support of international organizations. Conservation measures in the framework of the Strategic Plan (2015-2017) of the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) Directorate for Cultural Resource Management have also been defined, notably in relation to the effects of regular flooding and displacement of stones in various areas of the visitor main trail. The report also presents an overview of the archaeological excavations and research for the years 2015 and 2016;
- Sustainable local development and improvement of the local communities' livelihood; five initiatives have been launched: the Um Sayhoun Development Center, the Care for Petra Campaign, the Princess Alia Foundation, the Petra National Trust and the Capital of the Nabateans Cooperative;
- Petra Back Road project: the report assures that it complies with the requirements in terms of protection of archaeological remains and of the environment; necessary precautions and control measures were taken during the implementation. The project is expected to be completed in 2017;
- The Petra museum: the design was completed and the tender process was completed in December 2016; the construction works are scheduled for 2017. The report contains only the floor plan of the museum;
- A "Natural Protection Area" in Petra has been established, aiming at preserving and promoting the biodiversity of the area. A comprehensive study on this area has been provided with the report, together with a map showing its boundaries;
- Eco-lodge project: foreseen in the buffer zone and currently at design development stage. An archaeological survey has been carried out and resulted in no evidence of remains at the location of the project;

- The Crown Plaza Hotel: extension and upgrading works are foreseen; restaurant owned by the hotel currently in the Basin area, within the property will be relocated in the Heritage Village. The beginning of the works is scheduled for Spring 2017;
- The Heritage Village: conceived as a community-based tourism model, this project foresees to move commercial activities from the PAP to the planned buffer zone, in order to reduce the pressure on the property. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out to define its location, and sustainable design principles and materials have been identified. The village would be connected to the property through the Back Road.

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

On 22 April 2017, the Petra National Trust contacted the World Heritage Centre to raise a number of issues in relation to the conservation of the property. It underlined the decision of PDTRA to modify land-use regulation to favour development around the property. It also pointed out the pressure generated by current or planned projects, including those related to tourism.

The finalization and adoption of the management plan of the property is a top priority. Although regulatory measures are activated, additional details about what they stipulate would be useful.

The projects presented in the report are at an advanced level of development, either from the concept or design point of view, while the boundaries of the planned buffer zone have not yet been finalized; the maps provided in the report do not indicate the boundaries of the property and clarifications would be required.

As regards risk management, the work pursued at the Siq is important; the involvement of members of the local communities in the project is a positive element; however, it would be also useful to extend risk-preparedness studies and measures, notably landslide risks, to other areas of the property.

Concerning the Petra museum, the State Party did not follow the request of the Committee to have the final architectural drawings submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the start of the works.

The State Party did not provide detailed information on the achieved works at the Petra Back Road that would highlight the compliance of the works with the protection of archaeological remains and of the environment. It appears from the report that apart from becoming an exit from the PAP, the Petra Back Road will also connect the site to a number of projects in the buffer zone and notably the Heritage Village with the possibility of becoming a major component in the development process of Petra's territory; such a potential impact should be assessed.

The initiative to establish a Natural Protected Area in Petra is relevant and it supports the protection of the property. However, the comprehensive scientific study annexed to the report does not provide enough details on how the link between this new area and the PAP is defined. It is recommended that cultural and natural attributes not be separated when considering the protection and management of the site of Petra, beyond the boundaries of the World Heritage property whose Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) relies also on an exceptional natural setting.

The justification of the Crown Plaza Hotel extension and upgrade is presented as a major employment opportunity for local communities and a substantial contribution to the conservation of the property since it foresees to relocate the restaurant owned by the hotel from the Basin area to the Heritage Village. However, as the previous draft of the minor boundary modification transmitted by the State Party had foreseen the area of the Crown Plaza Hotel as being a no-construction zone, the extension of this project is very preoccupying in terms of urban encroachment and density of land use. There is an urgent need for clarity in the defined urban planning of the setting of the property, including its zoning.

The EIA of the Heritage Village project did not include a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The archaeological soundings carried out are not enough to measure the impact on the heritage of the area to be selected for the implementation of this project.

The Eco-lodge project is presented as best practice in terms of design but it is not clear whether and how the design criteria apply to the context of Petra. Moreover, the conceptual and preliminary designs would need to be examined in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This project also raises a number of questions as regards its impact on the property and its connection to the other development projects, which are foreseen in the buffer zone as well. The potential impact of such a project is not only physical, on the land where it will be located, but has other aspects at the level of the territory of Petra in general.

The “Sustainable Development and Community Initiatives” highlight an increasingly people-centered approach to development in the region of Petra. International cooperation plays an important role in the development of Petra, with numerous organizations providing financial support to projects in the property’s planned buffer zone and technical support for conservation purposes. All these development projects are foreseen in the setting of the property where a planned buffer zone has not yet been formally defined. In the absence of an overall master plan at the level of the territory, there is a lack of information on what their connections with one another are, and how financially and economically sustainable they are. Despite a positive focus on local communities, the creation of employment opportunities cannot be the main justification for the development of projects in the property’s setting. It is also unclear what impact these initiatives will have on the property and its setting.

Furthermore, information relating to these projects should have been submitted in advance for review according to the process defined by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, prior to the submission of the State of conservation report and supported by HIAs and within a clearly defined strategy for zoning of the property and its setting.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as possible, in order to assess the overall situation at the property and its setting and to discuss the development of a Master Plan. This mission should include a number of specialized experts in order to cover all aspects of the proposed development and planning.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Regrets that the Management Plan has not been finalized yet and expresses concern that a number of major projects foreseen in the planned buffer zone have reached an advanced level of development prior to their submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by ICOMOS, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Also regrets the decision of the State Party not to submit a minor boundary modification proposal towards the adoption of the boundaries of the planned buffer zone and considers that nonetheless the setting of the property must be adequately protected and requests it to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone including its zoning as a matter of urgency, in the context of the development of an overall Master Plan;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, with additional fields of expertise as needed, to assess the situation at the property and in the planned buffer zone, particularly those where the development projects are located or foreseen and to discuss the development of a Master Plan;*
6. *Urges the State Party to put the ongoing or planned development projects on hold and to control urban development in the planned buffer zone, until the Reactive Monitoring mission has visited the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on each of the development projects implemented or foreseen in the vicinity of the property, prior to the mission, **for review by ICOMOS;***

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

81. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)

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

82. Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 71,666

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 500,000 USD from the Italian funds-in-Trust for the rehabilitation and valorization of the Qadisha Valley

Previous monitoring missions

June 2003: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of legislative framework and comprehensive management plan
- Absence of coordination mechanisms
- Illegal constructions and urban encroachments
- Degradation of the mural paintings and buildings
- Uncontrolled tourist development and absence of visitor management
- Lack of resources for the management structure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>. This report only contains an analytical summary covering the recommendations of the Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015):

- *Paved road project in the valley of Our Lady of Qannoubin*: the project was submitted to the 'Development and Reconstruction Council' to ensure the necessary funds for its execution. The

damaged water canalization was restored but the final covering is not yet defined; nevertheless, a harmonization of the material for the pavement and that of the road is foreseen;

- *Management – updating of the 1998 Management Plan:* an Action Plan, prepared in close cooperation between the General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) and the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, was approved on 15 December 2015. The Management Committee of the Valley appointed an architect specialized in the restoration of historical monuments to direct the Executive Unit. Collaboration between the DGA and the Management Committee of the Valley has led to an improved application of the regulations;
- *Local communities:* in the framework of the Action Plan, socio-economic development projects have been proposed by the municipalities of the region, and will be implemented according to the priorities and funding possibilities.

