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

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-eighth session**

**Doha, Qatar  
15 - 25 June 2014**

**DECISIONS ADOPTED  
BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE  
AT ITS 38<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (DOHA, 2014)**

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## **2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

### **Decision: 38 COM 2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
2. Authorizes the participation in the 38th session as observers of those representatives of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the *Convention*, who have requested observer participation at the session and as listed in Section A of document WHC-14/38.COM/2;
3. Further confirms the participation in the 38th session as observers of all those invited by the Director-General of UNESCO in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and as listed in Section B of document WHC-14/38.COM/2.

### **3A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 38TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (DOHA, 2014)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 3A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/3A.Rev,
2. Adopts the Agenda included in the above-mentioned document.

### **3B. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF THE 38TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (DOHA, 2014)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 3B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/3B.Rev,
2. Adopts the timetable included in the above-mentioned document.

#### 4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 37TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (PHNOM PENH, 2013)

##### **Decision: 38 COM 4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013).

#### 5A. REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS

##### **Decision: 38 COM 5A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 5A** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of the expected results and the five strategic objectives as presented in Document WHC-14/38.COM/5A;
4. Takes notes with concern of the restructuring of the World Heritage Centre and urges the Director-General of UNESCO to ensure adequate expertise on natural and cultural heritage in the World Heritage Centre;
5. Also takes note of the report of the International World Heritage Expert Meeting on the Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (Rio de Janeiro, 3-5 September 2013), following Decision **36 COM 13.II** and decides to examine the proposals made in the report within the framework of the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* at its 39th session, in 2015;
6. Invites the State Parties to support the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the *Convention*;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at its 39th session, a report on its activities.

## 5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

### **Decision: 38 COM 5B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 5B** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities;
4. Welcomes the harmonization of the reports by the Advisory Bodies and the comments on the progress made and gaps identified for the implementation of the *Convention*.

## 5C. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S MEETING ON "THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION: THINKING AHEAD" (UNESCO HQ, 2-3 OCTOBER 2012)

### **Decision: 38 COM 5C**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5C,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 5A**, **34 COM 5C**, **35 COM 5D**, **36 COM 12B** and **37 COM 5C** adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011) 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the positive impact of the actions already undertaken, as well as of plans for further actions, and invites all stakeholders to pursue efforts to enhance and facilitate dialogue, communication and transparency in all processes of the *Convention* and in the framework of the Director General's meeting on "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead" (UNESCO HQ, 2-3 October 2012) as well as to address funding implications, within their respective mandates and competence, as appropriate;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of this decision at its 39th session in 2015.

## 5D. WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### **Decision: 38 COM 5D**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5D,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 5E** and **36 COM 5C**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made towards the development of a draft policy for integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*, despite the lack of resources;
4. Acknowledges the eight key dimensions of sustainable development, namely Inclusive Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Peace and Security, Resilience/Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Equality, Local Communities/Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights;
5. Acknowledges the significance of developing a policy which would emphasize the link between World Heritage and sustainable development in conjunction with the upcoming establishment of the UN post-2015 development agenda;
6. Endorses the proposed methodology for developing the draft policy for integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*;
7. Recognizes however, that broader consultations should be conducted in the drafting process of the policy and that adequate financial resources should be mobilized in this regard;
8. Strongly encourages all States Parties, other potential donors and partner institutions to provide financial or in-kind support for the successful completion of this initiative;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre along with the Advisory Bodies, if feasible, within the available resources, to submit a draft of the policy for examination by the Committee at its 39th session, in 2015.

## **5E. REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES**

### **Decision: 38 COM 5E**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5E,
2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 10**, **32 COM 10A**, **34 COM 5F.1**, **36 COM 5D** and **36 COM 5E**, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Thematic Programmes and Initiative and thanks all States Parties, donors and other organizations for having contributed to achieving their objectives;
4. Acknowledges the results attained by the Forest Programme and expresses its regrets that no extrabudgetary funding could be secured and asks the World Heritage Centre to explore alternative options before phasing out the Programme;



5. Notes the importance of the World Heritage Cities Programme and underlines the relevance of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to provide a comprehensive and thorough framework for cities' urban planning, conservation and sustainable development;
6. Takes note that the follow-up of the HEADS Programme will be ensured in the framework of extra-budgetary projects, through extra-budgetary funding secured by the UNESCO Mexico Office from the Carlos Slim Foundation, and in coordination with the Category 2 Centre on Rock Art (Spain) and requests that the outcomes of the projects be reported to the World Heritage Committee;
7. Also takes note of the results achieved by the Earthen Architecture Programme and the lack of extra-budgetary resources; further takes note that the programme will be pursued, provided that extra-budgetary funding can be secured, with the assistance of Advisory Bodies and external partners, and encourages stakeholders to ensure the follow-up of the Programme and continue supporting research and other activities in order to assist States Parties in identifying and protecting relevant sites;
8. Notes the results achieved in the implementation of the Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative as well as the lack of extra-budgetary funding; also notes that the World Heritage Centre will continue basic coordination with its strategic partners, communicate the results achieved by the Advisory Bodies and other partners, and will provide advice to States Parties as requested; and also encourages stakeholders to ensure the follow-up of the Initiative and continue supporting research and other activities to assist States Parties in identifying and protecting relevant sites;
9. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme and in securing the extrabudgetary funding and encourages the States Parties to participate in the Programme with national activities;
10. Acknowledges the results of the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which has been beneficial to all regions and continues to achieve its key objectives;
11. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, with the support of interested States Parties, to continue efforts to implement the activities foreseen under the remaining Thematic Programmes in 2014-2015;
12. Further encourages States Parties, international organizations and donors to contribute to the Thematic Programmes and Initiatives and further requests the World Heritage Centre to submit an updated result-based report on Thematic Programmes and Initiatives for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**5F. FOLLOW-UP TO THE AUDIT OF THE WORKING METHODS OF CULTURAL CONVENTIONS AND TO THE EVALUATION OF UNESCO'S STANDARD-SETTING WORK OF THE CULTURE SECTOR**

**Decision: 38 COM 5F.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5F and its Annexes,

2. Welcomes the findings of the audit and the recommendations offered therein;
3. Takes note that the General Assembly of States Parties decided to establish a sub-account under the World Heritage Fund with regard to recommendation 1(a), to be funded from Voluntary Contributions and to be used exclusively for enhancing the human capacities of the Secretariat, and with regard to recommendation 1(e) to apply the cost recovery policy for the staff time spent in managing the World Heritage Fund within the limit of the funds made available under the sub-account; recalls the invitation of the General Assembly to States Parties to provide voluntary supplementary contributions to the sub-account in the amount of at least US\$1,000,000 per year in total;
4. Takes further note that the established practice of the *Convention* with regard to translation and interpretation of statutory meetings – specifically, that costs of interpretation in languages other than English and French for Committee sessions are borne by extrabudgetary contributions – satisfies Recommendation 1(d);
5. Also welcomes the establishment by the Culture Sector of a Conventions Common Services Unit that aims to support the work of all convention secretariats, as suggested in Recommendation 3, and expects that it will add value and provide cost-effective solutions to the challenges facing the Conventions;
6. Acknowledges the necessity to prioritize the workload of the Secretariat to align it with available resources (Recommendation 1 (b)), while recalling that the Organization is confronting an unprecedented financial situation that demands creative solutions;
7. Considers that the annual frequency of sessions of the Committee is appropriate and welcomes the suggestion in Recommendation 1 (c) to reduce the duration and agenda of the sessions;
8. Takes note of the suggestion to synchronize the meetings of the States Parties to the different Conventions (Recommendation 1 (c)), but considers that this would not be an advantage to States Parties in view of the duration and location of the sessions.

**Decision: 38 COM 5F.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/5F as well as the “Evaluation of UNESCO’s Standard-setting work of the Culture Sector: Part III – 1972 *Convention*,
2. Noting that the present evaluation constitutes the first such evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of the *World Heritage Convention* of 1972,
3. Welcomes the findings of the evaluation and the recommendations offered therein;
4. Takes note that the current periodic mechanism already includes a number of indicators and considers that Recommendation 1, with regard both to the *World Heritage Convention* of 1972 and the Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, should be addressed in the framework of the reflection period regarding the implementation modalities of the Periodic reporting exercise, to be launched after the end of the second cycle of Periodic reporting in 2015, thus building on existing mechanisms, avoiding overlap of reporting mechanisms and ensuring greater efficiency;

5. Also takes note, with regard to Recommendation 2, that the *Operational Guidelines* include a provision (paragraph 172) aiming to prevent negative impact of development projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties, through a recommendation to States Parties to inform the World Heritage Committee about such projects, and that no distinction between national and international investment projects is made;
6. Calls upon States Parties, with a view to fully satisfy Recommendation 2, to introduce or reinforce existing mechanisms for evaluation of the impact of investment projects, both national and international, on cultural and natural heritage in general, and on World Heritage properties, in particular, and recommends that in this regard they make sustained use of all tools and guidance already developed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Further takes note of Recommendation 3 and decides to seek technical and legal advice regarding resolution of legal disputes pertaining to the meaning of certain provisions of the *Convention* and about the scope of obligations arising thereunder, on an ad hoc basis, as cases arise;
8. Recognizes that the proposals contained in Recommendation 4 are already being addressed by the Secretariat of the *Convention* of 1972 and the other cultural conventions secretariats, through the creation of Common Conventions Services Unit and that a process of harmonizing the working methods of the conventions is under way, through the Cultural Conventions Liaison Group (CCLG) and takes note that this is work in progress by the Secretariat towards complying with Recommendation 4;
9. Urges the States Parties to the *Convention*, in view of complying with Recommendation 4, to enhance coherence in the development of the legal tools that are necessary to make protection of heritage under the relevant UNESCO Standard-setting instruments, effective in their national laws and policies and requests the Secretariat to provide support and assistance to States Parties in this regard, where requested and appropriate;
10. Further takes note of Decision 194 EX/22 (paragraph 6) by the Executive Board of UNESCO concerning actions to be taken towards implementation of the recommendations of the evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-setting work of the Culture Sector.

**6. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES**

**Decision: 38 COM 6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/6,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 6**, **36 COM 9B**, **37 COM 5E** and **37 COM 6**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity Building Programme, and the capacity building activities carried out in 2013 and 2014;
4. Notes with appreciation the continued support of the Government of Switzerland in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme;
5. Acknowledges the acute need, however, for additional significant contributions in order to reach a critical mass of support for the programme to be able to reach its goal, and calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and other support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme and associated activities at the international and regional levels;
6. Takes note of the development of the regional capacity building strategies and initiatives as a follow up to Periodic Reporting exercise in all regions, and notably of the conclusion of the Regional Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific, led by the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP), and also calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders of the region to follow-up the implementation of the strategy;
7. Encourages the ongoing efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to establish a biennial recognition of best practice, notably through identifying extrabudgetary financial support towards the implementation of this activity;
8. Welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities as well as the outcomes of their fourth coordination meeting (Shanghai, 23-26 May 2014), generously hosted by WHITR-AP;
9. Further welcomes the establishment of the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region in Dehradun (India) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
10. Also takes note of the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 37th session (Paris, 2013);
11. Also encourages the ongoing efforts to develop a UNITWIN network of UNESCO Chairs active in the field of heritage conservation which would help streamlining their contribution to the objectives of the *World Heritage Convention* and strengthen their synergies with existing category 2 centres, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
12. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## 7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

### Decision: 38 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 12B**, **35 COM 12E** and **37 COM 7C** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,

#### **Issues emerging from the 2014 state of conservation reports**

3. Noting with regret that issues related to Management Plan / System remain a serious cause for concern, requests all States Parties to ensure that all World Heritage properties are managed in such a manner that their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is not put at risk and, whenever necessary, develop/update and fully implement Management Plans or Systems;
4. Taking note of the benefits to States Parties of systematically utilizing Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessments in the review of development projects, recommends that States Parties use these tools in assessing projects before they reach a point where the World Heritage reactive monitoring process comes into play;
5. Also noting that tourism development in and around World Heritage properties is a key issue for their management, strongly encourages States Parties to ensure sustainable planning and management of tourism at World Heritage properties and to contribute to the implementation of the World Heritage Centre's World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme;
6. Reiterating its utmost concern about the continued impacts on World Heritage properties due to the rising pressure from poaching, particularly of elephant, rhinoceros, and valuable timber species, linked to a growing illicit trade, and the increasing involvement of organized crime in this lucrative business, reiterates its request to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to strengthen their cooperation with the Secretariat of the *Convention* on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to assist States Parties to implement the measures taken by the 16th Conference of the Parties of the CITES, and urges States Parties to ensure strong international collaboration and coordination to control the illicit trade in flora and fauna and their products;
7. Takes note with concern of the continuing threat posed to World Heritage properties by disasters and conflicts, of the widespread lack of adequate preparedness, and of the need to integrate a concern for heritage within international policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, and calls on States Parties to ensure that their delegations to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), due to take place in March 2015 in Sendai (Japan), are sensitized to this question and promote heritage as an essential consideration in disaster risk reduction;
8. Also requests that States Parties with an interest in the promotion of capacity building on the issues of management, impact assessments, disaster risk management, sustainable tourism management, and poaching and wildlife crimes to liaise with the Advisory Bodies, World Heritage Centre, and UNESCO Category 2 Centres, and support regional or international courses, workshops, and other capacity building

activities to improve the capacity of States Parties and site managers to develop and implement these important planning instruments;

#### **Updates on previously reported issues**

9. Welcomes the commitment made by TOTAL in June 2013 not to explore or exploit oil or gas inside sites inscribed on the World Heritage List as well as the new policy on World Heritage Sites adopted by the investment bank HSBC not to knowingly provide financial services to support projects which threaten the special characteristics of World Heritage properties and, also taking note of the discussions held between the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), calls on other companies in extractive industries and investment banks to follow these examples to further extend the “No go” commitment;
10. Also welcomes the progress in the dialogue between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and encourages the development of a mechanism that would allow to identify potential impacts of future Olympic Games on World Heritage properties early on in the process of attributing the Games in order to ensure that these impacts can be avoided or adequately mitigated by the organizing country;

#### **Strategic issues related to the state of conservation of World Heritage properties**

11. Also recalling that States Parties concerned shall submit by **1 February** to the Committee through the Secretariat, their reports on the state of conservation of specific properties (Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines* ),
12. Acknowledging that the established minimum two-year cycle for the examination of state of conservation reports for individual properties (except for cases of utmost urgency and for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger), associated to a postponed deadline for the submission of the States Parties’ reports would provide an opportunity for improved dialogue between the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, decides that States Parties concerned shall submit their state of conservation reports to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December** of the year preceding the examination of the property by the World Heritage Committee, with immediate effect, except for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and for cases of utmost urgency, and further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to draft a proposal in view of including this new statutory deadline in the *Operational Guidelines* , for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session, in 2015;
13. Reminds States Parties of the importance of submitting their state of conservation reports to the World Heritage Centre in one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention*, English or French;
14. Notes with appreciation the high number of States Parties which have authorized the public upload of their state of conservation reports, facilitating their consultation by all stakeholders of the *Convention* and contributing to an improved transparency of the reactive monitoring process, and reiterates its encouragement to all States Parties to continue do so in the future.

## 7A. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

### CULTURAL PROPERTIES

#### ARAB STATES

##### 1. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

###### Decision: 38 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.23** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of measures at the property and urges it to continue with the implementation of the corrective measures, with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Undertake detailed condition surveys to identify priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,
  - b) Define a comprehensive strategy to address drainage of groundwater and impacts from other sources of humidity,
  - c) Finalize discussions with involved communities and develop a programme for the removal of inadequate new constructions and the creation of facilities to allow for religious uses in areas outside the boundaries of the inscribed property and its buffer zone,
  - d) Further develop the management plan to establish a clear policy framework, identify strategies and actions, with precise timeframes, costs and responsibilities for implementation, in main issues for the property such as archaeological research, conservation, maintenance, protection, visitor use, among others. The developed plan should also include clear provisions for the management of the proposed buffer zone,
  - e) Finalize the surveys to identify adequate boundaries for the property and buffer zones and submit, by **1 February 2015**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of all on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica and the reburial strategy, for review prior to implementation;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the

state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;

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

2. **Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7A.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.24** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in addressing the conservation of the property;
4. Regrets that the protective shelter was built at the Royal Cemetery in spite of the request made to submit details for the intervention for review prior to its construction, notes the physical and visual impacts of the shelter on the attributes of the property and requests the State Party to work with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in identifying options for the archaeological area and to reverse and/or mitigate the impacts generated by the intervention;
5. Reiterates its request to submit, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of all on-going or planned interventions at the site for review prior to implementation to ensure that no additional impacts are derived from them;
6. Urges the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to support the preparation of the conservation and management plans, to include the definition of an overarching conservation policy and to define a time schedule for conservation interventions;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, proposals for corrective measures and for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, together with a proposed timeframe, and to finalize the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



### 3. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of a restoration programme for the property;
4. Reiterates the need for the State Party to pursue its efforts and prioritise the implementation of the following, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM7A.25**:
  - a) Develop baseline documentation, including missing architectural plans and topographic surveys, carry out a detailed conservation condition survey,
  - b) Undertake identified preventive conservation actions to ensure the stability of the built fabric,
  - c) Identify regulatory measures to ensure the protection of the property and establish protocols for the approval of public works in the vicinity of the site, including the development of heritage and environmental impact assessments,
  - d) Initiate the planning process for the development of the Management Plan for the property, including a comprehensive conservation plan,
  - e) Establish a site management unit with adequate staff to implement priority conservation measures as well as maintenance and monitoring actions;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, proposals for corrective measures and for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, together with a proposed timeframe for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
7. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