The State Party adds that a mission to identify land ownership in the village of Qannoubin is being carried out and that the development project for a public garden has been implemented around the Saint George Church at Bcharré.

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

As the presented report was very brief, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a detailed report on the management and conservation measures, the work envisaged and implemented, as well as the socio-economic development projects proposed to the local communities.

The Action Plan, transmitted to the World Heritage Centre by the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, is presented as a simplified version of a management plan, and proposes an organizational structure to be implemented with available resources, contrary to the 1998 Management Plan. The Action Plan is a fairly comprehensive document comprising three parts:

- 1) Improvement of site management:
 - Structure and actions of the Coordination Unit,
 - Inventory of tangible heritage: data base, geographic information system(GIS), format for the inventory card,
 - Visitor management: roads, trails, accessibility,
 - Access to the Valley: necessary staff and training,
 - Accepted activities in the Valley,
 - Disaster preparedness and follow-up;
- 2) Conservation of tangible heritage:
 - Archaeological remains and preventive conservation measures,
 - Conservation and enhancement of built heritage,
 - Conservation and restoration of rural heritage;
- 3) Identification of pilot projects and budget estimates.

Furthermore, a project of 500,000 euros entitled “Rehabilitation and Enhancement of the Valley of Qadisha”, financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation for a duration of two years, was approved at the beginning of 2017. It will be implemented by the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut in collaboration with the DGA, the Federations of Municipalities, the Maronite Patriarchate and the Lebanese Mariamite and Maronite Orders. It will support the implementation of the Action Plan and improve mobility within the Valley through the rehabilitation of pedestrian trails, strengthening the capacities of local experts in conservation and restoration, and ensuring the conservation and restoration of a certain number of historic and religious structures.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure the urgent implementation of the Action Plan for the World Heritage property, and to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by ICOMOS, detailed information on all the development work foreseen and this before their implementation.

In the activities foreseen, the dimension of sustainable development for tourism would require strengthening, in particular to better integrate the components generating income for the local communities as well as the organization of waste management. The clarification of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones is also recommended, as requested in response to the retrospective inventory and as recalled by the Reactive Monitoring mission of 2012.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the Action Plan approved by the concerned parties and urges the State Party to implement it as soon as possible;
4. Notes that a project financed by the Italian Agency Development Cooperation foresees support in the implementation of the Action Plan, notably through the rehabilitation of pedestrian trails, training activities and conservation and by the restoration of a certain number of historic and religious structures;
5. Requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre more information on the socio-economic development projects proposed to the local communities and to ensure that these projects present no negative impact on the integrity of the property;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a clarification of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones in response to the retrospective inventory and as recommended by the Reactive Monitoring mission of 2012;
7. Reminds the State Party the need to inform the World Heritage Centre, in due course, of any major development project that might threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decision is taken, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

83. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 35,667

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 19,173 (1997-2001) for the International Safeguarding Campaign; USD 362,391 (2015-2017) from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)

Previous monitoring missions

2004: Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Office in Beirut; September 2006: UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: visit of the property by the World Heritage Centre

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need for an international safeguarding campaign (issue resolved)
- Construction of a tourist complex (land fill of the bay) (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a large fish market (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a coastal motorway (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled construction (issue resolved)
- Project to build a new tourist marina (issue resolved)
- Road construction project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Urban Master Plan for the city
- Lack of management mechanism (including legislation)
- Important and often uncontrolled urban development
- Public works, tourism developments
- Absence of a management and conservation plan
- Insufficient maintenance
- Major highway development near the property and the redevelopment of the port
- Lack of a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents/>. Following this report, the World Heritage Centre visited the property in February 2017. The progress achieved concerning some of the conservation issues treated by the Committee at its previous session are presented, as follows:

- *Management plan for the archaeological site*: the General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) has undertaken the preparation of a management plan of which the first stage is completed; its preparation continues;
- *Maintenance practices concerning vegetation control and fire prevention*: the situation has improved over the past two years with the increase of staff to ensure the execution of the Action Plan. The development of vegetation and the outbreak of fire have been reduced to a minimum this year. Measures are being undertaken to prevent the stagnation of water at the site;
- *Safeguarding of the mosaics*: several conservation projects have been implemented and others are ongoing in both parts of the site (city and necropolis), including in an important zone containing mosaics as well as in other areas experiencing conservation problems;
- *The maritime protection zone* is under preparation, the necessary data have been collected and a dialogue carried out with the concerned parties such as the municipality or the fishery syndicate of Tyre. The State Party announced that it would establish boundaries and the regulation to ensure the protection of potential underwater archaeology;
- *Coordination for the implementation of the "Archaeological project of Baalbek and Tyre (BTAP)", and the "Cultural Heritage and Urban Development" (CHUD) project*: all the actions undertaken, and in particular those in the framework of the BTAP, have been reviewed by the UNESCO experts through close cooperation with the *UNESCO Documentation and Advisory Services (UDAS)* project that aims to support the DGA in the management of the archaeological sites of Baalbek and Tyre.

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

The report deals with diverse activities undertaken to ensure the monitoring of Decision **39 COM 7B.54** of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the 2012 mission. The degree of precision of the report does not, however, provide an appreciation of the nature of the works carried out and their pertinence.

In February 2017, the World Heritage Centre visited the property and took note of the construction and development work in progress within the property in the framework of the BTAP and CHUD projects. This work, nearing completion, comprising: the establishment of a new visitor trail and the construction of security railings on the elevated areas, the construction of a multi-column shelter protecting a funeral structure, the renovation and extension of the museum, the laboratory, the boutique, the police post and the parking area located on the plot 1010 between the Avenue El Kouds and the archaeological zone of El Bass.

The World Heritage Centre noted that the major development works for the parking area had been completed and that the rubble resulting from the scraping of the surface area was stocked on the north side of the parking lot, without taking account of the comments of ICOMOS in September 2016 on this project. It is important to note that the parking area is implemented in an AR zone (archaeological) following urban zoning where work is not authorized. Moreover, the plot was proposed to be an integral part of the site in the report submitted by the State Party in 2013.

The construction of a shelter to protect an archaeological structure within the Necropolis was noted. This shelter comprises a large number of columns with very visible supports, that constitute an important visual impact. The DGA is not consulted regularly by the project managers in the decision-making process regarding possible negative impacts on the integrity of the project.

During the visit to the Tyre property in 2017, the manager indicated that various documents such as the management plan and the maps and plans of the site, including the boundary of the buffer zone in reference to Decision **37 COM 8B.45** of the Committee, was nearing completion and would be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre very shortly.

It is recommended that the Committee express its concern with regard to the development and construction works undertaken within the property, without taking into account the technical recommendations of ICOMOS, or without transmission of projects to the World Heritage Centre before their implementation. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to implement the different points contained in Decision **39 COM 7B.54** and recommended by the 2012 mission.

Furthermore, it is recommended to reiterate the need to carry out a comprehensive study on traffic, indicating all the urban and roundabout road network projects, as well as Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the South Motorway and the Tel el-Maachouk interchange, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre, as indicated in Decision **36 COM 7B.52**.

Finally, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission will be necessary to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify the measures required to improve its state of conservation.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 37 COM 8B.45 and 39 COM 7B.54, adopted respectively at the 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions,*
3. *Takes note of the progress made in the preparation of the Management Plan for the property and the conservation works concerning some zones of the site (including those containing the mosaics), vegetation control, fire prevention and the establishment of the maritime protection zone, encourages the State Party to continue this work and*

- requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the Management Plan, completing it based on the advice and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as soon as it is finalized;*
4. *Regrets that the State Party has undertaken work that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular in the El Bass zone without having informed the World Heritage Centre in advance, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
 5. *Also regrets that the State Party has not taken into account in the parking project the ICOMOS comments of September 2016 and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the work undertaken and envisaged, for examination by the Advisory Bodies;*
 6. *Further regrets that the State Party has not yet responded to certain requests contained in Decision **39 COM 7B.54** and urges it to undertake the following actions:*
 - a) *Ensure that the management structure becomes fully operational by securing adequate resources for all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring,*
 - b) *Improve the current maintenance practices concerning drainage and sewage control through the establishment of appropriate preventive measures,*
 - c) *Establish a safeguarding programme for detached mosaics and ensure their protection until a decision is taken on their conservation and restoration;*
 7. *Also urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the following:*
 - a) *Continue the work to ensure the establishment of a maritime protection zone surrounding the seashores of Tyre,*
 - b) *Monitor conservation interventions to assess their efficacy and use the monitor results to document the development of the conservation strategy,*
 - c) *Continue to develop and implement the framework for coordination of the Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project (BTAP) and strengthen cooperation between the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development project (CHUD), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to effectively monitor the design and implementation of the project,*
 - d) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated Action Plan;*
 8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate an in-depth study of the circulation, indicating all the urban and roundabout road network projects, as well as Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the South motorway and its Tel el-Maachouk interchange, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;*
 9. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify the necessary measures to improve the state of conservation of the property and its management;*
 10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

84. Ksar Ait Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

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

85. Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia) (C 1472)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (i)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Need to extend the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component
- Visual impact of the rain water diversionary dam near Jubbah and of the water tower on the eastern side of Jabal Umm Sinman
- Lack of visitor infrastructures and of a tourism management strategy

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/documents/>. The report informs that:

- The buffer zone for the Jabal Umm Sinman component has been modified from 100 to 150 metres. The recommended further extension of 1 to 1.5 kms towards the west and the south will informally be satisfied by the high sand dunes, rendering the area unsuitable for any type of construction that might threaten the integrity of the property;
- The masking process has been completed and the natural growth of the vegetation will take time, closely monitored by Jubbah Municipality;
- The reduction of visual impact has been accomplished by repainting the water tower with a more neutral tone;
- A complete plan of the visitor infrastructure has been drafted with detailed specifications, and the budget for this project has been secured;
- A Tourism Management Strategy including an interpretation strategy has been developed;
- A monitoring system has been developed and all required equipment mentioned in the relevant monitoring protocol has been purchased. Details have been provided of the 'protocol of condition

monitoring program' for the property which outlines the overall monitoring program. This includes microscopic and macroscopic monitoring, with the latter addressing such things as graffiti and other effects of visitor activity.

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

The actions taken by the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee are welcomed. Regarding the recommended buffer zone extension, the State Party informs that the high sand dunes to the west and south will prevent any type of construction that would threaten the property. While this assessment may be correct, it is not clear why an extended buffer zone cannot be formalised. Clarification from the State Party should be sought about whether there are any impediments to formalizing an extended buffer zone of 1 to 1.5 km, as originally recommended by the Committee.

In the case of the masking work relying on planted vegetation, given the arid environment, the success of this work requires close attention.

The repainting of the water tower has reduced the visual impact of the structure, and no additional measures seem possible. However, the long-term future of the tower should be reconsidered, such as when it needs to be replaced. In such circumstances, options should be considered to relocate the tower to a less visible site, or to use another water supply technology, which does not require a tower, and has no other impacts.

Details are provided about visitor infrastructure, either in the process of being completed or proposed. There are site masterplans describing the works, and maps have been provided showing the locations for marked routes, raised walkways and viewing platforms. The masterplans include strategic principles to minimize visual impacts and protect the rock art.

Both the tourism management strategy and interpretation strategy have been reviewed, and the tourism management strategy in particular addresses the potential increase in visitation. However, it notes that the increase is unlikely to impact on the carrying capacity of the sites as long as sufficient but low key recommended management infrastructure (as detailed in the masterplans above) is put in place. Such infrastructure includes gravel paths, simple stair and platform structures, minimal protective barriers and fencing, interpretive panels integrated with handrails, and carefully located small, lightweight shade structures.

The monitoring system has been developed with expert advice and appears adequate.

Several of these matters should specifically be considered as part of the normal cycle of Period Reporting and in future reviews of the management plan for the property: the success of the masking work, the visitor infrastructure work, and the proposed monitoring.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.11** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively;*
3. *Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee;*
4. *Requests the State Party to clarify whether there are any impediments to formalizing an extended buffer zone of 1 to 1.5 km, as originally recommended by the Committee;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to specifically consider in the management plan for the property the success of the masking work, the visitor infrastructure work, and the proposed monitoring;*

6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

ASIA-PACIFIC

86. The Great Wall (China) (C 438)

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

87. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Possible negative impacts of development projects in areas surrounding the buffer zones on the visual integrity of the property
- Inadequacy of the current management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/>

Current conservation issues

Since 2015, the World Heritage Centre requested comments from the Chinese authorities, in the framework of Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, concerning the construction of high-rise buildings in the vicinity and in co-visibility of the Historic Centre of Macao, yet these requests remained unanswered. After receiving third-party information in late 2016, the Centre requested that the State Party provide to the World Heritage Centre any relevant information and comments on this issue and the overall state of conservation of the property, for possible consideration at the present session of the Committee.

On 3 March 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>. The State Party also provided information on a project, which caused slight damage to Lou Kau Mansion in the Historic Centre of Macao, in response to the inquiries made by the World Heritage Centre in February 2016. These reports highlight the following:

- *Legal and planning instruments* have been further strengthened through the adoption of the *Cultural Heritage Protection Law*, *Urban Planning Law* and *Land Law* in March 2014.

- The *Cultural Heritage Protection Law* includes a chapter on the Historic Centre of Macao, which defines the characteristics of the property and guides the content and programming of the Protection and Management Plan (PMP) of the property. It stipulates that the local Government shall compile the PMP in consultation with the public and further clarifies that the PMP shall take precedent over other urban plans, in order to ensure that the property maintains its cultural and architectural importance as well as its environmental and landscape integrity. The local Government will carry out a public consultation concerning the PMP in 2017 in order to collect public opinions;
- The *Urban Planning Law* ensures that any urban planning within the property and its buffer zones requires advice from the Cultural Affairs Bureau. A holistic Urban Master Plan of Macao will be launched in the next three to five years, to be followed by a detailed plan that aims to control and regulate urban development in a scientific and transparent manner;
- *Building heights restrictions* in the development of the land plot "Macao Fisherman's Warf" located in the eastern area of the Guia Hill are still under discussion. The proposed 60m height restriction was more stringent than required by the *Chief Executive Order* of 2008, limiting the height to 90m within that zone. The Government will continue to review the matter and strictly abide by the *Urban Planning Law* and the *Chief Executive Order* while taking public opinions into account;
- As part of the city development, the Government intends to develop land reclaimed from the water between the Macao peninsula and Taipa Island. The *Master Plan for New Reclamation (MPLR)* is being developed in consultation with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the general public. It foresees that the area located southeast of the Historic Centre of Macao (Zone B) and its buffer zones will act as a green corridor that enhances the urban landscape. The waterfront will be made up of residential units, while preserving the visual connection to the historic centre. A detailed urban plan can only be developed once the Master Plan is completed and so far, the Government has only completed the research for the urban development strategy;
- In February 2016, a wall collapsed at the construction site of Cathedral Lane No.1-5 and Rua de S. Domingos No.16A-16E, causing only slight damage to the first floor wall and stained glass windows of Lou Kau Mansion. The project has been suspended and measures are being taken to ensure the structural safety of Lou Kau Mansion as well as to repair the slightly damaged wall and windows.