##### Decision: 38 COM 7A.4

I

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its related protocols, the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the Delhi UN ESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
3. Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,
4. Deeply concerned by the persistence of the Israeli illegal excavations and works conducted by settler groups in the Old City of Jerusalem and on both sides of its Walls and the failure of Israel to cease such harmful interventions, requests Israel to timely stop all such violations, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations,
5. Regrets the damaging effect of the Jerusalem Light rail (tram line) at few meters from the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem as well as the construction of the so called "City of David National Park" in Silwan at a distance of twenty meters from the Walls of the Old City, the so called "Liba House" project, the extension of the Strauss Building and the Western Wall elevator, which severely affect the visual integrity and the authentic character of the site and requests Israel to restore the original character of the site in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations;
6. Also concerned by Israel plan to build a two-line cable car system to connect the Mughrabi Quarter with the Mount of Olives in the Palestinian East Jerusalem, and also urges Israel to prevent any damage to the integrity and authenticity of the property by abandoning the above mentioned project in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations;
7. Expresses its concern regarding the restricting obstacles imposed by Israel on the freedom of access that shall be provided to the competent national authorities including the Jordanian Waqf experts to safeguard the Old City of Jerusalem and both sides of its Walls;
8. Further regrets Israeli extremist groups' continuous incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound and urges Israel to take necessary measures to prevent such provocative

abuses that violate the sanctity and integrity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound and inflame tension on the ground;

9. Also regrets the damage by Israel in 2013 of the historic ceramics atop of the main gates of the Dome of the Rock and the damage of the historic gates and windows of the Qibli Mosque inside al-Aqsa Compound and affirms, in this regard, the necessity to respect and safeguard the integrity, authenticity and cultural heritage of Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, as reflected in the Status Quo, as a Muslim Holy Site of worship and as an integral part of a World Cultural Heritage site;
10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue applying the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, and also requests it to report every four months on this matter;
11. Thanks the international donors for their generous contributions to UNESCO projects for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, and calls upon the international donor community to further support, through extra-budgetary funding, activities aimed at the safeguarding of the integrity and authenticity of the Old City of Jerusalem and both sides of its walls;
12. Also thanks the Director-General of UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre for their efforts aimed at the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its walls and invites them to report on this matter at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015;

## II

13. Recalling 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting Decision, and all UNESCO Executive Board Decisions relating to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem,
14. Taking into consideration the 13th and all previous Reinforced Monitoring Reports and their addenda prepared by the World Heritage Centre as well as the State of Conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine,
15. Acknowledges receipt of the Jordanian design for the restoration and preservation of the Mughrabi Ascent, submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 27 May 2011, and thanks Jordan for its cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO Conventions for the Protection of Cultural Heritage;
16. Expresses its concern regarding the Israeli submission and content of its plan for the Mughrabi Ascent, and requests that the World Heritage Centre consider the design submitted by Jordan;
17. Also expresses its concern regarding the continuous, intrusive demolitions and illegal excavations in and around the Mughrabi Gate Ascent, and calls on Israel to end such violations, respect the Status Quo, and enable the Jordanian Waqf experts as a part of the competent authorities to maintain and safeguard the site in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations in particular the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954;
18. Thanks the Director-General for her attention to the sensitive situation in the Ascent and calls upon her to maintain her efforts in a view to implement all related UNESCO resolutions and decisions;

### III

19. Recalling the Executive Board decisions 191 EX/Decision 9, 192 EX/Decision 42, 194 EX/Decision 5(D) and the World Heritage Committee decisions 37Com/7A.23 and 34 COM/7A.20,
20. Decides to implement paragraph 11 of decision 34 COM 7A.20 adopted by the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia at its 34th session as follows:
  - a) **Phase I:** the dispatch, as soon as possible, of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls to assess, as a first phase, the 18 sites included in the Action Plan as pilot sites,
  - b) **Phase II:** the dispatch of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, to assess, as second phase, the major monumental complexes designated in the Action Plan (i.e. the Haram-es-Sharif, the Citadel, the Western Wall, the Holy Sepulcher and the City walls) ;
21. Requests that the report and recommendations of the mission be presented to the concerned parties before the next 195 EX Board session;
22. Takes note of the technical adjournment of the five Middle East items on the agenda of its 194th session and their inclusion on the agenda of its 195th session;
23. Invites all concerned parties to facilitate the implementation of the above-mentioned UNESCO joint mission;
24. Thanks the Director-General for her continuous efforts to implement the above-mentioned UNESCO joint mission and all related UNESCO decisions and resolutions, and invites her to report on this matter at the next 39th World Heritage Committee session;

### IV

25. Decides to retain the **Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**
- 
5. **Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) (C 1433)**

#### Decision: 38 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Regrets that the State Party had not developed the overarching conservation strategy for the Church of the Nativity prior to the commencement of the restoration works and

requests the State Party to provide such strategy based on the analysis of the church fabric and its historic, archaeological and architectural characteristics, prior to any future conservation works;

4. Notes the progress made towards the restoration of the roof of the Church of the Nativity but expresses its concern that this work is not being guided by a defined conservation approach;
5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop 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;
6. Further requests the State Party to expedite the development of the management plan and provide an electronic and three printed copies of this plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, 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 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain the Birthplace of Jesus, Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

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

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

**8. Ancient City of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)**

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

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

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

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

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

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

See Decision **38 COM 7A.12**

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

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57** and **37 COM 8C.1**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;
4. Takes note of the report provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List and expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties;
5. Welcoming the contributions and efforts of States Parties who have already taken effective action, reiterates its appeal to the neighbouring countries and to the international community to continue cooperation in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria;
6. Urges all parties involved in the conflict in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and those included in the Tentative List;
7. Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;
8. Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged property through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation actions that respond to international standards;

9. Reiterates its suggestions to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;
10. Commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst difficult conditions;
11. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties whenever conditions allow, to inform the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;
12. Recalls the request to UNESCO to establish a Special Fund for the conservation of World Heritage properties in Syria and welcomes the establishment of earmarked projects as an appropriate means to raise funds for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage;
13. Expresses its thanks to the European Union, the Flemish Government and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage for their financial contributions to the earmarked funds;
14. Calls upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds;
15. Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as the security conditions allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritised action plan for their recovery;
16. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
17. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
18. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
19. **Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
20. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
21. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
22. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### 13. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges with great concern, the extreme conditions that have prevailed in Zabid over the past three years and the way this has hindered external donors from fulfilling their pledges, and notes the major impact that this had had on the availability of resources and on progress with regeneration and conservation projects;
4. Also notes with concern the lack of support for conservation initiatives from some inhabitants of Zabid;
5. Nonetheless welcomes the positive progress that has been possible and in particular the adoption of a new law in August 2013 on the protection of historic sites, monuments, cities and their urban and cultural heritage and further notes the submission of an International Assistance Request to develop local awareness-raising activities for the conservation of the property;
6. Also welcomes the continuing support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the proposed collaboration of the World Heritage Category 2 centre (ARC-WH) in Bahrain and calls on the wider international community to offer what support it can to allow progress in halting deterioration and violations to be sustained and over time to allow sustainable development to be achieved;
7. Requests the State Party to submit revised information on the definition of the boundaries at the time of inscription, and to finalise the delineation of the buffer zone and submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2015** for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015,
8. Also requests the State Party to pursue all necessary efforts to raise the awareness of local communities on the values of the property and the importance of their engagement in its preservation;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, 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 39th session in 2015;
10. **Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



## ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and urges it to sustain these efforts to work on all corrective measures identified;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the detailed topographic map of the property produced in 2012, and finalise the buffer zone, and to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, by **1 February 2015**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
5. Requests the State Party to consider submitting an International Assistance request for the preparation of a long term conservation strategy for the whole property and the development of a multidisciplinary action plan for the stabilisation of the Minaret, in order to mobilize international expertise and comply with the recommendations adopted by the Third Expert Working Group Meeting in Turin (September 2012);
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures upon development of the conservation strategy and action plan;
7. Encourages the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity building programme to strengthen local and national capacity in heritage conservation and management including developing the capacity of local communities to contribute to safeguarding the site;
8. Calls upon the international community to continue its technical and financial support, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in the implementation of corrective measures and in the development of a long term conservation strategy and action plan and a project to stabilize the Minaret;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress achieved in the state of conservation of the property, along with a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session 2015;
10. **Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

### Decision: 38 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the progress made by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures, notably the conservation efforts at the Buddha niches and other component parts of the property, including Shahr-i-Gholghola and others, and efforts to mitigate the development pressure;
4. Takes note of the continued concern expressed by the State Party on the critical condition of the large Western Buddha niche; also takes note of the need to consider the appropriateness of the interventions at the lower gallery of the Eastern Buddha niche, and future reconstruction policies for the Buddha niches; and acknowledges that an ICOMOS Technical Advisory Mission visited the property to assess these issues between 26 May and 2 June 2014;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party, when considering options for the treatment of the Buddha niches, to ensure that proposals are based on feasibility studies which include:
  - a) an agreed overall approach to conservation and presentation of the property,
  - b) an appropriate conservation philosophy based on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - c) technical and financial feasibilities for the implementation of the project proposals;
6. Regrets that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) to assess the impacts of the development of the Foladi Road construction were carried out only after the road construction took place, and were not shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to construction;
7. Requests the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit detailed information, including HIAs, on any major planned developments within or nearby the property, such as the proposed Bamiyan Culture Centre and Museum as well as proposed visitors facilities, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to undertaking work;
8. Also urges the State Party to incorporate the Cultural Master Plan into the Urban Development Master Plan for the Bamiyan Valley to mitigate development pressure, and to enforce building codes and regulations on development in the buffer zones of the property and other areas protected under the 2004 Afghan Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties;
9. Further urges the State Party to finalize the Management Plan within an overall strategy of managing the property as a cultural landscape;

10. Encourages the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity building programme to strengthen local and national capacity in heritage conservation and management, including developing the capacity of local communities to contribute to safeguarding the property;
11. Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support for the protection and management of the entire property, in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
13. **Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 16. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress in the implementation of the conservation programme plan for Gelati Monastery;
4. Notes that the State Party submitted on 1 February 2014 a request for a Major Boundary Modification for the property, further to the request of the Committee;
5. **Decides to retain the Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 17. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

### Decision: 38 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7A.27**, **35 COM 7A.30**, **36 COM 7A.31** and **37 COM 7A.33** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the progress made to implement the corrective measures and urges the State Party to finalise its work on all the corrective measures adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) by the end of 2014, including to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, the Urban Land-Use Master Plan, including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, strict limits to development rights and a conservation master plan and which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, its specific landscape setting, as well as important views and connection lines;
4. Requests the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress achieved in implementing all corrective measures in order to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide advice to the State Party in finalising the Management Plan and the World Heritage State Programme;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of all corrective measures, as well as a minor boundary modification proposal for a unified buffer zone of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
7. Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## 18. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

### Decision: 38 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides to adjourn the debate on this agenda item until its next ordinary session.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7A.19**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.93** and **37 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of November 2011,
4. Reiterates its serious concern over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and notes that the implementation of the development, as currently planned, would irreversibly damage the attributes and conditions of integrity that warranted inscription, and could lead to the potential deletion of the property from the World Heritage List;
5. Also notes the information provided by the State Party, and requests it to:
  - a) submit comprehensive documentation for any proposed detailed master plans and detailed planning proposals, before they are adopted, together with an overall vision for the property over-arching such master plans, as well as details of the draft legal obligations and draft planning conditions for granting permission for any future development proposals,
  - b) ensure that the process whereby master plans and detailed plans for the Liverpool Waters scheme, when developed, takes into consideration the concerns of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Strongly urges the State Party to consider all measures that would allow changes to the extent and scope of the proposed Liverpool Waters scheme to ensure the continued coherence of the architectural and town-planning attributes, and the continued safeguarding of the OUV of the property including the conditions of authenticity and integrity;
7. Further notes with appreciation that the State Party submitted a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger along with a set of corrective measures, and expressed its willingness to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in view of its finalisation for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. **Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the World Heritage List in Danger.**

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.36** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to fund and organize the advisory mission conducted in 2014 and encourages it to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report;
4. Welcomes the development and adoption of the Emergency Plan for the property and urges the State Party to secure the necessary resources to commence the immediate implementation of the identified priority conservation and stabilisation measures;
5. Expresses its concern about the findings of the mission regarding the continuing deterioration of the historic fabric and erosion of the conditions of authenticity and integrity and also urges the State Party to prioritise implementation of the following provisions of the UNESCO World Heritage Management Plan and of the Emergency Plan for the property:
  - a) Update the legislative and regulatory measures to ensure the protection of the property and its terrestrial and maritime setting and to legally define the functions of the Patronato Portobelo-San Lorenzo,
  - b) Strengthen management arrangements and establish a technical office for conservation, with specialised staff, at the local level to guarantee high quality interventions at the component parts,
  - c) Define the boundaries of the component parts of the property and their buffer zones, including regulatory measures for their management and submit the revised boundaries as a minor boundary modification for consideration by the World Heritage Committee,
  - d) Develop a land use plan for Portobelo and San Lorenzo and include provisions and measures to control urban development and relocation of families occupying the inscribed property;
  - e) Promote international and interdisciplinary collaboration for the implementation of conservation actions and define a capacity building strategy to ensure the sustainability of conservation efforts,
  - f) Define, in collaboration with local authorities, measures to address environmental degradation and deficiencies in infrastructure services that are impacting cultural and natural heritage assets and constitute public health concerns,
  - g) Carry out the necessary scientific studies in relation to deterioration processes to better inform decision-making regarding conservation options;

6. Requests that technical details of proposed major interventions be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making commitments to their implementation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.
8. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **21. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A;
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.37** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for efforts made in the implementation of the corrective measures for the property and encourages it to sustain these efforts to ensure that the Desired state of conservation for the property is met within the established timeframe;
4. Urges the State Party to conclude the planning process for the formulation of the management plan and the comprehensive conservation plan and requests it to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the finalised draft management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
6. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **22. Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.22**

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.38** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the State Party for its long-term commitment and efforts to address the deterioration of the earthen architecture remains of the property and to put in place a sustainable and operational management system to continue to handle decay factors and threats;
4. Considers that the State Party has made considerable progress in meeting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and in the implementation of the corrective measures;
5. Notes however that the corrective measures, which are currently in planning stages, have to be finalized to ensure the long-term protection of the property and urges the State Party to:
  - a) Finalize the update process of the Management Plan and other planning tools for the property at the municipal and provincial level and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised planning tools for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - b) Finalize the approval process of Law 28261 to ensure that the property is adequately protected from illegal occupation;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property with a view to assess whether the implementation of the above-mentioned actions may warrant the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **23. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (C 658)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.23**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.39** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in addressing the state of conservation of the property and progress on implementation of recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee and the monitoring missions to the property;
4. Takes note of the submission of the revised cartography for the component parts of the property and proposed buffer zone and requests that it be finalized within the framework of the retrospective inventory process;



5. Adopts the revised Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as follows:
  - a) Traditional civil, religious and domestic architecture has been conserved in accordance to clear conservation principles that ensure that conditions of authenticity and integrity continue to be met. Conservation interventions are based on a prioritised and comprehensive strategy and plan that ensures continued actions,
  - b) The participatory management arrangements for the property are sustained through adequate resource allocation and staffing and guided by the adopted Management Plan, which includes provisions and regulatory measures for the component parts of the property and its buffer zones,
  - c) The disaster risk preparedness plan is fully operational and a comprehensive drainage system to prevent impacts from flooding vulnerability has been implemented,
  - d) The legal framework has been harmonised and effective measures are in place to adequately enforce regulations and sanction non-compliant development;
  
6. Also adopts the revised corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as follows:
  - a) Measures to be implemented within one year:
    - (i) Development of a spatial analysis for the property to identify and assist with the design of the conservation, use and functioning of the component parts,
    - (ii) Full development of the management plan for the property, including definition of regulatory measures for proposed buffer zones and heritage areas, a sustainable development strategy for the property, a public use plan, and a disaster risk preparedness plan to address all vulnerabilities at the property,
    - (iii) Full development of the conservation strategy and action plan, including a prioritised and costed interventions programme, based on the results from condition surveys, and guidelines for conservation, restoration and maintenance interventions,
    - (iv) Development of a strategy and action plan to formally integrate traditional know-how in conservation strategies and support capacity-building in the long-term,
    - (v) Development and implementation of a strategy to address problems related to ownership and abandonment of traditional domestic and civil architecture and identification of actions for proposed building reutilization,
  - b) Measures to be implemented within two years:
    - (i) Harmonisation of legal tools to ensure that overlapping mandates and provisions have been addressed and that a coherent policies are adopted to better inform decision-making regarding development and/or interventions at the property,
    - (ii) Full operation of the management structure to articulate different levels of government and promote social inclusion in decision-making, so that the implementation of conservation and management endeavours formally includes community councils in the management strategy,

- (iii) Articulation of provisions made in the Management Plan with local and regional planning tools and development, when appropriate, of supporting municipal ordinances to ensure management policies are complied with,
  - (iv) Development and implementation of a vehicular traffic strategy for the property,
  - (v) Implementation of comprehensive drainage system for the property to address vulnerability to flooding,
  - (vi) Development and implementation of a strategy to secure adequate resources to support building maintenance and conservation, as well as continued use, by owners;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress on the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 24. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013,)
3. Congratulates the State Party for having accomplished significant progress enabling the commencement of the reconstruction of the mausoleums on 14 March 2014;
4. Notes with satisfaction the preparation of a restoration and reconstruction strategy for damaged cultural heritage in northern Mali detailing the reconstruction method for the destroyed mausoleums, and appreciates the place accorded to the role of the communities, the responsible families and the corporation of masons in this process;
5. Warmly welcomes the reconstruction of the two mausoleums alongside the outer west wall of the Djingareyber Mosque (Sheik Babadger and Amadou Fulani), as well as the daily documentation work undertake throughout this reconstruction so as to better understand the organization of the work, the working relations between the masons and the owner families and planning the reconstruction of the remaining mausoleums;
6. Recalls the importance of the work concerning the constitution of documentation provided for each of the mausoleums, taking into account the character and unique specificity of each of them, and encourages the State Party to accomplish the documentation work, begun in June 2013, as well as all the studies and diagnostics

that are still required to define the different technical reconstruction solutions, and the physical state to which each of the mausoleums should be restored and to submit the results for examination;