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

The possible impact of high-rise developments on the landscape of Guia Lighthouse and Penha Hill, as well as growing concerns about lack of a Protection and Management Plan (PMP) of the property could have serious consequences for the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

While the State Party's efforts to protect the Historic Centre of Macao from adverse development projects through the adoption of the 2014 *Cultural Heritage Protection Law* and the *Urban Planning Law* are noted, the current issue of height restrictions concerning the project at Macao Fisherman's Warf, the proposals for land reclamation around the property, and possible developments involving high-rise buildings all raise serious concerns.

Furthermore, information on the expected timescale for the completion of the Management Plan has not been provided. In view of the growing development pressure on the property, it is imperative that the Management Plan be completed as a matter of urgency, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to its adoption, for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is also recommended that the Committee recall that the completed Management Plan was requested by 1 February 2015 and note the slow progress with the completion of the comprehensive Urban Plan, which was requested on several occasions.

It is noted that the MPLR is currently being developed in consultation with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the general public, but it is unclear how this relates to the wider Urban Plan. Since land reclamation and subsequent developments could have a major impact on the property, it is also recommended that the Committee request that the State Party provide to the World Heritage Centre details of the draft MPLR for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is approved, and meanwhile to submit details of all current proposals for land reclamation, e.g. for Zone B.

It is finally recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are carried out for all new major construction projects.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to further strengthen the protection of the property through the Cultural Heritage Protection Law and the Urban Planning Law, both adopted in 2014;
4. Regrets the lack of progress with the completion of the Management Plan, which was due for submission by 1 February 2015, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to complete this Management Plan as a matter of priority, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review prior to its adoption;
5. Expresses concern over possible future development projects involving reclaimed land and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Master Plan for Land Reclamation (MPLR) before it is approved, along with details of all current proposals for land reclamation, e.g. for Zone B, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also notes that a holistic Urban Master Plan is foreseen to be launched in the next three to five years, to be followed by a detailed plan that aims to control and regulate urban development in a scientific and transparent manner, and also requests the State Party to provide details of the draft Urban Master Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies, as well as information on how it relates to the MPLR;
7. Further requests the State Party to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments for future and planned development projects, focusing on the potential impact of new construction projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decision is made;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

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

89. Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (C 1278rev)

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

90. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001 to 2003)

Total amount approved: USD 92,370

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 25,000 EUR under the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement for expert missions (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011).

Previous monitoring missions

2000: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2001: expert technical assessment mission; 2003 and 2004: World Heritage Centre and expert Advisory missions; August 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; February 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: UNESCO New Delhi Office technical mission to the property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Effects arising from the use of transportation infrastructure (Lack of traffic regulations limiting heavy duty vehicular traffic)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction project for two cable-suspended bridges in the property; Construction project for the road widening near the ancient Kamalapur tank; Proposed bypass to divert heavy traffic from the property)
- Commercial development (Demolition works in the Hampi bazaar near Virupaksha temple)
- Water (extraction) (Irrigation for water intensive agriculture)
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents>. The report presents progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The report outlines progress with the implementation of the Actions Plans of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property and its buffer zone since January 2016. It also states that work is being initiated by the respective government departments to update Sectoral Plans (which underpin the IMP) in a time-bound manner;

- A thorough management plan was developed for the Thungabhadra Otter Conservation reserve and the Daroji Bear Sanctuary. Such plans are intended to regulate any form of intrusive development or large-scale infrastructure projects that may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of these eco-sensitive areas. The report stated that the State Government of Karnataka has declared the Thungabhadra Otter Conservation Reserve (located partly in the property and buffer zone) as an area of ecological importance;
- Visual material has been provided on the Conservation Strategy for the *Virupaksha Bazaar*, in line with the abovementioned IMP, together with a concisely-written plan for the conservation of the bazaar in 2012-2015, including a map showing the locations of trial excavation pits at the bazaar;
- With reference to the proposed *Bypass Road* to divert heavy traffic from the property, the State Party reports that its present alignment respects amongst others the restrictions imposed by the Forest Protection Act of 1972, and that it is located in the fringes of the buffer zone. A detailed visualization of the circulation plan was provided;
- A thorough explanation of major and minor *conservation works* performed between 2010 and 2016 has been provided, along with a comprehensive set of maps for each monument. These show progress with the conservation of a number of monuments, including the Virupaksha Bazaar area, the Pushkarani temple, and monuments in the buffer zone;
- *Security*: To protect cultural heritage from vandalism, a Hampi Protection Force has been established to patrol the property and its buffer zone.

On 12 September 2016, the World Heritage Centre has addressed a letter to the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO concerning the issue of road widening in the Kamalapur tank area, an activity that may negatively impact the OUV of the property. At the time of drafting this report, the State Party had not yet provided information or comments.

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

The progress achieved by the State Party, as identified in the abovementioned state of conservation report, is welcomed, especially with regard to progress achieved with the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan and its Action Plans, the commitment to update Sectoral Plans, the strengthened protection of the property through the designation of areas of ecological importance, the Conservation Plan for the Virupaksha Bazaar, and the Circulation Plan and bypass road to divert traffic away from the property. It is also noted that the State Party made a commitment to protect the property and its buffer zone through the establishment of a special patrol.

However, the widening of a road in the Kamalapur tank area remains a source of concern, as it may have a negative impact the OUV of the property. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to provide detailed information on this matter for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party, especially with regard to progress with the implementation of the Action Plans of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), the strengthened protection in newly designated areas of ecological importance, the Conservation Plan for the Virupaksha Bazaar, and the Circulation Plan and bypass road to divert traffic away from the property;
4. Notes the State Party's commitment to update Sectoral Plans, which underpin the IMP, and requests the State Party to provide a timetable for the completion of this work;

5. Acknowledges the progress made with the conservation of a number of monuments, including the Virupaksha Bazaar area, the Hanuman Shrine, the Pushkarani Temple, and monuments located in the buffer zone;
6. Notes with concern the information received on proposals for widening of a road near the Kamalapur tank area, which may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and urges the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to provide detailed information concerning this project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

91. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the *Subak* System as a Manifestation of the *Tri Hita Karana* Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems (Vulnerability of the *Subak* system)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Lack of support for traditional farming systems and of benefits that would allow farmers to stay on the land)
- Land Conversion (Protection of the setting of the landscape to protect the water source that underpins the *Subak* system)
- Housing (Development pressures)
- Governance, Management systems/management plans (Lack of functioning governance system to implement the Management Plan, Absence of a strategic tourism plan)
- Society's valuing of heritage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>.

Following consultative meetings with experts and stakeholders, the conservation and management of the property are focused on the establishment of a Coordination Forum, spatial planning and of a sustainable tourism strategy.

The Coordination Forum is intended as a means of enhancing engagement and participation of Subak farming communities, as part of the implementation of the Management Plan for the property. Heads of farming communities and customary villages as well as temple priests were invited to meetings at the regency, provincial and national levels.

The State Party is committed to protecting the property from land conversion pressure. The processes to establish the property as a National Strategic Area are in progress, notably through a preliminary study, which will delineate the boundaries of protected zones and buffer zones and formulate approaches to zoning regulation. A spatial study for the entire property aims to compile data to support a future presidential decree aimed at the protection and appropriate use of the Cultural Landscape of Bali.

In recognition of the need to support traditional ways of living while providing benefits to the local community and delivering a positive visitor experience, a Sustainable Tourism Strategy has been prepared, with guidance from the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme. This Strategy was developed through a series of workshops involving local communities, policy makers, academics, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. It emphasizes the need for improved tourism management to help sustain the Subak System and includes a shared vision, strategic objectives and an Action Plan.

A guidebook for the property has been published, providing narratives on the Subak system and the Tri Hita Karana philosophy and supporting teacher training, the inclusion of Subak within the local school curriculum, and the participation of Subak guardians in touristic activities.

A range of financial incentives exist for the farmers, including land and building tax relief, grants or other assistance and concessions from the local mayors or the governor. Income generation for farmers was addressed through initiatives such as an organic 'Farm-to-Table' program.

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

The State Party, the province and regency governments have made substantial progress in implementing previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2015 Advisory Mission, in accordance with the commitments, which were made at the time of inscription.

The establishment of a Coordination Forum for the management of the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province is a key initiative, which will provide a structured forum for the participation of Subak farming communities in the formal processes for the conservation and management of the property, in a manner that can address and sustain their traditional practices as well as their economic and social needs. It is now important that the operations of the Coordination Forum be monitored to ensure that it contributes to the effective management of the property.

The availability of land and building tax relief, grants and other assistance and concessions to support Subak farmers is welcome, and it is desirable that these programs become available to support the livelihoods of all Subak communities.

Spatial planning can help protect the property from land conversion and other developments that may threaten its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), such as the unsuitable developments, which have occurred at Jatiluwih. The spatial planning initiative remains in progress and requires additional support. An integrated approach to catchment management is essential for water quality, forest management and natural resources, and both natural and cultural resources are essential for the healthy operation of the Subak system. Therefore, it is important to continue the current efforts to have the property recognised as a National Strategic Area, to implement customized natural resource management within the protected zones and buffer zones of water catchments and cultural properties, and to finalise the proposed presidential decree as a high-level statutory protection mechanism.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to prepare Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and/or Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for new developments in the property and its setting, particularly at Jatiluwih, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments and/or the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (as appropriate), including a specific section on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV of the property. The EIA/HIA documentation should also be provided to the World Heritage

Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Finally, the completion of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy is a major achievement that responds to previous calls for strategic planning, decisive actions and detailed tourism planning, and the Strategy can support Subak communities and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the property. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for these and other initiatives, including publications, teachers training, and the inclusion of the Subak in the local school curriculum. However, substantial challenges remain for this living Cultural Landscape and it is important that current efforts and programs maintain momentum through continued government support, and that there be close vigilance of any proposed major developments, including appropriate scrutiny by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.14** and **39 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing the Committee's previous decisions and the recommendations of the 2015 Advisory mission, which align with the commitments made at the time of inscription to ensure effective management as a means of protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Welcomes the establishment of the Coordination Forum for the management of the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province, the preparation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and other measures to reduce the threat posed by land conversion pressures;
5. Also welcomes the initiation of programmes which provide income and financial incentives for local farmers, including land and building tax relief, grants and other assistance and concessions, but requests the State Party to make these initiatives available to all of the Subaks within the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to closely monitor the Coordination Forum, including participation rates by local farmers and province and regency governments, any emerging issues, and the timeliness and effectiveness of responses and outcomes;
7. Takes note of the continued need for a catchment management approach to water quality, forest management and natural resources, as part of strategic planning to safeguard the water catchment, and further requests the State Party:
 - a) To take all necessary steps to ensure that the property is designated as a National Strategic Area, with special provisions that can deliver natural resource management within the protected zones and buffer zones of water catchments and cultural properties, and
 - b) To finalize the proposed presidential decree;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and/or Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are carried out for new developments in the property and its setting, particularly at Jatiluwih, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments and/or the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for cultural World Heritage properties, with a specific

section focusing on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV of the property, and to ensure that the EIA/HIA documentation is provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

92. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 115)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 5,710 EUR (France/UNESCO Cooperation Agreement)

Previous monitoring missions

July 2002: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2002: Joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission; June 2004 and May 2005: UNESCO Tehran Office fact-finding missions; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; June and December 2006, April 2007, October 2008, and October 2009: UNESCO Tehran Advisory missions; March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Underground transportation infrastructure (Subway route under the historical axis of Esfahan)
- Commercial development (issue resolved)
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2016 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents>, which provides information on the recommendations made by the Committee at its 39th session as follows:

- *Metro Line 2*: The authorities have shifted the routing of Metro Line 2 out of the property's buffer zone, and the new route is at a distance of 350m from Meidan Emam;
- *Boundary of property and modification of buffer zone*: The process for defining the buffer zone has been completed and maps have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

- *Conservation and rehabilitation*: Measures that have been approved and are partially in the process of being implemented concerning the conservation and stabilization of the Masjed-e Emam's dome, the restoration of columns and the ceiling of the Ali Qapu pavilion, the restoration and harmonization of parietal decorations in the Ali Qapu portico, the revitalization and reorganization of the Royal road and of the Meidan Emam square;
- *Education and promotion*: In order to better promote and present the cultural significance of the property, the authorities have established a permanent exhibition space in the Ali Qapu pavilion, including educational programmes and exhibitions. Better guidance for visitors within the property will be ensured through pedestrian roadways, which are in the process of being developed. This shall reduce traffic within the property;
- *Sewage system within property and its buffer zone*: Esfahan's Water and Wastewater Organization is planning the reorganization of the water and sewage system within the property and its buffer zone;

As requested by the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7B.67** (Bonn, 2015), the State Party also submitted a draft proposal for boundary clarification of the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

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

The State Party's efforts to address the issues raised by the Committee concerning Metro Line 2 are acknowledged and appreciated. The shift in the routing of the Metro Line 2 to a distance of 350m outside the property is a positive step and it is hoped that all mitigation measures, including the investigation and monitoring of monuments, will continue to be part of the tunnelling activities in order to ensure that these works do not cause any negative impact on the property.

While the efforts of the authorities in terms of conservation and rehabilitation measures are commendable, it is not clear whether these have been based on the draft Conservation and Management Plan or on the Master Plan for Esfahan. Furthermore, no information on the preparation of a systematic strategy on risk preparedness has been provided, despite the request by the Committee at its 39th session. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit the draft Conservation and Management Plan for comments by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its finalization.

An assessment study of the property against disasters such as earthquake or fire shall also be carried out in order to develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction, and integrate it into the Conservation and Management Plan.

More detailed information on the development of the spatial structure for the pedestrian tourists within the property should be sent to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any works are commenced.