7. Thanks all the countries and institutions that have contributed financially to the UNESCO and Mali Action Plan, adopted on 18 February 2013 in Paris, and more particularly Switzerland, the European Union, the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Norway, The Netherlands, the Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra and Mauritius;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the reconstruction of the mausoleums and the restoration of the mosques, and prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;
11. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **25. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for having organized the joint UNESCO/Mali mission of 11 February 2014, despite difficult security conditions;
4. Notes with satisfaction the preparation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction strategy for the damaged cultural heritage of North Mali, that includes the rehabilitation of the Tomb of Askia;
5. Requests the State Party to undertake the necessary actions to enable the urgent detailed architectural diagnostic to take place, to better identify all the weak structural points of the two mosques, and urges the commencement of the necessary conservation work before the next rainy season, security conditions permitting;
6. Expresses its concern that the management plan prepared for the period 2002-2007 has not yet been updated, and the activities of the Gao Cultural Mission have not yet

recommenced, despite the nomination of a new manager, due to lack of work space and equipment and also due to the security situation in the region;

7. Further requests the State Party to proceed with the revision of the 2002-2007 management plan in close consultation with the Management Committee of the property;
8. Thanks all the countries and institutions that have financially contributed to the UNESCO-Mali Action Plan adopted on 18 February 2013 in Paris, and more particularly Switzerland, European Union, International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Norway, The Netherlands, Kingdom of Bahrain, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), Croatia, Andorra and Mauritius;
9. Requests furthermore that the State Party invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in the rehabilitation of all the components of the property, prepare all the corrective measures, as well as a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report on the state of conservation of the property including the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. **Decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **26. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)**

### **Decision:38 COM 7A.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.21** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the continuing commitment of the State Party to pursue the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and the restoration of the wider property;
4. Expresses concern that detailed information on the planned work, and timelines for the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga have still not been provided, even though work on the supportive framework for the building has been undertaken;
5. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the property (12-15 May 2014), in particular:
  - a) Finalise a realistic, revised reconstruction project timeline with clearly defined benchmarks, and submit it as a matter of urgency to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
  - b) Document the reconstruction process,

- c) Improve organisation, skills, equipment and security issues,
  - d) Urgently reconvene the National Technical Committee to oversee the technicalities of the reconstruction project,
  - e) Fully implement the current governance structure; and reassess the human and financial resources required to complete the Reconstruction Project, in particular to cover the Site Manager's full-time presence on the property,
  - f) Reconsider the current design of the firefighting system, which will have a negative impact on the visual qualities and spirit of place of the property,
  - g) Agree upon the final Master Plan before implementing any new constructions; and reconsider the tall concrete wall recently constructed around the perimeter of the property as well as the proposed 'living museum' concept that may impact negatively on the OUV of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to invite a UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the concerns highlighted by the Mission relating to: the lack of effective management and resources for the reconstruction project, the current draft Master Plan and its possible commercialisation projects, and unplanned work such as the perimeter wall and new buildings;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7A.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
- 2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
- 3. Commends the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures;
- 4. Considers that the State Party has made considerable progress in meeting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- 5. Notes however that several actions are currently in planning stages, rendering the property vulnerable, and urges the State Party to implement the following:
  - a) Finalize the process for establishing the boundaries of the property, of the buffer zones and their regulatory measures and submit, by **1 February 2015**, a

proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance to Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines* , for examination by the World Heritage Committee,

- b) Finalize the updated Management Plan, including the formulation of a draft Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, and the elaboration of Land Use Plans for Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the updated Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - c) Maintain and reinforce the management structure and secure resources for its adequate and efficient functioning;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
7. Decides to remove **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)** from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## NATURAL PROPERTIES

### ASIA-PACIFIC

#### 28. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

##### Decision: 38 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for the development of an Emergency Action Plan, which could facilitate the implementation of the corrective measures;
4. Expresses its serious concern about the pressure to downgrade the protection status of Kerinci Seblat National Park to a Protected Forest, which would not only expose the property to the risk of road construction and the associated potential impacts of poaching and encroachment, but would also remove the legal prohibition on mining and geothermal energy development in this component of the property;
5. Notes that the mission confirmed that illegal traditional gold mining is ongoing within the property, and reiterates its position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status;

6. Requests the State Party to ensure that any development of geothermal energy within the property remains prohibited by law, and urges the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre of any plans to develop geothermal energy in areas adjacent to the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and subject any such plans to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;
7. Considers that the indicators that describe the Desired state of conservation, as established by the 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission in co-operation with the State Party and UNESCO, must be reached within a timeframe of 5 to 10 years, in order to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Also requests the State Party to implement the following corrective measures as developed during the 2013 mission to restore the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:
  - a) Significantly enhance law enforcement capacity by developing and implementing a strategic plan for the control of illegal activities, as a collaborative effort involving National Park authorities, the Natural Resources Conservation Agency, NGOs, local police forces, local government and the prosecutor's office. The strategic plan should include measures to:
    - (i) provide law enforcement agencies with adequate resources to expand their activities,
    - (ii) ensure that reports of illegal activities are quickly and efficiently responded to, and that transgressors are tried on the basis of conservation law (in addition to criminal law),
    - (iii) identify and prosecute syndicates, networks and businesses involved in illegal activities, in cooperation with the relevant authorities for the eradication of forest crime and corruption,
  - b) Strengthen property-wide monitoring of key species, including Sumatran Elephant, Tiger, Rhino and Orangutan, by:
    - (i) enhancing collaboration among government, NGOs and universities,
    - (ii) agreeing on a common methodological framework for monitoring each species,
    - (iii) expanding monitoring efforts to address geographical gaps in monitoring activities,
    - (iv) synchronizing data analyses for all key species to facilitate progress reporting,
  - c) Strengthen species recovery efforts by implementing habitat improvement and ecosystem restoration programmes, as required, including the control of invasive species,
  - d) Maintain the policy that prohibits the construction of new roads in National Parks, and conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the road network in the entire Bukit Barisan Mountain Range, in order to identify transport options and technologies for the region that do not adversely impact on the property's OUV,
  - e) Ensure that rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out for all proposed developments within the property (e.g. road improvement projects) and in its vicinity (e.g. mining projects), to ensure that these do not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,

- f) Close and rehabilitate all mines within the property, investigate the existence of any mining concessions and exploration permits that overlap with the property, and revoke any overlapping concessions and/or permits that are identified,
  - g) In consultation with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, clarify in law the boundaries of each component National Park of the property, and complete the demarcation of these boundaries on the ground,
  - h) Ensure that all provinces, districts and sub-districts that overlap with the property recognize its World Heritage status and avoid the designation of development zones within its boundaries,
  - i) Ensure that the World Heritage Working Group under the Coordinating Ministry of People Welfare is taking an active role in promoting strong coordination between different ministries in the protection and management of the property,
  - j) Ensure that the National Strategic Areas process establishes buffer zones around each National Park in the property and identifies and protects critical wildlife habitats outside the property;
9. Also urges the State Party to rigorously ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan explicitly recognizes the boundaries of the property, that no land is allocated therein for development purposes either within or immediately adjacent to the property, and that it makes adequate provisions for the identification and conservation of critical wildlife habitats that lie outside the property;
10. Notes with concern the reported decision by the State Party of Australia to rescind its commitment of 3 million Australian dollars for the conservation of Sumatran Rhinoceros, also considers that this is likely to significantly compromise the likelihood of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger within the above-mentioned timeframe, encourages the State Party of Australia to continue its previously committed financial support to Sumatran Rhino conservation, and calls upon the international community to assist the State Party of Indonesia to reach the Desired state of conservation for the property;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the corrective measures and the other points noted above, as well as on progress achieved towards reaching the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
12. **Decides to retain the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **29. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
- 2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),



3. Notes with appreciation that some progress has been achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee and the 2012 IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
4. Welcomes the assessment of threats to the property undertaken with support from the Government of Australia, and considers that the findings and recommendations of this assessment could provide a basis for the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as a set of corrective measures;
5. Notes with concern the reported plans to commence bauxite mining in West Rennell in 2014, which is likely to have similar impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as logging, and requests the State Party to undertake rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments for these plans to demonstrate that they will not have an impact on the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
6. Also requests the State Party to urgently put in place interim measures to mitigate the impact of existing logging operations, halt new logging operations, and to defer consideration of bauxite mining licence applications until the new management plan has been approved and is being implemented;
7. Further requests the State Party to undertake urgent action to halt the further spread of rats on Rennell Island and prevent them from entering the property, and to put in place the biosecurity controls necessary to prevent further introductions of invasive species to the island, and reiterates its invitation to the State Party to apply for International Assistance to support this work;
8. Acknowledges the State Party's concern of climate induced sea level rise affecting the insular Lake Tegano and notes that the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment will work with the Provincial Government on climate change adaptation and mitigation methods to address these concerns;
9. Further notes that the State Party acknowledges that the property should be declared under the East Solomon Islands' Protected Areas Act (2010);
10. Urges the State Party to expedite the completion and implementation of the revised management plan for the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
12. **Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Reiterates the request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures and in meeting the indicators developed for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
4. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### 31. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37COM 7A.16** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress achieved in the implementation of certain corrective measures, particularly those regarding expansion of no-take zones and eradication and control of invasive species; and for its efforts undertaken to control unauthorized development activities and eliminate their impacts on the property;
4. Urges the State Party to establish, as a matter of priority, a legislative instrument that will guarantee permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property and a clear definition and strict control of development rights on existing private and leased lands;
5. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to finalize the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, the Land Use Policy Implementation Plan, the National Protected

Areas Bill and the Fisheries Resources Bill by the end of 2014, and requests the State Party to submit copies of these documents to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**;

6. Expresses its serious concern about the State Party's statement that it is not prepared to eliminate all oil concessions within and adjacent to the property and reiterates its position that oil exploration and exploitation within or affecting the property is incompatible with its World Heritage status, and also urges the State Party to remove any oil concessions that could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the Petroleum Exploration and Development Framework clarifies that petroleum concessions overlapping on the property will not be permitted, and that no oil exploration or exploitation will be allowed to take place outside the property, in particular within its outer boundaries, if it is likely to have a negative impact on its OUV;
8. Further urges the State Party to prepare, as a matter of priority and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a draft proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including progress made in implementing corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. **Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **32. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress reported by the State Party in the implementation of the updated corrective measures and towards achieving the indicators established for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. Requests the State Party to make a clear commitment to the long-term securing of adequate funding, management and staffing levels, in order to ensure that progress in restoring and securing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property can be sustained beyond the eventual achievement of the DSOCR;

5. Encourages the State Party to formalize a buffer zone around the property according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines* , as a minor boundary modification for review by the World Heritage Committee, and as a means to further embed the conservation and management of the property into a broader landscape approach;
6. Notes with appreciation the external support already granted to the property, invites the international community to further support the State Party to effectively address the existing and potential threats to the property, and urges the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure enhanced coordination and cooperation between the property and the contiguous World Heritage property of Darien National Park in Panama;
7. Also requests the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the ongoing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, as well as the OUV of the contiguous Darien National Park in 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, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess progress with the implementation of the corrective measures and towards achieving the indicators of the DSOCR, and regarding the status of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. **Decides to retain Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **33. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.18**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party with the development of a draft proposal for the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to finalize the proposal for the DSOCR for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
4. Also welcomes the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures, and the progress achieved, in particular with the establishment of a systematic monitoring platform, the on-going process of land titling for communities surrounding the property,

and the strengthening of the ad-hoc technical committee for the conservation of the biosphere reserve, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts, including the development of adequate co-management schemes;

5. Urges the State Party, as a matter of priority, to advance on the proposal for the property's boundary modification, without which the corrective measures cannot be adequately implemented and the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remains at risk, and considers that the resolution of this issue will contribute to the future implementation of the DSOCR;
6. Takes note of the State Party's intention to avoid the construction of hydroelectric projects larger than 15 MW in the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve and to minimize the environmental and social impacts of the construction of dams in the Patuca watershed, as expressed in the recently developed Conservation Plan;
7. Notes with concern that little progress has been made towards increasing human resources and logistical capacity to the agencies responsible for the protection and management of the property;
8. Also notes with concern that illegal activities, including illegal logging, illegal settlements and drug-related activities, continue to impact on the property, and strongly urges the State Party to deal swiftly and effectively with such incursions to the property and the core zone of the biosphere reserve in full observance of the rule of law;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on further progress achieved with the implementation of the corrective measures and the clarification of the property's boundaries, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Regrets the degradation of the security situation in the Central African Republic marked by an outbreak of violence and internal conflicts;
4. Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the likely disappearance of most of the flagship species of large mammals in the property, due to poaching and the impact of

transhumant cattle, and expresses its deep concern as regards the further deterioration of the situation since its last session;

5. Also expresses its continuing concern that the property may lose its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which may lead to its deletion from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraph 176 d) and Chapter IV.C of the *Operational Guidelines* and requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits, to assess whether there remain perspectives for regeneration of the characteristics of the property that justify its OUV;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to organize a workshop to assess the feasibility of the restoration of the OUV of the property in the current conditions of security and based on these conclusions, the eventual preparation of an emergency action plan in accordance with the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the current state of conservation of the property and the perspectives of regeneration of the characteristics of the property that justify its OUV, as well as the conditions of integrity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to this property;
9. **Decides to retain Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.35**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts undertaken in the implementation of the corrective measures and the actions carried out with the local populations in establishing the Village Conservation and Development Associations (VCDAs) and their involvement in surveillance patrols;
4. Notes with concern the delay in carrying out the wildlife inventory to enable the identification of value indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and requests the State Party to give priority to this inventory;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with IUCN, a proposal for the value indicators for the Desired state of conservation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to officially confirm as soon as possible, that no mining research or exploitation permit, industrial or artisanal, affects the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the impact studies on mining research permits granted in the northern part of the property on its Outstanding universal value, in conformity with the IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessments;
7. Further requests the State Party to urgently update the management plan and the establishment of the rehabilitation plan so as to coordinate efficiently all the control, rehabilitation and monitoring actions;
8. Furthermore requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above-mentioned issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress reported by the Ivorian and Guinean State Parties in the implementation of the corrective measures, notably the efforts to restore the integrity of the property and strengthen its management capacity;
4. Notes with concern that the Guinean State Party does not appear to have established a strategy to prolong the accomplishments of the UNDP/GEF (Global Environmental Facility) Programme for conservation of the biodiversity of Mount Nimba that supports the implementation of the corrective measures, foreseen to end in June 2014;
5. Comments the efforts in setting up transboundary cooperation on the Nimba Massif and requests the State Parties to continue efforts to develop a common management plan for the Massif and create a trust fund and implement the agreement through common actions in the field, notably the establishment of a harmonized ecological monitoring system and trans-boundary surveillance;

6. Encourages the State Parties to work on the development of a trans-boundary project in cooperation with the GEF and other potential donors to better combine their efforts for the sustainable protection of the OUV of the property;
7. Welcomes the fact that the Guinean Office for Environmental Assessment has confirmed that the mining companies are obliged to carry out a Strategic Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (SEA) to take account of cumulative impacts on the OUV, and also requests the Guinean State Party to finalize this SEA taking into account the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Impact Assessments and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN prior to any decision for approval of their conclusions and recommendations, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
8. Reiterates its request to the Guinean State Party to revise the boundaries of the mining permit of the SAMA Resources Company to eliminate all encroachment on the property;
9. Urges the State Parties to continue their efforts to implement the corrective measures, as approved by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7A.3**;
10. Further requests the State Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a joint updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Guinea / Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **37. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.4** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes with appreciation the efforts deployed by the park staff to continue to ensure the conservation of the property despite life threatening conditions, and expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in operations for the protection of the property;
4. Reiterates its deep concern about the fact that the State Party has not revised the authorizations for petroleum exploration in the Park, as requested in its previous Decisions, as well as about the commencement of oil exploration activities in Lake Edward and the statement by the Minister for Hydrocarbons that the government envisages to proceed with petroleum exploitation inside the property if economically viable oil reserves are confirmed;



5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property and reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
6. Congratulates the TOTAL Company for its commitment not to explore or exploit for oil or gas in sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, a principle to which the Shell Company had already subscribed;
7. Takes note of the press statement of SOCO not to undertake or commission any exploratory or other drilling within Virunga National Park unless UNESCO and the DRC Government agree that such activities are not incompatible with its World Heritage status, not to conduct any operations in any other World Heritage site and to ensure that any current or future operations in buffer zones adjacent to World Heritage sites do not jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value for which these sites are listed;
8. Reiterates its request to States Parties to the *Convention* to do their utmost to ensure that the mining or petroleum companies established on their territories do not damage World Heritage properties, in accordance with Article 6 of the *Convention* ;
9. Notes with concern that while the security situation has improved slightly there is still the presence of different armed groups active in and around the property, resulting in limited progress in the implementation of the corrective measures due to the instability in the region;
10. Expresses its utmost concern about the limited support park staff is receiving from the Government to address the threats to the property, in particular the continued involvement of the military in various illegal activities such as charcoal making, poaching and illegal fishing, and the lack of support from the authorities to address encroachment on the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011;
11. Requests for a clear and written commitment from SOCO, or any other oil company, not to explore nor exploit oil and gas in any World Heritage site, including Virunga National Park;
12. Urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission:
  - a) Cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property,
  - b) Take all necessary measures to stop the involvement of the Congolese Army and Navy in the illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the park, in particular poaching, charcoal making and fishing,
  - c) Strengthen the efforts to disarm all armed groups operating in and around the property,
  - d) Take measures at the highest level to enable the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) to continue without political interference, the peaceful evacuation of illegal occupants from the property,
  - e) Continue law enforcement focusing on priority areas, and pursue activities to re-establish a system of good governance for fishing activities on Lake Edward,
  - f) Pursue communication and awareness-raising actions targeted towards the authorities and local populations,

- g) Pursue actions to eliminate all production of charcoal within the property, and promote alternative energy sources, in particular the development of small scale hydropower outside the property;
- 13. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including an update of the progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
- 14. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;
- 15. Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **38. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the reported improvement in the security situation which has allowed the park staff to again start patrolling the areas previously out of control and notes that restoring the security is a pre-condition for implementing the corrective measures and restoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Also welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party to carry out a survey of the main populations of wildlife in the lowland sectors of the property to enable an assessment of the state of its OUV, as well as the establishment of a timetable for the rehabilitation of the property;
5. Also notes that the area of the property covered by ranger patrolling remains limited, and requests the State Party to take urgent measures to improve the efficiency and security of patrols and curb the illegal activities, in particular poaching and mining;
6. Expresses its concern that no progress was made in evacuating the ecological corridor, which is crucial to ensure ecological connectivity between the highland and lowland sectors, nor in the cancelling of mining concessions and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel land rights illegally granted in the property as well as mining concessions encroaching on the property, in conformity with the commitments made in the Kinshasa Declaration, and the Committee's established position that extractive activities are incompatible with World Heritage status;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures to restore the OUV of the property;