Finally, the State Party reports very briefly on planning for the reorganization of the sewage system. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more detailed information on the reorganization of the sewage system within the property and its buffer zone.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 39 COM 7B.67, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to shift the routing of Metro Line 2 outside the property and requests the State Party to ensure that all mitigation measures and the investigation and monitoring of monuments continue to be part of the tunnelling activities, in order to ensure that these works do not cause any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*

4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Conservation and Management Plan prior to its finalization, for review by the Advisory Bodies, to carry out an assessment of the property's vulnerability to disasters such as earthquakes or fires, and to develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and integrate it into the Conservation and Management Plan;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and before any further works:*
 - a) *Information on the development of the spatial structure for the pedestrian roadways for visitors to the property,*
 - b) *Detailed information on the reorganization of the sewage system within the property and its buffer zone;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.*

93. Susa (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 1455)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

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

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of this property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/documents>. This report provides information on the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), as follows:

- In 2015, surveys were conducted in the buffer and landscape zones to update information on archaeological sites and assess the potential significance and current status of certain areas. Additionally, planning provisions were verified, providing elements to prioritize future geomagnetic surveys so as to ascertain their archaeological potential. This documentation forms the basis for a possible future listing as a protected monument or archaeological site at national level, and for negotiations with landowners to create a buffer zone around the sites. This activity favoured rescue operations at Ayadana mound (landscape zone) and to mark its physical boundaries with the owners' consent;
- The land ownership clarification process (property and buffer zone) began in 2015-2016 with a view to marking the boundaries of protected sites and to determining possibilities and/or priorities for land acquisition by the Susa World Heritage Base;
- A taskforce for awareness raising among local stakeholders was set up and held meetings to explain the significance and vulnerabilities of Susa's archaeological heritage. Locals are being involved in on-site monitoring;
- Following detection of the effects of seismic disturbances, storage reordering and restoration of stored objects were carried out at Susa Castle. Some of these objects will be exhibited at the museum;
- Capacity building programmes for associations were developed to prepare tourist guides and obtain their cooperation to in monitor seasonal tourism pressures;
- A Technical Committee and a Board of Trustees were established to support the Susa World Heritage Base; city and provincial officials are represented therein and, when necessary, representatives from relevant institutions are invited to ensure consistent decision-making processes;
- The ad-hoc Secretariat of the Higher Council of Architecture and Urban Development (HCAUD, appointed 15 September 2014) organizes meetings with representatives of the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Interior to examine work plans and to ensure that they respect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the requirements of the *Convention*;
- Several additional measures have been integrated in the revised implementation calendar.

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

The State Party has taken important initiatives to effectively address the Committee's recommendations: the clarification of the ownership of land plots, the delimitation of the boundaries for known archaeological sites and negotiations with owners on the definition of buffer zones and related measures around specific archaeological sites are key steps for enforcing protection measures. The reorganization and maintenance of the storage rooms, and the cataloguing and conservation of the objects preserved therein, also represent important activities that contribute to improving knowledge of the property.

However, the report documenting the activities carried out since the inscription of the property also clarifies that enhancing protection implementation requires significant and lengthy preparatory work, which needs to be continued and supported through the steady allocation of human and financial resources.

It is noted that mechanisms are being considered to ensure that representatives of the municipality are involved in the Technical Committee and the Board of Trustees, to guarantee coordination with the municipality. A list of members has been provided, although since it only lists names and not roles; it would be helpful if members of the aforementioned bodies were identified by their institutional position

rather than in a personal capacity. A high-level working group has also been established, including representatives from the HCAUD, the ICHHTO, the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Interior, to examine whether the proposed work plans respect the OUV of the property before they are submitted to HCAUD for approval. This represents an important step to achieve better coordination, yet it would be important that existing spatial plans be harmonized by integrating the OUV of the property and the related regulations, also with regard to the buffer zone and landscape zone.

Initial steps have been put in place to integrate risk preparedness considerations in the Susa Development Plan and the Management Framework of the property; these need to be further developed, paying particular attention to the property and its attributes, in order to reduce impacts from nature- or human-induced disasters.

Finally, it is noted that awareness-raising activities for the population and local stakeholders have begun and need to be continued to increase the local stakeholders' understanding of the significance of the property and ensure their support to the Susa World Heritage Base.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.13**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the initiatives undertaken by the State Party to strengthen the protection of the archaeological remains and sites contained within the buffer and landscape zones, and encourages the State Party to continue its work in order to finalize the updated mapping of archaeological sites within the two zones and provide them with the necessary protection measures;*
4. *Requests the State Party to continue harmonizing existing territorial and urban planning instruments by integrating the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the regulations related to the property and the buffer and landscape zones;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to:*
 - a) *Continue defining indicators to measure the effectiveness of the inter-institutional agreement,*
 - b) *Address risk preparedness and integrate the necessary measures in the Susa Development Plan and in the Management framework;*
6. *Also request the State Party to continue with the implementation of the recommendations adopted in Decision **39 COM 8B.13**;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated, detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

94. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

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

95. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)

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

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

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from UNESCO Regular Programme Funds for condition survey of Jam Nizamuddin tomb (2011); USD 33,000 from Netherlands Funds-In-Trust: Emergency assessment and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012).

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/deposition; Other climate change impacts (Significant decay of the property caused by local climatic conditions and alluvial erosion)
- Earthquake (Stability of the foundations (earth mechanics) of the Jam Nizamuddin tomb)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of definition of boundaries of the property and buffer zone of the necropolis; Lack of a Comprehensive Master Plan and a management plan)
- Management activities (Lack of monitoring)

- Land conversion (Encroachment)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Vandalism, deteriorated monuments)
- Solid waste

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 February 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents>. This report details progress with the implementation of Committee Decision **40 COM 7B.44**, as follows:

- Several urgent actions have been carried out, including provisions for regular litter removal, regular inspection of the site, as well as the stabilization of some original elements which were about to collapse;
- The Government of Sindh re-structured the Department of Archaeology and put together a new team for the property, composed of 27 staff members directed by a full-time archaeological conservator, with the assistance of four part-time professionals: an object conservator, an architect, a chemist and a civil engineer;
- A thorough cleaning of the property was undertaken and a team was established to work on the removal of vegetation and litter in each of the 4 zones. Much effort has been expended to remove graffiti;
- Four motorbikes were acquired to perform around-the-clock security checks and the main entrance to the property is staffed to block heavy vehicles. The remaining stretch of the barrier wall has not yet been completed, as it requires relocating numerous families living at the western edges of the property, which necessitates inter-ministerial co-operation with the Ministry of Housing and the Ministry of Interior. Once the barrier wall is complete, a survey will be undertaken to determine a new buffer zone and a minor boundary modification will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Three weather stations and crack monitors have been installed at the most fragile monuments, including at the Jam Nizzamudin Mausoleum, and a soil investigation has been undertaken on the surroundings of the Jam Nizamuddin Mausoleum. A procedure has been established to document original, displaced elements and a number of these elements have been collected and stored. Original, dangerously unstable elements have been stabilized in six monuments such as the tombs of Mirza Tughral Beg Turkhan, Meran Bai Tomb and the Lali Masjid;
- A provisional Management Plan has been developed in 2016-2017.

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

Overall, it is noted that the Government of Sindh has made significant efforts to implement the Committee's latest Decision and that the establishment of a documentation procedure is in progress. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the noticeable improvements to the state of conservation of the property, in particular with regard to site management, and that it request the State Party to submit details of the inventory system and documentation of extant architectural surface decoration, notably the remaining glazed tiles, which constitutes an important part of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

While emergency conservation works were carried out for several monuments, it is regrettable that emergency works have yet to be initiated for the most important and endangered monuments, such as the Jamia Masjid and the Jam Nizamuddin Mausoleum. The State Party's cautious approach is understandable, but preparatory work, such as documenting the monuments' condition, could already have been initiated. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to continue its work in this regard as a matter of urgency.

The efforts made by the Government of Sindh to deploy qualified staff and form a new team to manage and protect the property are welcome. However, there is still a need to enhance capacities, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to provide further training opportunities for the new team, particularly for sustainable heritage conservation and management. It is also vital that the installation of monitoring devices such as crack monitors and weather stations be followed through with appropriate data recording and analysis leading to actual management responses.

It is unfortunate that encroachments on the property, including the ongoing problem of new burials, have not yet been addressed. This is crucial for the conservation of the property, and a mechanism should be established to deal with this issue urgently. In engaging with the local community about new burials and the relocation of dwellings currently found near the barrier wall at the western edges of the property, an educational and outreach component should be included to raise awareness of the property and its heritage values, and to ensure that community connections are maintained and that changes do not create further risk of vandalism or damage.

The elaboration of a Management Plan for the property was scheduled for the first quarter of 2017. However, at the time of writing this report, it has not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. This work should be encouraged and must include measures to address conservation issues and encroachment along with the preparation of a regulatory plan for the buffer zone of the necropolis.

Although the OUV of the property remains under threat, particularly because of the perilous condition of a number of important monuments, in view of the positive approach of the State Party and the initiatives currently underway, it is recommended that the Committee postpone considering the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 43rd session in 2019, in the lack of any significant progress with the above. This will allow the State Party to continue its efforts towards improving the state of conservation of the property for another two years, in close co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.44** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Expresses its appreciation for the significant efforts expended by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property by regularly removing litter, graffiti and vegetation from the property, hiring security guards, and documenting/storing displaced original architectural elements;*
4. *Notes however that important requests made by the Committee are yet to be addressed or fully implemented, including the completion of the barrier wall, the encroachment of contemporary burials on the property, the stabilisation of important monuments, and the finalization of the Management Plan;*
5. *Requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Submit, at its earliest convenience, details of the inventory system for displaced architectural elements and documentation on the remaining architectural surface decoration, and especially glazed tiles, which constitute an important part of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
 - b) *Ensure that programmes to record and analyse data from weather stations and crack monitors are implemented and that the results contribute directly to the management and conservation of the property and its monuments,*
 - c) *Finalize the Management Plan for the property, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, together with a regulatory plan for the buffer zone of the necropolis, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Urges the State Party to:*

- a) *Continue the stabilization of all elements in danger of collapse, in order of priority, particularly the Jamia Majid and the Jam Nizzamuddin Mausoleum and several other monuments groups, and produce the necessary preliminary assessments and studies, as requested by Decision **40 COM.7B.44**,*
 - b) *Determine the most appropriate way of accommodating new burials, notably by considering the allocation of an area outside of the property's boundaries to this use, set up a mechanism for civilians to obtain burial authorisation, and ensure that the Management Plan acknowledges and addresses the living heritage values of the property and institutionalizes consultation with local communities,*
 - c) *Consult with local communities regarding new burial arrangements and residential relocation and seek to incorporate programmes for education and outreach, making sure that changes do not create further risks of vandalism or damage,*
 - d) *Establish clear standards and mechanisms for the continued supervision of all interventions carried out at the property, whether by the Sindh Government's staff or by third parties, ensure that all regulations are followed and that proposals for works are submitted, reviewed, and approved before any work is undertaken on site,*
 - e) *Develop a process for the prioritization of work and any related budgetary allocation to ensure that the most critical needs are met first. Priorities should be determined according to the significance and condition of the monuments, such that the most significant monuments in the worst condition are treated before those of lesser significance and/or in a less degraded state of conservation,*
 - f) *For each major monument, create an extensive baseline photographic documentation that can be used to monitor visible structural changes (e.g. loss of material, cracks, discoloration and biological growth). All photographs should include size and colour scales for reference;*
7. Encourages the State Party to provide short- and mid-term training programmes for the staff of the Department of Archaeology, to hire experts whenever necessary, and to develop a detailed list of responsibilities and a schedule of activities for each member of staff;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in the first half of 2018, in order to:
- a) *Review the progress accomplished with the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Committee at its 40th and present sessions, as well as the recommendations made by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, and in particular:*
 - (i) *the development of the Management Plan,*
 - (ii) *the overall management of the property (e.g. litter collection, site security, contemporary burials encroachment),*
 - (iii) *conservation works carried out on site,*
 - (iv) *the mechanism established for physical interventions, including the prioritisation of interventions,*
 - (v) *the establishment of documentation/inventory and monitoring systems;*
 - b) *Review the factors that constitute a threat to the property and consider whether there is still an ascertained or potential danger to the OUV of the property,*

- c) Advise the State Party on the issues related to the boundaries and buffer zone of the property as well as the completion and implementation of the Management Plan;
9. ***Further requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in the implementation of the above mentioned issues, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

98. Historic City of Ayutthaya (Thailand) (C 576)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/576/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/576/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 26,549 (2016) from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

April/May 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deterioration due to time
- Flooding (Impact of the 2011 heavy floods on the mural paintings)
- Management activities (Extensive interventions lacking in skill and documentation)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of a comprehensive plan for conservation and utilization)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/576/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/576/documents> and provides the following information in relation to issues previously noted by the Committee:

- *Training programmes*: Two short-term training activities were held to provide technical assistance for restoration with traditional techniques and materials. In addition, a new training curriculum has been developed, in keeping with research on the situation of local craftspeople and stakeholders and on traditional building materials. A long-term capacity-building programme will be carried out on an annual basis to ensure that adequate human resources and capacities are available to appropriately carry out restoration works at the property and at other national heritage sites;

- The draft *Master Plan for Conservation and Development* for the Historic City of Ayutthaya was revised in 2016 and will be implemented after approval by the Cabinet in 2017. It has an implementation cycle of ten years, with eight Action Plans addressing notably questions of legal land use, archaeological and historical research and conservation, controlled development of infrastructure, community management for sustainable development, prevention of disasters and risk management;
- The *International Symposium on the Conservation of Brick Monuments at World Heritage Sites*, held in October 2016, involved more than 200 participants, including experts from outside Thailand, officials from national and local authorities and other stakeholders, and led to the consideration of a contextualized approach to the conservation and management of the property;
- *New construction within the property*: The Fine Arts Department (FAD), in consultation with a technical advisory committee, has rejected a proposal for new water drainage gate within the property, adjacent to the Ancient Palace, and revised two new construction projects located within the property in 2015 and 2016 (one for the university, the other for a hospital). In addition, the FAD is currently drafting an announcement concerning the buildings within the property to regulate issues previously not covered;
- *Restoration projects*: The report provides detailed information on post-flood interventions undertaken from 2012 to present and foreseen for 2017. The FAD has implemented conservation and restoration works for 16 temples within the property and included details on several other projects according to the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission.

The World Heritage Centre received media reports that a fire occurred within property, destroying one traditional building on 16 April 2017. At the time of writing this report, the World Heritage Centre is verifying this information with the State Party.

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

The efforts undertaken by the State Party to address training needs and to improve skills and techniques in conservation are noted. The training activities carried out so far have considerably improved the capacities of FAD officials and local craftspeople. Moreover, the State Party developed a new curriculum, based on scientific analyses accumulated over 20 years, to upgrade the understanding and technical capacities of local craftspeople. This new curriculum has been designed to enable participants to share the knowledge they acquired during the lessons. These efforts, which enhance the quality of conservation, are highly welcome. The conservation project on stuccoes and plasters, carried out with the support of the German government, and the conservation and training activities for Wat Chaiwatthanaram, organized with support of the World Monuments Fund, are also acknowledged.