8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as the results of the wildlife survey are available, in order to re-assess the state of conservation of the property, to update the corrective measures, to establish a new time frame for their implementation and to finalize the Desired state of conservation of the property for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including an update of progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;
11. Also decides to retain **Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### **39. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.6** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the improvement in the security situation as a result of the military operations to contain the Lord Resistance Army and considers that it is a key condition to halt poaching in the property and start the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Commends the State Party for its efforts to strengthen the operational capacities of the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN), in particular by making available arms and ammunitions for surveillance activities, in line with the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, and also commends the management authority and its partners for their efforts to extend the surveillance area in the property and halt the poaching;
5. Thanks the European Commission, the World Bank, the Government of Spain and other donors for their continued strong financial support for the property, despite the difficult security context;
6. Reiterates its concern regarding the alarming reduction of the elephant population by 85% compared to the number present at the time of inscription of the site on the World Heritage List, and the fact that Northern White Rhinoceros is likely to be extinct;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures to rehabilitate the OUV of the property;

8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to re-asses its state of conservation, to update the corrective measures and establish a new time frame for their implementation and to finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
11. Also decides to retain **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **40. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.7** adopted during its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes with satisfaction the important efforts of the State Party to secure the property and the efforts of the patrols to reduce professional poaching of elephants, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts and to reinforce them where pockets of resistance still remain;
4. Takes note of the difficulties reported by the managers of the property concerning the participatory management of natural resources and their implication in the demarcation of the property and also encourages the State Party to establish a community conservation strategy;
5. Urges the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures, as updated by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission in 2012 to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Launches an appeal to donors to provide the necessary financial and technical support to the site manager for the implementation of the corrective measures;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake inventories of flagship species to quantify the state of the OUV of the property and the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger as well to establish a realistic timetable;

8. Regrets that the State Party has not provided detailed information regarding the oil exploration and exploitation projects in the central basin that risk encroaching into the property, as requested by the Committee at its 36th and 37th sessions and urges the State Party to provide this information;
9. Recalls its position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) international position statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the points mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism;
12. **Also decides to retain Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **41. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Expresses its deepest concern as regards the degradation of the security situation at the property, the loss of control of approximately 75% of the Reserve, the increase in poaching and the reopening of several artisanal mining works, and considers that this situation risks destroying, if it continues, all the progress achieved over five years;
4. Notes with concern the results of the 2010/2011 inventories that demonstrate that the degradation of the Outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property has continued and that the impacts of the security situation risk to further exacerbate the situation;
5. Commends the efforts of the staff of the property who, at great risk, continue its efforts for the conservation of the property, and notes that the guards continue to lack the necessary material support to combat poachers;
6. Recalls the commitments undertaken by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration, dated January 2011, notably regarding the security of World Heritage properties, and the strengthening of the operational capacities of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), in particular the availability of equipment necessary for surveillance activities;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures, updated by the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission of 2014,

as well as preventive measures to halt and reverse the degradation of the OUV of the property:

- a) Continue the efforts to solve the problems linked to the presence of the military involved in illegal activities and obtain support of the military hierarchy to assist in respect of the laws,
  - b) Close down all the artisanal mining quarries and cancel all the mining titles that encroach the property and which are granted illegally by the Mining Cadastre, especially those granted to the KiloGold Society,
  - c) Undertake measures to mitigate the impacts linked to the increase in traffic within the property, and notably by mobilising the necessary technical and financial resources to contribute towards the functioning of the immigration control system, and by legalizing and increasing the scope of the pilot system to regulate and monitor immigration and traffic on the RN4, including the possibility of closing the RN4 to traffic at night and setting up a toll system,
  - d) Finalize and approve the management plan for the property, with the creation of an integral conservation zone,
  - e) Integrate the activities of the Committee for Visits and Passage (CSP) and the Local Committees for Monitoring and Conservation of Natural Resources (CLSCN) in the management activities of the livelihood zones (agricultural and hunting zones) for which management modalities remain to be defined in the management plan,
  - f) Continue efforts to strengthen and revitalize the surveillance mechanism and render it more efficient,
  - g) Prepare and implement a zoning plan of the forest areas adjacent to the property to act as protection against negative impacts of unsustainable exploitation of the forest,
  - h) Strengthen communication and cooperation between all the stakeholders and the State services to increase the conservation of the natural resources of the property,
  - i) Support the establishment and the active operation of the permanent consultation framework recommended by the Mambasa Round Table (11-12 May 2013) with all parties concerned to contribute in strengthening security at the property and the sustainable conservation of its natural resources;
8. Also recalls the obligations of the Congolese Government linked to the protection of the values of the property and the other World Heritage properties on its territory, with regard to the illegal detention, transport, commerce and exportation of natural resources such as timber, minerals, plants and live wild animals or their products, like ivory;
9. Requests the State Party to also implement the other recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of 2014;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, with an update on progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism to the property;

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

#### **42. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.42**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) and reaffirming the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,
3. Notes that the security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has improved since the last session but that it still remains unstable and commends the courage of the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and its efforts to protect the World Heritage properties;
4. Urges the State Party to guarantee the implementation of the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration and to ensure the execution of the Strategic Plan of Action and requests the State Party to approve the decree to officialise the creation of an inter-ministerial committee and allocate the necessary technical and financial means to ensure adequate monitoring in the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern as regards the Hydrocarbons Code that could make possible oil exploitation activities in protected areas and also urges the State Party to ensure that the protection status of the World Heritage properties be maintained;
6. Also requests the State Party to review the mining and oil exploration and exploitation titles to exclude the World Heritage properties and not to grant further titles within the boundaries of the properties of the DRC and recalls its position that mining and oil exploration is incompatible with World Heritage status;
7. Congratulates the TOTAL Company for its commitment not to carry out oil or gas exploration and exploitation activities in properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, a principle to which the Shell Company has already subscribed;
8. Takes note of the press statement of SOCO not to undertake or commission any exploratory or other drilling within Virunga National Park unless UNESCO and the DRC Government agree that such activities are not incompatible with its World Heritage status, not to conduct any operations in any other World Heritage site and to ensure that any current or future operations in buffer zones adjacent to World Heritage sites do not jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value for which these sites are listed;
9. Warmly welcomes the support of donor countries in the conservation of the five DRC properties, and calls on the international community to continue to provide support in the implementation of the corrective measures and the Strategic Action Plan to create the necessary conditions for the rehabilitation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the five DRC properties;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the situation regarding mining and oil exploration and exploitation titles that encroach World Heritage properties, and the Hydrocarbons Code, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **43. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to complete the re-gazettal of Simien Mountains National Park in 2014 as well as its sustained efforts to strengthen the management effectiveness of the property and to implement the corrective measures;
4. Considers that if sufficient financial resources are secured to complete the implementation of the corrective measures, it should be possible to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the near future;
5. Notes with appreciation the support already provided by different donors to assist the State Party with the implementation of the corrective measures, and reiterates its call to the international community to increase the financial support to the property for a speedy implementation of the remaining corrective measures;
6. Requests the State Party to follow up with the interested donors and conservation partners who attended the 2012 donor conference in order to mobilize the additional funding required; reiterates its request to review the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy in order to identify priorities for immediate implementation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain the Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



#### 44. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

##### Decision: 38 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures and the commitments contained in the action plan annexed to the decision of the Conference of Parties of CITES in Bangkok (COP16);
4. Welcomes the clear political will of the State Party as expressed by the President of the Republic of Madagascar to undertake the necessary measures to halt the illegal traffic of rosewood;
5. Notes with concern an increase in illegal logging since end-2013 and the continued illegal exportation despite the embargo established in the framework of the CITES action plan and requests the State Party to strengthen the surveillance mechanism that has been weakened since the elections;
6. Urges the State Party of Madagascar as well as the recipient States Parties of the illegal traffic to reinforce efforts to respect the embargo and to inform the port and airport authorities of their respective capitals of the fraudulent nature of the exportation of rosewood from Madagascar;
7. Also requests the State Party to postpone the sale and exportation of the illegal stocks until the results of the current studies as well as the endorsement of the CITES Permanent Committee have been obtained and reiterates the importance of the consultation process with all the stakeholders;
8. Also reiterates that the elimination of illegal logging in the components of the property and the illegal stocks constitute a key condition for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts in the implementation of the corrective measures and the recommendations of the 2011 joint UNESCO/IUCN mission that have not yet been entirely implemented;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess this progress and the progress achieved in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to update, if necessary, the corrective measures and the timetable for their implementation;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary on the state of conservation of the entire serial property, including an evaluation of the implementation of the corrective measures, and information on progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;

12. **Decides to retain the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**

**45. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7A.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in the areas of defence and land restoration, demining and reinforcement of the physical presence of forestry agents in the property, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures and strengthen the management structure of the property, by providing the necessary human, material and financial resources for its efficient operation;
4. Expresses its deep concern regarding the degradation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property linked to the illegal activities such as poaching and abusive logging, and requests the State Party to prioritize the combat against these illegal activities;
5. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party according to which an inventory mission is foreseen for 2014 to confirm and quantify the presence of flagship wildlife species (white antelope, dama gazelle and Saharan cheetah) within the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as the results of this inventory are available, to assess its state of conservation, update the corrective measures and establish a timetable for their implementation, and to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide more information together with maps concerning the demining activities within the property;
7. Also takes note of information provided by the State Party concerning the absence of extraction activities in and on the periphery of the property and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015** a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### 46. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7A.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to strengthen surveillance and curb poaching, notably the progress achieved in the rehabilitation of the surveillance tracks and guard posts, as well as the strengthening of surveillance staff;
4. Reiterates its serious concern as regards the state of conservation of the key species in the park, notably the elephant and chimpanzee and requests the State Party to urgently implement an inventory of large wildlife with technical support from the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property as concerns the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and to update the corrective measures once the results of the afore-mentioned inventory are available;
5. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010);
6. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information on the dam project at Sambangalou, as well as the restoration of the basalt quarry located within the property and closed in 2012;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
8. **Decides to retain the Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 7B. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### CULTURAL PROPERTIES

#### ARAB STATES

1. **Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (C 850)**

#### Decision: 38 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes progress made with the construction of a sample of the proposed paved road around Qannoubin Monastery; and requests that the project plan for the remainder of the road be submitted for review before work progresses;
4. Reiterates its request to abandon the associated project of cableways and model villages in the property;
5. Notes with extreme concern the planning violation near the church of Saint George and the excavation and construction works in the property and its buffer zone, and also notes that remedial measures have been taken to demolish the mausoleum structure and halt construction works; and also requests that details are provided as to how the landscape will be rehabilitated as it was before both works commenced;
6. Further notes the State Party's acknowledgment of the negative impacts arising from the lack of adequate management;
7. Regrets that the State Party has not responded to the main recommendations of the 2012 mission and reiterates its request to implement these, and in particular to:
  - a) Revise the management system for the property and establish a permanent management structure,
  - b) Update the 1998 management plan on the basis of the 2007 guidelines, including a conservation plan and a sustainable visitors management plan,
  - c) Undertake socio-economic studies aiming at improving the living conditions of the communities in and around the property;
8. Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 mission;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of

conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **2. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note with great concern of the information provided by the State Party in its report on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Urges the State Party to undertake all possible measures to stop encroachment and destruction of the archaeological areas as soon as possible;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed map of the current encroachment and destruction at the property, and to accelerate the elaboration of its management plan;
6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the site as soon as possible and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before the visit of the mission, a precise mapping of the different violations at the site;
7. Further requests the State Party to pursue its efforts towards the establishment of a dialogue between the responsible national and local authorities and the local community in order to guarantee the long term protection of the site;
8. Strongly advises the State Party to initiate an action, at national level, with all concerned governmental institutions in view of ensuring the effective conservation of the property, with a focus on legal protection and alternative housing solutions;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **3. Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Commends the State Party for the efforts achieved in the management and conservation of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre more detailed information on the management system established and the positive impact of the commissioning of the bridge linking the two banks of the Oued El Maleh, so that this may be used as an example of good practice in integrated management of an urban ensemble including an historic area inscribed on the World Heritage List;
5. Recommends the State Party adopt an approach focused on historic urban landscape as an additional tool in the sustainable management of the property.

#### 4. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

##### Decision: 38 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.57**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts aiming at ensuring the long-term management and conservation of the property, and the launching of the project entitled “Rehabilitating and Refurbishing the Old Souq at Bahla: From Study to Reinstatement”, and of the monitoring of the aging characteristics of the different brick types;
4. Regrets that neither the finalized version of the management plan nor a request for a minor boundary modification to enlarge the buffer zone have been submitted;
5. Requests the State Party to submit the finalized version of the management plan, including the legal framework that will support its implementation, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2015**, a request for a minor boundary modification in view of enlarging the buffer zone, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the results of the monitoring of the aging characteristics of the different brick types, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 5. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in improving the management of the property;
4. Regrets that the management plan has not been sufficiently developed and that key components are still missing;
5. Also regrets that no detailed information has been provided to address the conservation and management issues raised by the 2011 reactive monitoring mission, and reiterates the need to develop appropriate concrete measures as soon as possible as identified in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Decision **35 COM 7B.57** adopted at the 35th session (UNESCO, 2011);
6. Takes note of the maps of four of the five component parts of the property provided by the State Party but requests that they be reviewed in accordance to standards identified in Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines* (topographical data, clear indication of the property's boundaries) and to provide such a map for Sanam;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, including a report for each of the five components, to fully develop the management plan so that it is operational and to develop a comprehensive monitoring system in order to better understand the long-term conservation needs of the property;
8. Recommends to the State Party to organize as soon as possible, in the framework of the Sudan-Qatar Archaeological Project (QSAP), a workshop to address the management and monitoring system of the property, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 6. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.59** and **36 COM 8B.47** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for the adoption of the Protection and Enhancement Plan (PPMV) presented for the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue its land management policy in the archaeological area in order to prevent damage to the integrity of the property;
5. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to provide further information on the criteria used to define the buffer zone submitted for examination to the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), the regulations and existing measures governing it and which will ensure the protection and integrity of the property, and on the measures taken for its management;
6. Invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal to modify the boundaries according to the procedure set out in paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and recommends that this proposal concerns the establishment of a buffer zone, as well as a modification of the boundaries of the inscribed property aiming to align them with the national boundaries as requested by the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2012;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2012 mission, in particular:
  - a) implementation of the PPMV of the property,
  - b) development of a Presentation Plan and a Tourism Management Plan,
  - c) design and implementation of an archaeological and conservation strategy ,
  - d) coordination of the tools for the management and preservation of the property and the coordination of the roles of the different stakeholders;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the application of the above recommendations and, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property (both reports including a one-page executive summary) for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the continuing vulnerability of the property as a result of the extreme conditions that have prevailed in Sana'a over the past four years;



4. Nonetheless welcomes the positive progress that has been possible and in particular the adoption of a new law in August 2013 on the protection of historic sites, monuments, cities and their urban and cultural heritage; the Prime Minister's Decree for the endorsement of the urgent executive plan for Sana'a; the one year moratorium on new construction within the property and on issuing any new contracts; and notes the submission of an International Assistance Request to develop a Conservation Plan for the property;
5. Also welcomes the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) for capacity building work with the General Organisation for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen (GOHPCY); but acknowledges the urgent need of further resources to implement conservation measures and to re-structure the management of the property;
6. Reiterates its call to the international community to support the State Party, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in any way possible for priority conservation, management measures and capacity building programmes;
7. Expresses its concern at the apparent lack of engagement of GOPHCY in the major project to rehabilitate the water and sewage system being developed by the Sana's Secretariat and on the potential negative structural impacts that this project could have on individual buildings and on archaeology;
8. Requests the State Party, as a matter of urgency to supply full details of this project, including the Heritage Impact Assessment and appropriate risk mitigation measures, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any work commences; and recommends that GOPHCY is fully integrated into the structure of this project;
9. Also reiterates its request to 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 measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **ASIA-PACIFIC**

### **8. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.8**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM7B,

2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 34th session (Brasília, 2010),
3. Commends the State Party and the international community, including ICC-Angkor, for the significant progress made in the conservation and management of the property, notably in developing a Heritage Management Framework;
4. Also commends the State Party for the elaboration of a Tourism Management Plan and a Risk Map, which are important tools for managing the World Heritage property;
5. Notes the progress made by the State Party in controlling illegal activities within the property, and urges the State Party to further advance its efforts in this regard;
6. Requests the State Party to submit the Tourism Management Plan, the Risk Map, and the Heritage Management Framework, as well as the Practical Manual for Integrated Site Management and the pilot project reports, to the World Heritage Centre, once they are finalized;
7. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations.

## **9. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.60** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Strongly regrets that the project to raise the Yuzhen Palace was not brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
4. Takes note of the report of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property and the assessment made that the project, while altering the setting and context of the Yuzhen Palace, does not constitute a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the overall property;
5. Notes the recommendations of the mission in regard to the final shape of the earthwork platform, the final disposition of the archaeological remains, and the eventual landscaping, interpretation, and use of the palace, and requests the State Party to implement those recommendations in the final implementation of the project;
6. Also notes the ongoing work on the finalization of the Master Plan on Conservation Management of the property and also requests that the work on this plan be completed as soon as possible for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Urges the State Party to institute a living heritage approach to the management of the property which ensures that it is managed as a cultural landscape in order to protect the OUV of the 62 component parts within their overall landscape setting and context;

8. Invites the State Party to clarify with the World Heritage Centre that the buffer zone of the property corresponds to the entirety of the Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area as acknowledged at the time of inscription, and not the 62 individual buffer zones submitted in the framework of the retrospective inventory exercise;
9. Also urges the State Party to protect against the overdevelopment of tourism at the property, and in particular to enforce rules related to carrying capacity for the more fragile sites that are part of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**10. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.10**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.65** and **37 COM 7B.103** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
2. Notes with concern the information provided by the State Party concerning reports of development issues,
3. Regrets that the State Party has not sent to the World Heritage Centre details of the two new commercial shopping malls, ancillary car parking and drainage and road works in advance of commencement of development as requested in Decision **37 COM 7B.103** and in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
4. Notes the State Party's assessment of the impact of the developments undertaken in response to the World Heritage Centre's requests for information and also regrets that this assessment seems only to have been undertaken retrospectively with no evidence of Heritage Impact Assessments having been undertaken;
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the new development, the demolition of structures and new road and drainage work, in order to assess their impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; and also to review the management system for the property, progress with the revision of the Conservation Master Plan and conservation plans for the three component parts of the property, and ways to harmonise these with the Lhasa Urban Development Plan as per Decision **35 COM 7B.65**;
6. Notes with appreciation the copy of the Regulation on Preservation of the Old Town of Lhasa provided by the State Party (Appendix 2 in the State of conservation report), but also requests that copies of the revised Conservation Master Plan and Conservation Plans for the three component parts, with syntheses in English, be submitted to the

World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before their finalisation, as requested by Decision **35 COM 7B.65**;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, 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 40th session in 2016.

## **11. Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu (China) (C 704)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Takes note of the information submitted by the State Party regarding the comprehensive redevelopment of the Ancient Panchi area that is currently underway within the buffer zone of the property;
3. Expresses its concern about the potential impacts that this project may have on the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity;
4. Strongly urges the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, about the full scope of the Ancient Panchi area project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and about any other projects that may potentially affect the OUV of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
5. Requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to enable a formal assessment of the new developments and their potential impact on the property's OUV;
6. Also strongly urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Ancient Panchi area project, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage Cultural Properties, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the complete conservation plan for the property as well as its summary in English, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 12. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (India) (C 1056rev)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Regrets the unfortunate incident of a bomb attack, which occurred within the property in July 2013 and commends the State Party for the measures taken to ensure the safety of visitors and the protection of the property;
4. Notes the progress made on the previous decisions of the Committee, including the recommendations of the February 2011 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM joint reactive monitoring mission;
5. Requests the State Party to expedite the completion of the Management Plan, the formal adoption of the buffer zone and its regulations and to formally submit the minor boundary modification of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to provide an electronic version and three printed copies of the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress made in implementing the above recommendations.

## 13. Sangiran Early Man Site (C 593) (Indonesia)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011);
3. Notes the progress of the State Party in strengthening legislative protection and development control measures for the property through the environmental impact assessment regulations now in place for the Sragen Regency, and seeks assurance that these measures have been adopted throughout the property;
4. Urges the State Party to establish the Integrated Management Bureau for the property to enhance coordinated management and to draw up comprehensive plans for conservation and tourism management of the property;

5. Also notes the strategies for involving residents as stakeholders within the property and also urges the State Party to implement the remaining recommendations of the 2008 mission report as soon as possible;
6. Further notes the policies and actions adopted to prevent illegal sand mining at the property, and the measures taken to improve cartography and interpretation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress in the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**14. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8B.26**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party on actions taken for the management of the property since June 2012;
4. Notes with concern that the vulnerabilities of the cultural landscape that were acknowledged at the time of inscription, and the need to support the traditional practices of the subak communities through their engagement in the management of the property, have not been addressed clearly;
5. Regrets that the laudable governance structures and Management Plan developed with the nomination have not been fully put in place and implemented, and that incentives and subsidies to support prosperous rural livelihoods and strong subak institutions, and land use regulations to prohibit inappropriate development within the property, have so far not been delivered as envisaged;
6. Urges the State Party to operationalise the Governing Assembly which incorporates the traditional practices underpinning the property as envisaged in the Decree of 2010, as soon as possible, and include in its membership representatives of the subak communities;
7. Also urges the State Party to allow the Governing Assembly to implement the approved Management Plan, as set out at the time of inscription, in order that the various multi-disciplinary Action Plans based on agreed Strategic Priorities can be delivered;
8. Requests the State Party to consider how the various commitments for protection and management made at the time of inscription and approved by the Committee in the

Statement of Outstanding Universal Value might be put into practice as soon as possible;

9. In the light of the high potential vulnerability of the subak landscape, encourages the State Party to invite an ICOMOS/ICCROM advisory mission to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to consider how progress can be made in putting the management of the property on firm basis that will allow a sustainable future for the subak communities;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **15. Masjed-e Jame of Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1397)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the progress made in the revision of the Meydan-e Atiq project in response to the Committee's request;
4. Requests the State Party to develop, adopt and implement an integrated conservation and management plan, as well as to elaborate mechanisms for monitoring urban development;
5. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments are carried out for any future developments in the buffer zone, such as further rehabilitation of the surrounding historic bazaar, to ensure that any developments do not impact adversely on the property and its wider setting;
6. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party to host the ICOMOS advisory mission, to consider how the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription have been addressed;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 16. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to respond to the issues raised concerning the architectural design of the Mosque for 2000 prayers and the inclusion of various stakeholders and national experts in the planning process;
4. Regrets that despite assurances provided by the State Party, the heights of the minarets have only been reduced to 33.1 metres, instead of 26 metres, and that the height of the dome has not been reduced at all, much less to the 28 metres recommended by the Advisory mission carried out in 2010;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre the following documents for review by the Advisory Bodies:
  - a) an architectural perspective illustrating the visual relationship between the setting of the Mosque and the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi, in order to judge whether the slight reduction in the height of the construction still poses a potential negative impact on the setting of the Mausoleum,
  - b) an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan for the property, in accordance to the recommendations made in the technical review, as well as its summary in English,
  - c) the revised map of the property's buffer zone;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation and the above mentioned documents, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

## 17. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling decisions **35COM 7B.72** and **36 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively;



3. Takes note of the actions undertaken by the State Party towards addressing some of the requests made at previous sessions; in particular work to progress the redesign of the road, to formulate a Master Plan, and to define local land use zones;
4. Notes that inadequately detailed plans have been provided for the proposed road alignment and urges the State Party to develop plans of the amended road alignment at a larger scale in order to clarify precisely the proposed details; and requests it to undertake archaeological surveys to assess the significance of buried archaeology along the proposed route, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), to assess the impact of the new road alignment and the development of appropriate mitigation measures, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre for assessment by the Advisory Bodies copies of the road plans and HIAs;
5. Also urges the State Party to suspend any work that may be ongoing on the new road until work on the expanded Master Plan, which includes a landscape approach to formulate a clear guidance for development requested below, is elaborated;
6. Also notes the submission of a Master Plan and local land use plans by the State Party, but expresses concern that the Master Plan does not have sufficient detail and scope to act as the strategic planning framework to protect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, or to address the large number of major planned projects and potential development threats;
7. Further urges the State Party to develop an expanded Master Plan based on a landscape approach, taking into account the nature of the property as a cultural landscape, and its attributes of OUV, and to ensure that local land use zoning plans conform to the Master Plan; this Master Plan should provide an overall strategic landscape protection and development framework within which the Management Plan, the individual zoning plans, and any other strategic plans operate, and should ensure co-ordination with emerging wider territorial plans; and to submit copies to the World Heritage Centre for assessment by the Advisory Bodies before final approval;
8. Regrets that a number of construction projects are being proposed or undertaken without notifying the Committee and urges furthermore the State Party to provide detailed information on these projects to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the implementation of the above and in order to develop ways of mitigating potential threats to the OUV of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## 18. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes the progress made in developing the Integrated Management Framework document and its Management Plan, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as well as conservation measures taken for the property;
4. Also notes the awareness raising efforts undertaken by the State Party, notably in the publication of two books on Lumbini and the development of the UNDP/UNESCO brochure to raise funds for the completion of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan;
5. Urges the State Party to adopt the Integrated Management Framework document and to continue its work on the finalization of the Integrated Management Plan/Process (IMP), and also urges the State Party to not approve any development project within the property, or in the adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, before the completion of the IMP and before conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) that are in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;
6. Notes with concern the proposed development of the Lumbini World Peace City in the Greater Lumbini Area, and requests the State Party to submit detailed information on this development, and to submit information about any other proposed major restoration or new construction in the vicinity of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
7. Encourages the State Party to develop a strategy for the protection of the larger Greater Lumbini Area and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 19. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.19**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party in addressing the state of conservation of the property and encourages it to continue to support existing management mechanisms and to secure adequate funding for sustaining conservation and maintenance actions;
4. Requests the State Party to continue to update the Conservation Plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also encourages the State Party to continue its efforts for the reconstitution of the training institute to ensure the long-term capacity to address the conservation and maintenance of the property;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to formally submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a minor boundary modification which includes a new buffer zone for the property, as well as the adopted regulatory measures, in accordance to Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines* , by **1 February 2015**;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **20. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.29** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Recognizing the continued progress achieved, welcomes the commitment of the State Party in sustaining conservation and management efforts at this vulnerable property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue with its actions based on the corrective measures identified for the property, with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Integrating community based land use and zoning plans into the Master Plan to inform decision-making on the ground,
  - b) Finalise the planning process for the updating of the Master Plan through a broad consultative process, and integrate provisions from adopted Ordinances and Legal Bills, and submit an electronic and three printed copies of the revised Master Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - c) Ensure broad dissemination of the results of the Master Plan and the provisions and regulations applicable for the protection and safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **21. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.72**, **35 COM 7B.78**, **36 COM 7B.68** and **37 COM 7B.67** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges that the State Party has provided further information on the proposed Port project including cross sections and photo-montages, but regrets that these have not been submitted in sufficient detail to allow a full assessment of the potential impact of the proposed port on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and also notes that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has not been undertaken as requested, with a technical study to ascertain potential impacts on the underwater archaeology;
4. Encourages the State Party to invite an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to consider the potential impact of the Port project, and requests the State Party, in advance of such a mission, to provide large scale plans, photo-montages of a high resolution, and to have made progress on a HIA and technical underwater archaeological studies;
5. Expresses its concern that the State Party's report has only addressed the Port and has not responded to other requests of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to formally submit the proposals for the revision of the buffer zone and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to consider an extension of the property to cover the maritime archaeology of the bay;
7. Urges the State Party to make progress with reinforcing the overall management system for the property through the operationalising the cross-departmental functions of the Galle Heritage Foundation in order to strengthen coordination with other conservation and development authorities, as recommended by the 2010 reactive monitoring mission;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 22. Golden Temple of Dambulla (Sri Lanka) (C 561)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add.Corr,
2. Recalling Decision **21 COM VII.C.55** adopted at its 21st session (Naples, 1997),
3. Expresses its concern at the current situation under which the property has been managed solely by the Temple authorities without any involvement of the relevant authorities of the State Party;
4. Strongly requests the State Party to submit a state of conservation report as a matter of urgency and to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to carry out the following:
  - a) a thorough analysis on the current situation on how the property is being managed by the Temple authorities and the role of the State Party including any remedial measures if necessary,
  - b) a thorough analysis of the state of conservation of the attributes namely, overall interior, paintings, sculptures and the spiritual atmosphere with proposals to ensure their protection,
  - c) make a series of recommendations addressing the issues related to conservation and management of the property, in particular on its structure, that should involve not only the Temple authorities but also the relevant authorities of the State Party as well as current status of the maintenance and monitoring procedures in place;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress achieved in the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Takes note of the actions undertaken by the State Party to improve the conservation and management of the property and urges it to finalize the approval process for recently developed management and planning tools to ensure their effective implementation;
4. Encourages the State Party to sustain its conservation and protection efforts with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Formulate and adopt guidance for a consistent conservation and maintenance approach to the building stock within the property to ensure that fabric decay is adequately addressed and urban planning coherence is maintained,
  - b) Actively encourage the rehabilitation of decayed buildings through incentives to strengthen conservation of historic buildings and support a living city approach,
  - c) In accordance with the legislative framework, examine options for the removal of illegal constructions within the property and for alternatives to mitigate the impacts, in relation to character and volume, of existing new constructions and/or elevation or transformation of historical buildings,
  - d) Strictly enforce regulatory measures in the buffer zone, giving consideration to defining a larger protection zone for the wider setting of the property to avoid further erosion of its visual qualities and to enhance protection,
  - e) Continue the work of the Technical Review Committee to review projects for intervention and enforce planning controls and clear procedures for approval of proposals,
  - f) Consider the integration of the Historic Urban Landscape approach for the definition/updating of planning tools for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting;
5. Also urges the State Party to strengthen the effective implementation of the moratorium on further construction, elevation and inappropriate transformation of historical buildings within the property;
6. Requests the State Party to continue, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* , to inform the World Heritage Centre about planned projects within the buffer zone and wider setting of the property and to submit technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for projects being considered for approval;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015** a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **24. Historic Centre of Brugge (Belgium) (C 996)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.79** and **36 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the wide range of positive initiatives that it has developed to strengthen the governance system of the property and embed it within a strategy for its wider urbanized hinterland, while respecting the Historic Urban Landscape approach;
4. Notes in particular that a Management Plan, based on the draft attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), has been developed and approved;
5. Urges the State Party to finalise the retrospective Statement of OUV, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, possibly with the help of an Advisory Mission;
6. Also notes that no details have been provided on progress with ongoing projects such as the new national archives repository along the Predikherenrei, and also urges the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre the necessary information, and in particular the Heritage Impact Assessments, as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies in light of the implementation of the new governance structure.

## **25. City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95bis)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **22 COM VII.17**, adopted at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998),
3. Takes note of the information submitted by the State Party regarding the large project planned for the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka in the vicinity of the World Heritage property;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the project documentation and the respective heritage impact assessment (HIA) before any development works have started and any final decision has been taken in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess current conditions at the property, including the evaluation of potential development impacts and identify options for development proposals in accordance to the OUV of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the Management Plan of the property, including a tourism strategy and legal regulations of cruise ship tourism, as well as the project documentation and the respective heritage impact assessment (HIA);
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, and by **1**

**December 2015** a state of conservation report on the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **26. Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France) (C 80bis)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.91** and **36 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party on the progress made in defining and strengthening the protection of the immediate and wider setting of the property, and, in particular, in developing specific visual modelling tools for addressing the impact of wind turbines, which could serve as an example of good practice for World Heritage properties facing similar issues;
4. Notes with satisfaction that most recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission related to the Pathway Bridge (pont-passerelle), car park, urban plan for the Barracks, and planting plans for the Cloisters have now been addressed and modifications made to projects and schemes, where possible;
5. Regrets however the decision to maintain the height of the Ford (gué) at 7.30m, instead of the 6.80m proposed by the 2011 Reactive Monitoring Mission;
6. Also notes that a Management Plan for the property is being developed with input from ICOMOS, and that a Coordinator has been appointed for its implementation, which will include the establishment of a Coordinating Committee; and requests that the State Party submit the completed Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Urges the State Party to consider how the Security Pathway recently excavated in the rock face may have had an impact on the integrity of the property, and to implement the necessary mitigation measures.

## **27. Venice and its lagoon (Italy) (C 394)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,



2. Recalling Decision **13 COM IX.22**, adopted at its 13th session (UNESCO, 1989),
3. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to develop a range of mechanisms to safeguard Venice and its lagoon landscape and of the approved Management Plan resulting from extensive consultations among all stakeholders, and encourages the State Party to undertake its revision based on the results from the technical evaluation by ICOMOS;
4. Expresses its concern about the extent and scale of proposals for large infrastructure, navigation and construction projects in the Lagoon that can potentially jeopardize the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by generating irreversible transformations on the landscape and seascape of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for these projects to assess both individual and overall cumulative impacts of the potential modifications of the Lagoon and its immediate land and seascape, in order to prevent any irreversible transformations and potential threat to the property's OUV and to enhance the protection of the property in relation to sustaining its OUV;
6. Also expresses its concern about the negative environmental impacts triggered by medium motor boats to high tonnage ships that have progressively caused erosion of the lagoon beds, mud banks and salt marshes, and which could represent potential threat to the property's OUV and also requests the State Party to enforce speed limits and regulate the number and type of boats;
7. Urges the State Party to prohibit the largest ships and tankers to enter the Lagoon and further requests the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a legal document introducing such a process;
8. Recognises the exceptionally high tourism pressure on the city of Venice, and the extensive tourism related activities, urges the State Party to prioritise the development of a sustainable tourism strategy, and also encourages the State Party to develop jointly with the major tourism and cruise companies alternative solutions to allow cruise tourists to enjoy and understand the value of Venice and also its fragility;
9. Further encourages financial institutions and agencies to ensure that Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out to determine that there are no negative impacts on the OUV, before planning investment in large-scale developments within the property and its setting;
10. Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue with the assessment of the hydrology and geo-mechanics functioning of the Venice Lagoon and its whole drainage basin; and invites the State Party to establish a strong coordination among all stakeholders concerned to ensure the hydro-geological balances of the Venice Lagoon and the whole drainage basin, as well as the protection of all attributes that convey the OUV of the property;
11. Also takes note of the proposal for the establishment of the buffer zone and also invites the State Party to undertake its revision in line with the ICOMOS technical review and submit to the World Heritage Centre the minor boundary modification by **1 February 2015**;
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2015 to assess current conditions at the property, including the evaluation of potential impacts derived from development proposals and identify options for development proposals in accordance to the OUV of the property,

as well as to review if the property is faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines* , and recommends to the State Party to also invite a representative of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to take part in this reactive monitoring mission;

13. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, and by **1 December 2015** a state of conservation report on the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **28. Curonian Spit (Lithuania / Russian Federation) (C 994)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.78** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the continuing collaboration between the two national parks and the commitment to produce a transnational Management Plan for the property, as well as the recently strengthened regulations within the Russian National Park that should support sustainable development within the property;
4. Also welcomes the significant progress made within Lithuania to contain and reverse illegal development;
5. Expresses its concern however that work on the liquefied gas terminal outside Klaipėda has been approved and commenced although no impact assessments were provided, despite its earlier requests and reiterates its request to the State Party of Lithuania to undertake full impact assessments (Strategic Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments) in order to consider the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; these assessments should be provided to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
6. Expresses its strong concern that approval in principle has apparently been given for the construction of a large suspension bridge from Klaipėda across the lagoon to the Spit, as this structure could have severe adverse visual impacts and affect traffic management along the Spit;
7. Understands that the bridge could be part of a larger project to develop a deep sea port at Klaipėda, which could have an impact on the stability of the dunes, and notes with regret that no details of either project have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as required by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
8. Requests the State Party of Lithuania to halt further development of both projects until full details have been provided, including detailed impact assessments (Strategic

Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments), in order to allow an evaluation of potential impact on the property;

9. Also requests the State Party of Lithuania to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2014 to consider the proposed bridge and port projects as well as the liquefied gas terminal project;
10. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the implementation of the above and, by **1 December 2015**, 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 40th session in 2016, both reports including a 1-page executive summary.