Progress has been made with the Master Plan for Conservation and Development of Historic City of Ayutthaya, drafted using a multidisciplinary approach. It tackles problems, which stood in the way of the implementation of the earlier Master Plan, combining local development with community-related cultural heritage conservation, to revive this prime cultural destination. Suggestions provided during the International Symposium contributed to updating the conservation philosophy for brick monuments and were taken into account for the revision of the Master Plan. However, the State Party did not provide detailed information on the comprehensive plan for conservation and utilization, as requested by the Committee in its previous decision. In addition, in view of the recent fire incident at the property, it is recommended that the State Party carry out an assessment study of the vulnerability of the property against disasters and develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and integrate it into the Master Plan.

It is further noted with appreciation that the State Party has been eager to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by restricting developments within the property. However, based on the information provided in the report, it was not possible to conclude whether the two construction projects revised by the State Party had been subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs). It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide further information on the projects to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV of the property. It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to take all necessary steps to finalize the announcement restricting buildings within the property to appropriately protect its OUV, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and revise the document according to their feedback prior to its adoption.

Finally, it is noted that the State Party will commence the recovery project for the extensive interventions at the property after a pilot training activity foreseen in 2017 under the revised Master Plan. The conditions of upcoming interventions need to be updated accordingly.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the capacities of local craftspeople who undertake conservation activities via a training curriculum based on scientific conservation principles and the use of traditional material and skills;
4. Notes with satisfaction the information provided by the State Party on the organization of the international symposium on brick monuments and on the revision of the Master Plan for Conservation and Development, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts towards developing a comprehensive plan for conservation and utilization, as requested in Decision **39 COM 7B.71**, with the assistance of experts and specialists from different disciplines;
5. Recommends that the State Party carry out an assessment study of the vulnerability of the property against disasters, develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and integrate it into the Master Plan;
6. Also notes with appreciation that the State Party has been eager to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by controlling development within the property and by preparing an announcement on additional regulations;
7. Requests the State Party to provide further information on the revised construction projects for the university and the hospital to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV of the property, and encourages the State Party to take all necessary steps to finalize the announcement restricting buildings within the property, submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and revise the document according to their feedback prior to its adoption;
8. Invites the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with updates on the progress achieved with the approval and implementation of the Master Plan for Conservation and Development, including the restoration projects and post-flood interventions at the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

99. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995 to 2016)

Total amount approved: USD 100,960

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Managements systems/management plan (Lack of a proper conservation and management plan)
- Management activities (Lack of coordination with regard to the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Programme, Lack of on-going routine maintenance and varying state of conservation of monuments)
- Managements systems/management plan (Lack of guidelines for rehabilitation of housing)
- Buildings and Development (Use of new building material and methods)

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

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property on 24-29 March 2016. On 27 December 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents>. The State Party's report presents progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- *Management Plan and governance systems:* Training workshops have been held over the past three years, in connection with the development of the Management Plan, which was due to be completed at the beginning of 2017;
- *Development control and guidance for traditional houses:* Illustrated conservation guidelines will be produced on the protection of distinctive architectural features of Bukhara.

A set of recommendations was also formulated during a workshop on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) held in October 2016, in association with the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. These include the need for stronger legal protection and planning codes for cultural heritage, subsidies for private owners and the restoration and maintenance of traditional irrigation systems and urban vegetation.

It is also reported that between December 2015 and May 2016, more than 100 sites were inventoried by the local specialists and that in 2016, four sites situated in the Historical Centre were restored using national and local funds and 10 sites using sponsorship and charitable donations.

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

While the early 2017 completion date for the Management Plan for the property is a positive move forward, the completed plan was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as suggested by the March 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission.

Until the plan is reviewed, it will not be possible to ascertain how it addresses the concerns expressed by the mission regarding the overall effectiveness of the management system. The mission suggested further input from ICOMOS on the finalization of the Management Plan, but the State Party has not requested any such input to date.

How the Management Plan will be implemented, what type of governance system has been developed to coordinate inputs from various agencies, and what will be their respective roles in the implementation of the Management Plan remain crucial points to be determined. It is recommended that the Management Plan be completed in conjunction with the new Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara, and close consultation with the local communities should form the basis for the development of this Management Plan. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the completed Management Plan as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The 2016 mission also drew attention to other issues, such as the degradation of traditional houses, the absence of guidelines for the rehabilitation of housing and structural restoration projects, and the use of new materials and techniques as well as the inadequate documentation of major historic buildings and the urban fabric. In order to address these issues, the mission recommended considering measures to enhance institutional capacity, protection and planning tools, financial support for the restoration of traditional houses and documentation, and assessment procedures. The mission reiterated that the establishment of the Bukhara World Heritage Unit (BWHU) and/or Steering Committee with legal authority for the implementation of the Management Plan would be essential to ensure better protection and management of the property. It also recommended that the State Party develop and consolidate a coordinated conservation plan as well as guidelines for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation the Historic Centre of Bukhara, so as to bring together key conservation activities for the improved protection of the property. It also recommended the enhancement of heritage legislation by establishing bylaws/regulations/guidelines for town planning, the rehabilitation of housing and historical urban areas, the design of new constructions, tourist services, heritage presentation, etc. in order to guarantee the legal protection framework.

Regrettably, neither the 2016 mission report nor its recommendations were mentioned in the State Party's report. As a result, none of these issues have been addressed specifically in the State Party's report. Although a few were reflected in the outcomes of the 2016 HUL workshop, it is not clear what status these outcomes have, nor whether there are means to address them.

Overall, the high vulnerability of the property remains a concern, particularly the impact of incremental change in relation to the ensemble of traditional buildings, many of which lack formal protection. There also remains a concern that the recommendations of the 2016 mission were neither acknowledged nor implemented.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
3. *Notes the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;*
4. *Welcomes progress with the development of the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the final text of the Management Plan, completed in conjunction with the new Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara and in close consultation with the local communities, as suggested by the 2016 mission;*
5. *Notes with appreciation that a Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) workshop was held in 2016, with the support of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust;*

6. Expresses serious concern that neither the report of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission nor any follow-up on its recommendations were mentioned in the State Party's report; and that no details have been provided to address the concerns raised by the mission regarding the degradation of traditional houses, the lack of guidelines for the rehabilitation of housing and structural restoration projects, the use of new materials and techniques, inadequate documentation of major historic buildings and urban fabric, and the need for stronger protection, planning tools, documentation and a Conservation Plan, many of which were already raised in the 2010 mission report;
7. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission relating to strengthening protection, planning, conservation guidelines, documentation, management systems and capacity building, in order to address the governance weaknesses identified by the mission, with particular attention to the following:
 - a) *Establish the Bukhara World Heritage Unit (BWHU) and/or Steering Committee with legal authority for the implementation of the Management Plan, to ensure better protection and management of the property,*
 - b) *Develop and consolidate a coordinated conservation plan as well as guidelines for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Bukhara, so as to bring together key conservation activities for the improved protection of the property,*
 - c) *Enhance national heritage legislation by establishing bylaws/regulations/guidelines for town planning, the rehabilitation of housing and historical urban areas, the design of new constructions, tourist services, heritage presentation amongst others, in order to guarantee the legal protection framework for the property;*
8. Reiterates its concern at the high vulnerability of the property, particularly in relation to the impact of incremental change on the ensemble of traditional buildings, which constitutes a potential threat to key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.