## **29. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.79** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party for improving the legal and management arrangements for the property and for the implementation of the recommendations from the 2013 advisory mission;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Ensure the sustained operation and resourcing of the management system, particularly by formally designating the newly created Management Council of the Kotor Region as a coordinating entity between different management levels,
  - b) Continue with the harmonisation of planning tools to establish a clear policy framework for heritage decision-making to ensure that urbanisation and development are adequately planned for and controlled, particularly in consideration of the landscape qualities of the property;
  - c) Consider the establishment of a zoning system for protection of the property, based on the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Area (SPSPCA), with adequate regulatory regimes that include detailed provisions regarding the acceptable limits and rate for change, particularly in terms of specific urban development parameters in consideration to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - d) Conclude the Spatial Urban Plan, including the Regional Transport Strategy, and integrate its provisions in the planning tools of all three neighbouring municipalities,
5. Encourages controlled implementation of developments in Morinj, Kostanjica and Glavati and requests the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessment to

ensure that no impact occurs on Outstanding Universal Value. The State Party is invited to submit a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Kotor Region, which is underway, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to undertaking any further commitments;

6. Requests that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) be undertaken for all options for the transportation connection at Verige, including the by-pass road around Kotor, and that project proposals under consideration, with corresponding HIAs, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making commitments to their implementation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **30. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.80** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for its sustained actions in the implementation of recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee and the monitoring missions to the property;
4. Takes note of the submission of the request for minor boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session under Item 8 of the Agenda;
5. Reiterates its concern that the introduction of any new developments or tourism infrastructure will alter the historical and visual characteristics of the property and its setting, and highlights that the present balance between the natural and built environment at Kizhi Island should be maintained;
6. Urges the State Party to regulate tourism pressure (including river based tourism) and to prohibit the extension of developments within the protected areas of the Kizhi Museum-Reserve and Kizhi Island;
7. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts with particular attention to the finalisation of the review process of the Management Plan considering the recommendations made by the ICOMOS technical review and to further clarify provisions for landscape management;
8. Reiterates its request that the State Party implement all correctives measures identified in 2010, and submit the revised and approved Master Plan for Kizhi Island, including strict land-use regulations for all protected areas, an Integrated Management Plan with appropriate tourism strategy and guidelines for the re-use of numerous existing historic

buildings and monuments comprising the Open Air Museum for visitor facilities and exhibitions; as well as a Conservation Master Plan for all components of the World Heritage property and its setting;

9. Also reiterates its request that the State Party halts all proposed new developments in the buffer zone and the settings of the property, including visitor and administration facilities until these are reviewed, and requests the State Party, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit, upon completion, the project proposal, technical specifications and heritage and environmental impact assessments, for the Office and Visitor Centre of the Kizhi Museum and for any other planned development projects based on the re-use of existing historic buildings and monuments, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to committing to their implementation;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **31. Historic Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)**

#### **Decision: 38COM 7B.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.84** and **37 COM 7B.81** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in strengthening legislative and regulatory control to improve the protection of the property;
4. Reiterates its concerns that inappropriate construction and/or infrastructure developments with inappropriate scale, height and mass, or incorporating non-traditional materials, impose a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property inscribed for its importance in architecture, town planning and spatial relationships between buildings and urges the State Party to:
  - a) to finalize and adopt an appropriate legal instrument which should take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to restrict land use and developments within the property, with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, and strict limits to development rights,
  - b) to ensure that this legal instrument be applicable even for the projects which were already approved within the existing Urban Master Plan,
  - c) to ensure that heritage impact assessments become a mandatory prior to any development;
5. Also urges the State Party to improve the management structure of the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, a Management Plan along with a Conservation strategy for the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Strongly reiterates its request to the State Party to submit, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of any proposed developments, including those reported as still awaiting implementation, such as the new bypass road, bridges and traffic interchange around the property, that may have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, accompanied by heritage impact assessments;
7. Also notes that the excavated remains of the original bell tower of the Cathedral of the Assumption are being conserved and requests the State Party to confirm that the proposed reconstruction of the bell tower has been cancelled;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.107**, **36 COM 7B.86** and **37 COM 7B.82** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in August 2013 and requests the State Party to give high priority to the implementation of its recommendations;
4. Encourages the State Party to revise the Development Strategy of the Solovetsky Archipelago and its Master Plan, including all proposed projects, in order to enhance the protection of the property and to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
5. Urges the State Party to pay special attention to the living religious heritage of the property by defining its legal protection status and adopting efficient regulatory and management instruments, and also requests the State Party to revise and/or develop planning tools, including a Protection Zoning Plan and regimes of all components of the property, an Integrated Management Plan, a Conservation Master Plan, a tourism management strategy, a risk preparedness strategy, as well as environmental and socio-cultural risk management, and to submit the revised documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its concern about the possible reconstruction of the monastery buildings and other major interventions in the landscape of the property given their potential impact on its OUV, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to the World Heritage Centre technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for proposed projects that may threaten the OUV of the property;

7. Takes note of the steps taken by the State Party to develop legal measures for the protection of World Heritage cultural properties and further reiterates its request that it develops and implements appropriate legal measures and regulations for conservation, restoration and management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest, and also encourages the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a legal framework to support the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*;
  8. Welcomes the results of the International Seminar for religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties (Moscow, 2013), and further encourages the State Party to share its experience with other States Parties by developing a capacity-building programme, as an essential part of the management strategy, to improve the qualifications of World Heritage site managers and users of the World Heritage properties of religious interest;
  9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property, and by **1 December 2015** a state of conservation report, on the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.
- 33. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527 bis)**

**Decision: 38COM 7B.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.112**, **36 COM 7B.90** and **37 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the progress made in the implementation of its previous decisions;
4. Reiterates its regret that the building on Klovsky descent has been completed despite the requests made at its previous sessions, and that, instead of modifying its height, mitigation through a lighting effect is envisaged, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to reduce its adverse effect by demolishing constructed levels to an appropriate scale;
5. Urges the State Party to finalize and adopt documents, regulations and measures specified in all its previous decisions to prevent any inappropriate development and potential threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Also urges the State Party to complete development and ratification of the new cultural heritage legislation and the plans for the protection of the buffer zone, to complete and issue the Urban Master Plan, including zoning regulations with particular emphasis on the establishment of no-construction zones, strict limits to development rights, which should take into consideration the OUV of the property, its specific landscape setting,

as well as important views and inter-visibility lines, and to implement the moratorium on high rise and inappropriate constructions;

7. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts with the finalization of the Management Plan taking into account the recommendations made by the ICOMOS technical review and to clarify methods of implementation, and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise the State Party on completing the Management Plan;
8. Also requests the State Party to ensure the implementation of the Management Plan by a qualified management team underpinned by effective consultation with local stakeholders, specialists and conservation experts;
9. Also encourages the State Party to continue monitoring, conservation and repair works within the property, and, in particular, the stabilisation work on the Varangian caves;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B;
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.94** and **37 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party in January 2014;
4. Takes note of the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in October 2013 and requests the State Party to give highest priority to the implementation of its recommendations;
5. Expresses its concern at the recent flooding at the property caused by severe weather, and also notes the commitment of the State Party to repair resulting damage;
6. Encourages the State Party, Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Partnership Board, the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site Management Office, and the three local councils that constitute the main agencies in the management system of the serial property to develop the necessary assessment and control mechanisms for large-scale development proposals;
7. Further notes that mining at South Crofty will most likely not proceed for some time and calls on the State Party to request a design revision for the ensemble of buildings,



based on a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, and taking into account the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), with particular consideration of the views to, and relationships between them;

8. Strongly regrets that the State Party did not comply with the requests made in Decisions **36 COM 7B.94** and **37 COM 7B.89** to halt the supermarket development project at Hayle Harbour, and calls on the State Party to find more appropriate, heritage-led regeneration options for any development at Hayle Harbour, which may be proposed in future;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to evaluate the extent of impacts resulting from the implementation of the supermarket project at Hayle Harbour on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to identify potential courses of action to address and/or mitigate these impacts;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

### **35. Tower of London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 488)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.35**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.114** and **36 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of December 2011,
4. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the planning framework through guidance documents and enhanced coordination of the relevant planning authorities;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any planned larger-scale projects in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and that adequate time be allowed for thorough review of each project by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is taken;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the revised Management Plan of the World Heritage property as soon as available;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.92** and **37 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the results of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of December 2011,
4. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the policy and planning framework through guidance documents and enhanced coordination of the relevant planning authorities;
5. Notes with concern that the State Party has not taken action to revise the development schemes of Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site, and urges the State Party to ensure that the proposals are not implemented in their current form but revised in line with the concerns raised by English Heritage;
6. While noting that formal consent has yet to be granted for the Elizabeth House development scheme, also notes with serious concern that there are no legal obstacles for granting final permission for the development scheme, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the proposal is not approved in its current form and that it be revised in line with the concerns raised by expert bodies, including English Heritage;
7. Requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any larger-scale 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, and that adequate time be allowed for thorough review of each project by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is taken;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

**37. New Lanark (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 429rev)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,

2. Notes the report submitted by the State Party on two planning applications for the Pleasance Housing proposals and the extension of the Hyndford Quarry;
3. Expresses its concern about the potential adverse impacts of the Hyndford Quarry extension and Pleasance Housing projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
4. Requests the State Party to suspend any further decisions on the planning applications for Hyndford Quarry and Pleasance Housing to allow for the elaboration of heritage impact assessments for each of the development projects, and also notes the decision of the ministers to call-in the planning application for Hyndford Quarry for scrutiny through an inquiry or hearing before their final decision;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre as soon as available the Heritage Impact Assessments for the Hyndford Quarry extension and Pleasance Housing projects, elaborated in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance;
6. Encourages the State Party to take up consultations with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding adequate modifications to the projects as currently proposed, and to consider inviting an ICOMOS advisory mission to the property to review the potential adverse impacts of the Pleasance Housing and Hyndford Quarry projects as well as the overall state of conservation of the property and its buffer zone, before further decisions are made;
7. Further requests the State Party to notify the World Heritage Centre of any decision or development on the above matters as soon as available and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 38. City of Potosi (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (C 420)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in the stabilization of the summit of Cerro Rico and regrets that Article 6 of Supreme Decree 27787 of October 2004 was not modified and the moratorium on all explorations between altitudes 4400 m and 4700 m of Cerro Rico was not enforced;
4. Notes with concern that stabilization interventions have been halted and urges the State Party to evaluate the preliminary results obtained, to define a revised strategy

and timeframe for completion of the project, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre a timeframe considering all the measures undertaken for the effective relocation of miners working above the 4400 m altitude of Cerro Rico;

5. Notes the result of the reactive monitoring mission to the property and endorses its recommendations and encourages the State Party to implement them;
6. Also encourages the State Party to reinforce the Inter-institutional Committee and the Emergency Committee to expand their policy framework beyond issues pertaining to Cerro Rico to address all the components of property; Requests the State Party to finalize the boundary clarification within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to achieve a final proposal of buffer zones and invites it to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a minor boundary modification to allow for a clear understanding for the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property;
7. Also notes with concern that conservation interventions have not been sustained and that no effective management system is currently in place, and also urges the State Party to develop an integrated and participatory Management Plan that includes all attributes of the property to ensure its Outstanding Universal Value is sustained; Considers that the State Party has not complied with all the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision **37 COM 7B.91**, and that therefore the property is in danger in conformity with Chapter IV.B of the *Operational Guidelines* and **decides to inscribe City of Potosi (Plurinational State of Bolivia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;
8. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

**39. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 567rev)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.92** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the appointment of the director for the Research Centre, Archaeological, Anthropological and Management Tiwanaku (CIAAAT) and the approval of the

management structure for the property and urges the State Party to secure the necessary resources to make it fully operational;

4. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the national and local authorities in the development of the management and conservation plan for the property;
5. Expresses its concern about the extent of restoration interventions undertaken at the Akapana pyramid and the Puma Punku sector that can potentially erode the conditions of authenticity of the property and requests the State Party to halt these interventions until the Conservation and the Management plans have been developed;
6. Also requests the State Party to finalise the conservation and management planning process and to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan and the conservation plan by **1 October 2014** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Reiterates its request to establish a buffer zone for the property and adopt the necessary regulatory measures to ensure the protection of its Outstanding Universal Value and conditions of authenticity and integrity;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **40. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the significant efforts made by the State Party and the Foundation Friends of the Churches of Chiloé (FUNDAICH) for the conservation of the churches of Chiloé;
4. Notes the result of the 2013 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property and endorses its recommendations;
5. Encourages the State Party to strengthen the National Monuments Council (CMN) and to enhance its joint work with other administrative levels and sectors of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to finalize the legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas around each component part and establish the appropriate legislative measures to ensure the overall protection of the property;
7. Invites the State Party to submit by **1 February 2015**, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the final proposal for the buffer zones of each

component part of the property as a minor boundary modification for review by the World Heritage Committee;

8. Requests the State Party to:
  - a) Review all existing Urban Master Plans in the light of the characteristics defined in the final proposal of buffer zones and new regulatory measures designed for the protection of the settings of the Churches of Chiloe,
  - b) Establish Urban Master Plans and clear building parameters and restrictions for all the municipalities that do not include these planning tools in their management framework,
  - c) Establish rural management frameworks, including the characteristics defined in the final proposal of buffer zones for the Churches of Chiloe located in rural areas, to better manage and protect all component parts of the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to establish an Integrated Management Plan for all sixteen churches inscribed in the serial property, with emphasis in a mutual cooperation among the different communities, to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
10. Notes with concern that the construction of Castro shopping mall has been completed and that no measures have been considered to mitigate its impact on the Castro Church;
11. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop measures to mitigate the impact of the Castro shopping mall on the visual characteristics and setting of the Castro church to better integrate it with the existing setting;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit a Study of Traffic Impact for the Castro shopping mall on the urban tissue of the City of Castro by **1 February 2015**;
13. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering, if the absence of the implementation of the above-mentioned actions is noted by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015, the potential inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **41. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to fund and organize the Advisory mission conducted in November 2013 and encourages it to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report;
4. Takes note of the work undertaken by the national and municipal authorities, and the contributions from sectors of civil society, to elaborate a Management Plan and promote the conservation of the property and encourages the State Party to adopt a broader approach in the formulation of planning tools in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considering the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to formulate integrated policies for conservation and development;
5. Also encourages the State Party to review the Management Plan to incorporate provisions for attributes related to the cultural landscape aspects of the city (such as the shoreline, the geographical amphitheatre, the elevators, the Bodegas Bolivar; the docks Espigon and Barón, important buildings in the flat area and the remains of the old railway system);
6. Considering that management arrangements are insufficient, urges the State Party to create a management structure to ensure coordination among the main entities with mandates and the property and enhance decision-making for the property;
7. Requests the State Party to undertake, before commencing works for the planned expansion project in Terminal 2, an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment, to identify potential impacts and define mitigation measures to ensure that the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted, and submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies by **30 November 2014**;
8. Notes with concern that the proposed project of Puerto Barón Mall may affect the OUV of the property and requests the State Party to define in a multisectorial group constituted by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the Site Manager, the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales (National Monuments Council) and the Ministry of Transports and Telecommunications, alternative architectural designs that take into account the attributes of the property and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies by **30 November 2014**, prior to making commitments to implementation;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **42. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.42**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to fund and organise the advisory mission conducted in January 2014 and encourages it to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report;
4. Recognizes the efforts made by national and municipal authorities in implementing recommendations to control concerns for the property such as Subway Number 6, the Programme for the Promotion of Tourism financed by an Inter-American Development Bank project at the Colonial City and the Sansouci Project; as well as the work of neighbours' associations and private investment groups to promote and take actions contributing to improve the conditions of the Colonial City;
5. Considers that all projects or actions affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and undertaken by any international, governmental, non-governmental or private entity, including the Inter-American Development Bank project, must involve and be approved by the institution responsible for the protection of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to implement the following and ensure specific and realistic timeframes are applied:
  - a) Finalize the process for approval of the buffer zone in East Santo Domingo and its corresponding regulatory measures,
  - b) Finalize the approval process for the new Law for the Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage and ensure that its provisions are integrated into planning tools for the property,
  - c) Improve management capacities and secure adequate resources for sustained implementation of conservation, protection and management actions, specially concerning the full functioning of the Steering Committee and the Strategic Plan for the Integral Revitalization of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo,
  - d) Identify alternatives to address transportation issues and develop Heritage Impact Assessments for the Subway project and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making any commitments for implementation,
  - e) Review the occupation-open space ratio of the Sansouci development project and define parameters for the further design of specific projects to ensure that potential negative impacts to the visual qualities of the setting of the property are mitigated,
  - f) Ensure that design parameters for architectural projects consider the attributes that convey OUV and the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property and that, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* , the revised development project and specific building designs be submitted for review prior to commencing implementation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, 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 40th session in 2016.



#### **43. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for preparing a comprehensive Management Plan for the property that reflects the recommendations made by the 2013 ICOMOS advisory mission;
4. Urges the State Party to take into account the recommendations made by the 2013 ICOMOS advisory mission regarding the management system, including the decision-making process, management responsibilities, and governance;
5. Also commends the State Party for undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments of the proposed interventions at the architectural ensemble of the Society of Jesus and of the Quito subway project's San Francisco and Plaza del Teatro stations, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and also urges the State Party to continue consulting with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on these projects, including the analysis of alternatives, with a particular focus on interventions assessed as potentially having a negative impact;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider the implementation of a single comprehensive conservation plan with details on costs and timeframes for implementation at different sectors of the property, on the established guidelines and criteria for interventions, and on changes of use;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **44. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti) (C 180)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.98 adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);
3. Recognizes the extreme social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities facing the State Party and by extension the impacts on its heritage assets;

4. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to implement the decisions of the World Heritage Committee, and acknowledges the efforts of the Institute for the Protection of National Heritage to ensure the safeguard of the property, as well as the ongoing efforts to raise awareness and inform local communities;
5. Notes the latest results of the studies on the structural stability of the Citadel and the emergency shoring work that have been made, and requests the State Party to continue and finalize the work of structural reinforcement, in cooperation with technical and financial institutions, and to submit for approval as soon as possible the conservation plan of the buildings;
6. Also takes note of the request for assistance for expertise on the welcome capacities of the monuments;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Tourism Development Plan including an analysis of the welcome capacities of the monuments before continuing with the development of tourism projects;
8. Further notes the demarcation process for the perimeter of the Park and also requests the State Party to submit proposals to define the boundaries of the buffer zone of the Park, as well as the results of the cadastral survey;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre:
  - a) a timetable and methodology for developing the Management Plan for the Park and the buffer zone, by **1 December 2014**, for examination by the Advisory Bodies,
  - b) the terms of reference for the study of the deviation of the National Highway No. 3 and the programme for project of rehabilitation of the “Park road”, as well as an environmental and heritage impact assessment for this project;
10. Also reiterates its request to the international community to ensure, by all means, its support for the implementation of the recommendations, and to quickly approve the financial and human resources to enable the State Party to ensure the conservation of the entire property, paying particular attention to the quality of life of the inhabitants;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a one-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **45. Historic Centre of Puebla (Mexico) (C 416)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.116**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),

3. Takes notes of the information provided by the State Party regarding the alternative route for the cable car and management arrangements for the property;
4. Notes the current challenges being faced in the conservation and management of the property and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Articulate existing planning and conservation tools and establish a single conservation and management policy for the property to be adopted at the three involved levels of government,
  - b) Further develop this policy into a participatory management plan and provide an electronic and three printed copies of this plan or management system for the property for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - c) Submit, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, technical details and location for large infrastructure development foreseen at the property, in particular revised proposals for the cable car, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to commencing works;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **46. Historic Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.101**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note of the significant progress made by the State Party in addressing the final delimitation of boundaries and buffer zone, and the completion of the Risk preparedness plan and the Master Plan of the Historic Centre of Arequipa;
4. Urges the State Party to complete the process of final approval and implementation of the new boundaries for the property as well as for its Master Plan and Risk preparedness plan;
5. Invites the State Party to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the final proposal for the buffer zone as a minor boundary modification to enhance the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property;
6. Notes with strong concern that work has started on the construction of the Chilina Bridge, one of the components of the project Via Troncal Interconectora, without the completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its last three sessions;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake, an HIA encompassing all the components of the Via Troncal Interconectora project, including the assessment of potential impacts on the landscape areas of Lari Lari, Los Tucos, Cayma and

Yanahuara and an action plan to mitigate the visual impacts and requests the State Party to complete and submit these studies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any approval or implementation of the entire project;

8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the assessments of potential impacts of the Via Local Interconectora project, as well as the development of an action plan to mitigate negative impacts;
9. Further requests the State Party to complete the review of the Metropolitan Development Plan in order to rationalize inconsistencies with the Master Plan of the property and confirm whether or not this plan is to be regarded as the management plan for the property, requested by the World Heritage Committee to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, both reports including a 1-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **47. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (C 940rev) (Suriname)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **26 COM 23.20**, adopted at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002),
3. Welcomes the development and approval of the Emergency Action Plan for the property and the efforts being made by the State Party to address conservation and management concerns;
4. Urges the State Party to continue with the implementation of actions foreseen, in particular:
  - a) Update and harmonise legislative and regulatory frameworks to address overlaps and strengthen the role of the Management Authority,
  - b) Finalise the formal process for the adoption of the Paramaribo Historic Inner City Management Plan and broadly disseminate its contents to ensure its implementation by all stakeholders,
  - c) Develop a zoning plan and urban regulations to complement existing provisions in the Management Plan,
  - d) Establish the Building Committee of Public Works to evaluate designs for new projects,
  - e) Finalise the formal process for establishing buffer zones and their regulatory measures and submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification, according to

the procedure established by the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

5. Acknowledges the State Party's commitment to ensure that all requests to demolish historic buildings are be rejected;
6. Requests the State Party to submit, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* , project proposals for the redevelopment of the Waterfront as well as technical specifications and details about the foreseen conservation and rehabilitation interventions within the property or its buffer zone, for review prior to making commitments to their implementation.
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## AFRICA

### 48. Lower Omo Valley (Ethiopia) (C 17)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the potential impacts of the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation Project (Kuraz project) on the Lower Omo Valley;
4. Notes that this HIA indicates the potential for massive adverse impacts on the property from the irrigation and excavations associated with the development of sugar plantations, settlements and access routes, and also notes that there is conflicting information on the precise extent and location of the Kuraz project;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to provide as soon as possible clear documentation on the scope and extent of the project and its precise location with regards to the property, in order to clarify whether it is within the property or its buffer zone; and requests clear information on the impact on pastoral communities with regards to resettlement schemes;
6. Also recalls its request to the State Party to submit the final report of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out in 2011 to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to improve the HIA with a detailed cultural heritage assessment based on the precise details of the Kuraz project and the precise attributes

of the property and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;

8. Further notes that the State Party has obtained funding from the European Union Development Project, which will enable the boundary delineation and management plan to be developed in 2014/2015;
9. Encourages the State Party to carry out an assessment of fossil-bearing sediments, as recommended by the HIA, in order to more clearly define areas of potential archaeological importance;
10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to consider the above issues and the potential impact of the Kuraz project;
11. Recognizes the high “Paleo-tourism” potential of the site noted in the HIA, and recommends that the State Party seek funding to test new tourism management tools, which have been developed recently through the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme;
12. Acknowledges the State Party’s urgent wish for international assistance for the site management plan and a possible extension of the property, and also encourages the submission of an International Assistance request to the World Heritage Fund before the next annual deadline of **31 October 2014**;
13. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **49. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.46**, **35 COM 7B.39**, **36 COM 7B.43** and **37 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Strongly regrets that the Lamu Port – South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Authority project was not halted, and reiterates its request to the State Party to halt all work on the LAPSSET development project until the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report has been finalized and its results discussed by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Takes note of the delay in the finalization of the HIA, and urges the State Party to complete the report and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Also takes note of the progress made on the development of a new chapter of the management plan covering the LAPSSET development project, requests that it integrates the results of the HIA, and that the finalized version be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon it is completed;
6. Also requests the State Party to encourage the involvement of the local community in the development and implementation of the planning and mitigation mechanisms that will be developed to offset the impacts of the LAPSSET project;
7. Also reiterates its request made at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions that the State Party furnish maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and further requests that any extensions to the buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification as soon as they are completed and approved at the State Party level;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property to discuss the results of the HIA and their implementation with the State Party and local stakeholders, to examine the work already undertaken for the LAPSSET development project, and to examine the state of conservation of the property;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **50. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.41** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party for the implementation of the previous recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, notwithstanding the difficult situations being faced;
4. Expresses its deep concern about the current state of the property and the limited resources currently available to achieve substantial progress in addressing conservation and management issues;
5. Notes the conclusions of the reactive monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to begin the implementation of the proposed priority action plan with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Define the boundaries of the archaeological sites and their buffer zones and establish regulations to ensure their adequate protection from encroachment,

- b) Implement anti-erosion measures for the archaeological sites based on a study of hydrological dynamics at the different sites,
  - c) Implement measures to address illegal occupations at the river banks,
  - d) Define conservation and maintenance regulations for the building stock at the historic town and facilitate access to materials for maintenance actions by the local inhabitants,
  - e) Secure resources to strengthen the activities of the Cultural Mission and to allow for management arrangements to become fully operational,
  - f) Finalise the adoption process of the urban regulatory measures and strengthen institutional frameworks for their enforcement;
6. Requests the State Party to finalize the update of the management plan and to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan or management system for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
  7. Also urges the State Party, within the framework of the UNESCO Mali Action Plan adopted on 18 February 2013, to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as any other relevant international bodies, to identify means to implement the twelve-month emergency action plan;
  8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in the implementation of the priority action plan and to ascertain whether the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met;
  9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations set out in paragraph 5 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **51. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.51**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts and progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property, including increasing the number of technical staff hired for the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM), and signing two Memorandums of Understanding in 2013 for the Creation of the Documentation Centre



in Saint Sebastian Fortress and for the Rehabilitation of the Mozambique Island Hospital;

4. Encourages the State Party to finalize efforts to formalize and adopt the buffer zone in conformity with Paragraph 107 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to update the legislation for the protection and conservation of heritage;
5. Recommends that the Management and Conservation Plan for Mozambique Island (2010 – 2014) be duly evaluated and updated in 2015 with the close participation of all stakeholders, including local communities;
6. Takes note of the intention of the State Party to submit the development plans for the Mozambique Island Hospital and the São Lourenço Fortress to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also recommends that the State Party submit, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, these and any other large-scale conservation or infrastructure projects planned for the property along with their associated Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessments and with the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage Cultural Properties;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **52. Historic Centre of Agadez (Niger) (C 1268)**

### **Decision: 38COM 7B.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.22**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription to continue the inventory of built and intangible heritage, to promote the use of restoration standards, to monitor the results of the recently introduced policy to ban the use of non-traditional materials, and to pay particular attention to the situation of inappropriate advertisements inside the property and buffer zone;
4. Also commends the State Party for initiating procedures to engage and raise the population's awareness about the conservation of the property, to transmit knowhow concerning traditional construction practices, to address the issue of rare traditional wood species, and to pay more attention to the question of sanitation;
5. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts to include local communities - and especially youth and women - in the conservation of the property; and encourages the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism management plan;

6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to more fully respond to the World Heritage Committee's request to describe in a unified and practical form the indicators for monitoring the property and the results of their application;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **53. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.53**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **29 COM 8B.23B**, adopted at its 29th session (Durban 2005),
3. Welcoming the continuing efforts of the State Party to improve the conservation of the property through the development of a Conservation Management Plan for 2010-2014,
4. Notes with concern that in the nine years since inscription, urban development pressures in the wider setting have increased as have the scale and commercialisation of the annual festival and overall visitor numbers; and considers that development threats in the wider setting need to be curtailed;
5. Regrets that the road through the property has not been diverted as requested at the time of inscription, and urges the State Party to ensure this is carried-out as soon as possible;
6. Expresses concern that the Cultural Tourism Management Plan, also requested at the time of inscription, has not yet been developed; and also considers that such a plan is urgently needed in order to address ways to sustain the spiritual, symbolic and ritual qualities of the Grove in relation to the very large numbers of people visiting this property, particularly during the festival, through defining clearly and precisely the carrying capacity of the Grove, in relation to its spiritual atmosphere, physical fragility and pristine nature, as well as its connections to access routes, car parking, accommodation etc.;
7. Also expresses concern that the natural qualities of the sacred grove, upon which its cultural values depend, and particularly the Osun River, appear to have been adversely affected by water-borne pollution;
8. Requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property in order to consider with the State Party how approaches to urban development, cultural tourism management and the conservation of natural resources might be strengthened and also to consider the appropriate balance between conservation and development in relation to the OUV of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2015** a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the above issues, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **54. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956 bis)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.54**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.42** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the legal establishment of the Committee for the Safeguarding of Saint-Louis;
4. Takes note of the findings of the 2014 reactive monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to fully implement its recommendations with particular attention to the following;
  - a) Develop, within a participatory and inclusive approach, the conservation and management plan for the property, which should include specific provisions for management and decision-making arrangements, including means for enhancing collaboration, the integration of existing regulatory measures and a clear and costed action plan for implementation. The developed management plan should be articulated with the Programme for Tourism Development, funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and with a conservation and maintenance plan for the property,
  - b) Based on the management plan, define mechanisms for the review and approval of proposed projects for modification or new construction and for their monitoring during implementation,
  - c) Strengthen existing conservation and management capacities at different levels and secure the necessary technical, material and financial resources for the implementation of conservation and management actions sustained undertaking,
  - d) Carry-out a comprehensive condition survey and assessment to develop a conservation and maintenance action plan, which should include a clear conservation policy and a road map of actions to address vulnerable heritage components and improvement of current housing conditions,
  - e) Halt the housing development that is taking place south of the island and not far from the Comptoir du Fleuve and identify measures to mitigate impacts on this sector;
  - f) Enhance outreach and awareness raising regarding the conservation and protection of the property and promote adequate dissemination and consultation on proposed projects;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* , technical details and specifications, as

well as Heritage Impact Assessments, on large scale projects foreseen at the property for review prior to making any commitments to their implementation;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **55. Stone Town of Zanzibar (Tanzania, United Republic of) (C 173rev)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.49** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Deeply regrets that in spite of extensive dialogue among the State Party, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, a new hotel and internal alterations at the Mambo Msiige building were carried out in contravention of the agreed upon matrix and guidelines for a revised design; and considers that the new six storey hotel, at two stories above the agreed matrix and guidelines, and encroaching onto the public beach, will have a significant adverse impact on the urban form and silhouette of the property and a substantial adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Urges the State Party to halt the ongoing work, and urgently implement the mitigation measures recommended by the Advisory Mission, which include lowering the overall height of the new building by two stories; and also considers that if these are not implemented then the property will meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Further considers that as the current structure of the Mambo Msiige is not in compliance with the Management Plan, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and buildings regulations, this reflects a serious lack of adequate management and development control at the property;
6. Notes that the State Party acknowledges the lack of adequate resources and effective governance as result of conflicts within the management structure, and that the adopted Management Plan has been only partially implemented and it is not being used to effectively guide decision-making and development control;
7. Reiterates its concern that the current critical conditions at the property have remained largely unaddressed with no significant progress having been made to reverse the decay in most of the building stock, in spite of recommendations of the Committee over several sessions since 2007; and considers furthermore that the poor overall state of conservation of the property, the lack of implementation of the management and conservation plans, and issues with governance arrangements constitute serious and specific dangers to the OUV of the property;

8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2014 to assess the implementation of mitigation measures and the state of conservation of the property with the aim to assess whether the condition of the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## MIXED PROPERTIES

### ARAB STATES

#### 56. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) (C/N 1377)

##### Decision: 38 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.15** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Notes the report of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property and the progress made on the conservation and management recommendations;
4. Urges the State Party to take urgent measures to ensure the removal of illegal tourist camps from the property, and to rehabilitate degraded areas;
5. Also urges the State Party to establish an integrated cultural and natural heritage database to fully identify the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and to serve as the basis for conservation monitoring, and appropriate interpretation;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the updated management plan provides legal measures and policies, backed by the necessary staff and financial resources, to enable effective management of the property and its buffer zone, including the regulation of development activities, tourism infrastructure and facilities, and to integrate the strategy for visitor management including vehicle route control within the property;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure, in implementing the management plan, provisions for additional and appropriately trained staff within the management unit for the property focused on research, protection and presentation of the geological, geomorphological and cultural values of the property and engagement of national and international research institutions in the management system for the property;

8. Also requests the State Party to fully implement the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session and the specific recommendations by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 57. Pyrénées Mont Perdu (France, Spain) (C/N 773bis)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.57**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.37**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes the information provided by the States Parties of France and Spain on the actions undertaken following its earlier decisions and welcomes the joint report submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Welcomes with satisfaction the operational establishment of the Joint Steering Committee and requests that it integrate the associative, agricultural and scientific sectors, taking into account the geographical and institutional balance;
5. Also requests the two States Parties to continue their collaboration to complete the joint Management Plan as soon as possible and to provide adequate technical and financial means for the implementation of the foreseen activities and further requests the two States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre with an electronic version and three printed copies of the Management Plan, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Commends the organization of the transboundary workshops on agropastoralism but remains concerned by the lack of specific support for agropastoral activities within the boundaries of the property and reiterates its request to the two States Parties to consider agropastoralism as a fundamental activity for the sustainable development of the property that supports its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
7. Urges the State Party of France to continue its efforts to reduce the impact of the Gavarnie Festival and, at the same time, to continue seeking alternative sites located outside of the boundaries of the property;
8. Warmly welcomes the progress achieved in planning for the closure of the Troumouse Road and urges the State Party of France to ensure the implementation of those plans in accordance with the foreseen timetable;

9. Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a joint updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.58**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **22 COM VII.30** and **33 COM 8B.40** adopted at its 22nd (Kyoto, 1998) and 33rd (Seville, 2009) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party in response to the recommendations made by the 2013 Advisory Mission related to the project for the Instauration of St. Clement's University at Plaoshnik and recommends that dialogue between the State Party and the Advisory Bodies continue as the project progresses further;
4. Encourages the State Party to implement all recommendations made by the 2013 Advisory Mission for improving the state of conservation of the property with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Finalise the Management Plan for the property and the Integrated Protection Plan for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid and submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - b) Develop a detailed urban plan for the entire monumental ensemble, in line with the existing regulatory framework, to ensure the enforcement of provisions and to control activities that might impact the entire protected area,
  - c) Strictly enforce legal and regulatory provisions and establish a management structure to control development pressures and interventions at the property,
  - d) Develop a comprehensive action plan for the lakeshore to provide adequate guidance on the type and extent of potential developments in relation to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting;
5. Expresses its concern over several planned major infrastructure projects within the property, including the Ljubanishta 1 and 2 coastal developments, the Ohrid-Peshtani road, and the Galičica Ski Centre and Resort, and requests that technical details, including Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs), for projects under consideration within the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
6. Considers that the planned construction of the Galičica Ski Centre and Resort is likely to have significant direct and indirect impacts on the OUV of the property, and requests the State Party to halt the project until the abovementioned impact assessment has been completed and reviewed;

7. Also requests that selected project proposals for the implementation of the Pan European Railway Corridor VIII be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion for review by the Advisory Bodies and urges the State Party to identify alternative routes that do not cross the property;
8. Also encourages the States Parties of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to continue to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream process towards the preparation of a new nomination for a transboundary extension of the property to include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid and its watershed, in order to strengthen the values and integrity of the property;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on urgent progress required to address the issues mentioned above, and by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## AFRICA

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

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.59**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to monitor the property and perform regular patrols in spite of limited human resources, and urges the State Party to take measures to significantly increase the number of surveillance staff for the property, including staff trained in cultural heritage;
4. Expresses its concern that the proposed upgrading of the Alembé-Mikouyi Road could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular on its archaeological sites, and could also exacerbate the threat of poaching;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, full details of the various possible alignments of the road in relation to the specific cultural attributes of the property; as well as the revised environmental, social and heritage impact studies taking into account the impact on the overall cultural landscape of the River Ogooué Valley and not just on individual sites, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is taken on the approved route;
6. Takes note of the Environmental Impact Assessment which was submitted for the optical fibre project and requests the State Party to implement the proposed mitigation measures to avoid impacts during the construction phase on wildlife populations and on archaeology;



7. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to develop management capacity for the cultural attributes of the property, and recommends that it further strengthens management structure, to ensure that it can engage fully with the impact assessments of the road project and with specific potential threats to the archaeological sites in the property;
8. Also takes note of the 2007 Law on National Parks and also requests the State Party to submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre, and to ensure its enforcement in order to enhance the effective long-term conservation and management of the property;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to evaluate its overall state of conservation and capacity to manage cultural attributes, and also to assess the Alembe-Mikouyi Road Development Project and its potential impact on the OUV of the property as well as concerns over poaching;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015** a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

**60. Bandiagara Cliffs (land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.60**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party for the management of the property;
4. Notes that conservation and management actions are needed for different component parts of the property and that resources will need to be secured for their full implementation and calls upon the international community to contribute and support the State Party in its efforts;
5. Notes with concern the acts of vandalism at the prehistoric sites of Toloy, requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on their effects and potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and urges the State Party to enhance monitoring and protection measures at vulnerable sectors;
6. Encourages the State Party to commence a participatory planning process for the review of the management and conservation plan to identify a course of action for interventions and to update and articulate regulatory measures and provisions to ensure that the adequate balance between heritage conservation and development is retained, and also urges the State Party to develop a sustainable finance strategy for the implementation of the revised plans;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management and conservation plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **61. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (Tanzania, United Republic of) (C/N 39bis)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.61**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.35** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress achieved in addressing the escalating threat of poaching, particularly affecting elephant populations;
4. Welcomes the establishment of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the Department of Antiquities and the proposed integration of the cultural department in the operational structure of the property, and urges the State Party to implement these proposals and ensure that adequate resources are secured for its long-term operation;
5. Reiterates its concern about the impacts of livestock grazing and increased population pressure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and considers that existing and planned measures be reviewed and an overall strategy be developed to address these issues in close cooperation with the different stakeholders and in particular the resident communities;
6. Also welcomes the initiation of a dialogue process with the local communities of the property aimed at improving stakeholder involvement in decision-making over land-use, identification of sustainable livelihoods, benefit-sharing and other issues, and encourages the State Party to use this process as an opportunity to review wide-ranging governance issues, including management and conservation approaches, stakeholder involvement and benefit sharing, and to identify adequate options for sustainable livelihoods that do not negatively impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Notes the efforts made in evaluating road-surfacing options for the heavily used main road through the property, and requests the State Party to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in cooperation with Tanzania National Parks, to assess the impacts of the different options on Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to making a decision on how to stabilize this road;
8. Also encourages the State Party to sustain efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2012 reactive monitoring mission with particular reference to road surface improvements, a road development strategy, control of invasive species and implementation of monitoring programmes;
9. Expresses its concern at the advanced state of the Museum building at Laetoli for which no detailed plans nor appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been

submitted to the World Heritage Centre; and that the museum proposals have apparently been finalised in advance of a technical review workshop on conservation options for the Laetoli footprints;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit the outcomes of the International Technical Committee meeting for Laetoli to be held in May 2014 to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any commitments to their implementation; and to halt the Laetoli museum project until an agreed approach for the conservation of the footprints has been achieved;
11. Also notes that limited progress has been achieved regarding the cultural components of the property and reiterates its request to address the current conditions of the cultural components of the property, as requested in Decision **34 COM 8B.13**, paragraph 6;
12. Further expresses its concern about the potential impacts on the OUV of the property from a lodge development project on the crater rim, and further requests the State Party to provide more information on this project, including a copy of the EIA, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
13. Acknowledges the commitment of the State Party to submit copies of relevant technical and regulatory documents for review by the Advisory Bodies and requests furthermore the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan, the proposed cultural tourism strategy, the draft building codes, the draft road development strategy and other relevant documents for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are available, and not later than **1 February 2015**;
14. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## NATURAL PROPERTIES

### ARAB STATES

#### **62. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.62**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.8** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the significant progress achieved by the State Party and its partners since the inscription of the property in terms of its protection and management, in particular

the strengthening of its legal framework, the creation of a functional management authority and management system and the management of fishing inside the property which restricts fishing to the local Imraguen communities using only traditional methods and an efficient surveillance system;

4. Takes note of the conclusion of the reactive monitoring mission that so far, the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been preserved in part thanks to its isolation but that the region is undergoing rapid changes characterized by numerous planned infrastructure developments;
5. Notes with concern the many infrastructure projects being developed around the property, which could potentially impact on its OUV, and requests the State Party not to authorize infrastructure inside the property or in its vicinity, without having conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in conformity with IUCN's "World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment" and to ensure that all EIAs are validated by the Scientific Council of the property and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
6. Expresses its utmost concern about the road to Mamghar, which presents a serious threat to the integrity of the property and is impacting on its cultural values, and urges the State Party to ensure that its use is restricted to mitigate its impact and that a system of control of access to the property is put in place;
7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the draft EIA for the water sourcing system linked to the extension of the Tasiast mine is completed to assess its potential impacts on the OUV of the property, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Appreciates the fact that no oil or mining exploration permits were attributed within the property, but also expresses concern about potential impacts if any of the on-going exploration projects lead to exploitation, in particular, in oil blocks close to the property where exploratory drilling is going forward in 2014;
9. Also welcomes the initiative to conduct a "Territorial Diagnostic" in order to assess the cumulative impacts of the different planned development projects on the property, and further requests the State Party to develop on the basis of this study a strategic vision for the development of the region which ensures the conservation of the OUV of the property;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission and take them into account in the development of the new management plan, in particular:
  - a) Ensure the sustainability of the fishing surveillance system, maintain the restrictions on fishing foreseen in the law and develop an agreement with all stakeholders to limit the catch of threatened fish species, in particular rays and sharks,
  - b) Create a residence permit system to ensure that fishing rights are restricted to the local population, as well as to ensure that no new villages develop in the park,
  - c) Update urgently the emergency MARPOL plan to ensure that an operational system is in place to address a potential oil spill,

- d) Submit to the International Maritime Organization the request to designate Banc d'Arguin region as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area,
  - e) Put in place a system of shared governance involving all stakeholders, including reviving the Board of the Park, its Scientific Council and the participatory management process and reinforcing its cooperation with its technical and financial partners,
  - f) Link the funding for the property from the trust fund to the management effectiveness of the site and the conservation of its OUV;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the recommendations of the mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 63. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

#### Decision: 38 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.8** and **37 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress being made by the State Party with the Strategic Assessment and reiterates its request to the State Party to complete this work, responding fully to the past decisions of the Committee, in order to ensure that the Long-Term Plan for Sustainable Development (LTPSD) results in concrete and consistent management measures that are sufficiently robust, effectively governed and adequately financed, to ensure the overall long-term conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including in view of addressing cumulative impacts and increasing reef resilience;
4. Also welcomes the progress made by the State Party with regard to water quality, in particular the endorsement of the 2013 Reef Water Quality Protection Plan, the release of the Scientific Consensus Statement and the progress toward the Reef Plan targets as stated in the most recent Reef Plan Report Card, and encourages the State Party to sustain and where necessary expand these efforts, and their funding, to achieve the ultimate goal of no detrimental impact on the health and resilience of the reef;
5. Further welcomes the State Party's intention to focus port development to the Priority Port Development Areas (PPDAs) and its confirmation that these will exclude the Fitzroy Delta, Keppel Bay, and north Curtis Island, as well as the State Party's stated commitment to "protect greenfield areas from the impacts of port development", and urges the State Party to ensure that the finalized Queensland Ports Strategy ensures that the above mentioned commitments are fully integrated and are consistent with the

LTPSD, and confirms that no port developments or associated port infrastructure are permitted outside the existing and long-established major port areas within or adjoining the property;

6. Requests the State Party to ensure the full completion of the independent review of the institutional and management arrangements for the property, as recommended by the 2012 reactive monitoring mission, as a key input to the LTPSD, and considers that the transfer of decision-making power from Federal to State levels, before the vision, framework with desired outcomes and targets, and governance requirements to deliver the LTPSD have been adopted, is premature, and should be postponed to allow further consideration;
7. Notes with concern the recent approvals for coastal developments in the absence of a completed Strategic Assessment and resulting Long-Term Plan for Sustainable Development, and regrets the State Party's approval for dumping 3 million cubic metres of dredge material inside the property prior to having undertaken a comprehensive assessment of alternative and potentially less impacting development and disposal options, and also requests the State Party to ensure that the option selected does not impact OUV, and is the least damaging option available;
8. Also notes with concern that the provisions of the Queensland Ports Strategy cannot be applied retroactively, and therefore strongly urges the State Party to:
  - a) Ensure rigorously that proposed development outside PPDA's is not permitted and that developments within PPDA's do not impact individually or cumulatively the OUV of the property,
  - b) Ensure that plans to be developed for each PPDA exclude from development areas identified as of conservation significance under the 2003 Great Barrier Reef Zoning plan;
9. Recalls that the outcomes of the Strategic Assessment and resulting Long-Term Plan for Sustainable Development, as well as the findings of the second Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, should be considered at its 39th session in 2015 (Decision **36 COM 7B.8**);
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including on the implementation of actions outlined above as well as on the other points raised in the 2012 reactive monitoring mission report, and the documents relevant to the Committee's past decisions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **64. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.64**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property as requested by the Committee at its 35th session;
4. Notes with concern that the indirect impacts on the property of the construction of a coal fired power plant at Khulna do not appear to have been assessed, considers that increased navigation on the Pashur River and the required dredging are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the dredging activities include a specific assessment of potential impacts on OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
5. Also notes with concern the reports of further infrastructure and industrial development downstream of the power plant, and of plans for the construction of an additional coal fired power plant in the same location, and also requests the State Party to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that cumulative impacts of developments in the Sundarbans are adequately assessed, including in relation to the OUV of the property;
6. Reiterates that in the absence of ecological monitoring data for the property, it is not possible to assess the status of its OUV, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently submit the results of the ecological monitoring programme to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
7. Recalls that inadequate resources and infrastructure are likely to limit the effective protection of the property against potential threats from poaching, resource extraction and other illegal activities, and encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to further support the ongoing restoration of infrastructure and the procurement of management resources;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the urgent progress required to address the issues mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **65. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.10** taken at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that the delay in fund release has been addressed, and recommends that the State Party provide updates of the financial situation of the property in future reports to the Committee;

4. Notes with appreciation the positive results achieved up to 2013 with the reintroduction of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, as well as the development of a comprehensive Eastern Swamp Deer Translocation Protocol, the implementation of which is anticipated to commence in 2014;
5. Notes with serious concern the reported recent poaching of nearly one third of the recovering rhino population, which is a sharp reminder of the fragility of the property's recovering Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to ensure that forest guards are adequately equipped and trained to protect the property against poachers and maintain effective patrolling, in order to secure the recovering populations of rhino and other wildlife, and to ensure that the anticipated translocation of Eastern Swamp Deer can be carried out effectively;
6. Requests the State Party to take urgent measures to address the reported new encroachment at Bhuyanpara Range within the property, and rehabilitate degraded areas;
7. Also notes with utmost concern the reported deterioration of the security situation in the property, and considers that a further deterioration of the security situation, associated with the reported surge in poaching and concerns regarding encroachment could create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Bhutan to submit a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Mangdechhu hydro-electric project as per Decision **36 COM 7B.10**, including an assessment of potential impacts on the property's OUV and cumulative impacts in relation to the existing Kurichu dam, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, on the implementation of the above and updates of the financial situation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **66. Keoladeo National Park (N 340) (India)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.66**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the continuing efforts of the State Party to replenish the water regime within the property's wetland system, and in that regard notes with appreciation the completion of the Govardhan Drain project;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue ecological monitoring programmes of satellite wetlands to ensure that these continue to perform their critical supporting role in



maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**:

- a) clear time series data on water flows to the property from all relevant projects in order to demonstrate whether the minimum of 550 million cubic feet (mcft) of water per annum required to sustain the property's wetland values, as recommended by the 2008 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, is being achieved,
  - b) clear and accurate data and analyses of bird counts, including detailed information on methodologies used, in order to demonstrate the sustained recovery of bird populations,
  - c) an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN,
  - d) further information on development in the immediate vicinity of the property, including information on how development is being regulated to avoid negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Also welcomes the reported participation of local communities in various aspects of management of the property, and urges the State Party to ensure that the control of invasive species is keeping pace with their dispersal under changing conditions of water supply;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016. .

#### **67. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.67**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to improve the property's management capacity, and welcomes the State Party's commitment, as expressed during the mission, to apply the highest standards to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Habema-Kenyem road;
4. Notes with concern that despite the absence of an EIA, significant road construction has been allowed to continue until recently;
5. Requests the State Party to rigorously ensure that the current halt imposed on further road construction remains in place until the EIA has been completed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and its recommendations fully implemented, and adequate technological and managerial measures are being implemented to avoid and mitigate impacts of the road on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the development and

implementation of an integrated monitoring mechanism to detect and respond to threats as soon as they arise;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit the completed EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
7. Urges the State Party to guarantee effective monitoring and strict control of the road and its impact and control of any future development pressures, related or not to the presence of the road, and considers that if this cannot be achieved, the property could meet, in the near future, the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and reiterates its request to the State Party to rigorously ensure the protection and conservation of the property's OUV and prevent the fragmentation of the largely intact wilderness that makes up the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to urgently revise the property's management plan and zonation scheme, in order to ensure that they adequately reflect the property's OUV, and to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan and zonation scheme to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available, for review by IUCN;
9. Also urges the State Party to undertake an assessment of the level of poaching in the property, and to conduct further in-depth investigations to the cause of the Nothofagus dieback disease, including an assessment of the health of all Nothofagus forests in the property as well as an action plan to address the dieback, in collaboration with international experts, as required;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2014 IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
11. Reiterates its call upon the international community to support the State Party in resolving the severe constraints to the effective operation of the Park management including funding, limited monitoring and surveillance equipment, and limited staff capacity and technical expertise;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2008, 2011, and 2014 reactive monitoring missions, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **68. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.68**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the Sherpas killed in the avalanche on 18 April 2014;
4. Reiterates its concern that the verdict of the Supreme Court of Nepal remains unknown with respect to the Kongde View Resort which is within the property and is reportedly still operating, and urges the State Party to submit the verdict to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is issued by the court;
5. Recommends the State Party to consult the Mountains Biome Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the IUCN Theme on Indigenous & Local Communities, Equity and Protected Areas (TILCEPA) for technical advice on the overall state of conservation of the property with particular attention to the impacts of the Kongde View Resort and tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the proposed buffer zone,
6. Encourages the State Party to invite an IUCN advisory mission to provide advice on these matters and suggests that the State Party request International Assistance in this regard;
7. Requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the (draft) revised Sagarmatha National Park Tourism and Management Plan for 2014-2018 for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
8. Also encourages the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification to formally recognize the existing Buffer Zone of Sagarmatha National Park as a buffer zone to the property consistent with the *Operational Guidelines* ;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the progress with respect to legal proceedings related to the Kongde View Resort, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **69. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.69**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.11**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Welcomes the reported success of anti-poaching measures as indicated by two recent years of zero rhino poaching (2011 and 2013), as well as the reported strong community support for the conservation of the property;
4. Notes with concern the reported plans for the East-West Electric Railroad and the Tarai Hulaki Highway crossing the property and that construction of bridges related to the highway project is reported to have started in the buffer zone of the national park, and considers that these projects, if implemented as planned through the property, would represent a clear potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the

property, including through habitat fragmentation, wildlife disturbance and an increased risk of poaching and other illegal activities;

5. Notes with appreciation the advice sought by the State Party's consultants on the application of IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for both projects are completed in conformity with IUCN's Advice Note, including an assessment of cumulative impacts and alternative alignments that do not cross the property, and also requests the State Party to submit these EIAs and further details on the proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
7. Further requests the State Party to put on hold any construction of infrastructure that could preclude the viability of alternative alignments that would avoid the property, until the EIA processes for both projects have been completed;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, on the status of the above infrastructure projects, and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **70. Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines) (N 652rev)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **23 COM VIII.A.1**, adopted at its 23rd session (Marrakesh, 1999),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to the protection and conservation of the property, and commends the efforts undertaken by the new park administration to regulate tourism and control illegal activities;
4. Notes the State Party's intention to carry out a Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) to clarify the issue of land claims and land sales in the property, and requests the State Party to take appropriate measures to remove illegal occupants from the property, while ensuring clear land titles for those occupants that are considered legal;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan of the property, including a clear zoning scheme and regulations for appropriate tourism development within the property and its vicinity, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
6. Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, in order to support a comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the boundary of the property and buffer zone, impacts from the land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and to assess its state of conservation and consider the

measures needed to ensure any impacts from the above-mentioned issues and threats are avoided, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **71. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.71**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes with concern that the threat of illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) continues, despite commendable efforts by the State Party and park rangers to address this issue, sometimes at great personal risk, and urges the State Party to develop the Action Plans on Curbing Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood including concrete measures, and timeframe for their implementation;
4. Encourages the State Party to strengthen international cooperation with other States Parties concerned, particularly Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, to halt illegal trade in Siamese Rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*);
5. Notes with concern that the property continues to be under pressure from encroachment, including resort developments; appreciates that a number of the cases have resulted in successful prosecution against land encroachment, and encourages the State Party to continue working with local authorities, communities, NGOs, in improvement of coordination and collaboration for protection of the Property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement and enforce speed limits and impact mitigation actions along Highway 304 and other roads crossing the property, and urges the State Party to not permit the re-opening or expansion of any other roads crossing the property;
7. Notes with appreciation the actions already undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the Huay Samong Dam on the property during the construction phase and also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue efforts to implement and enforce mitigation measures during and post construction, in cooperation between relevant authorities, specifically the Royal Irrigation Department and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, in order to ensure that the dam does not negatively impact the OUV of the property;
8. Also notes the reported consideration by the State Party to build another dam in the Klang Dong area of the property, which, if approved, would be likely to inundate a

significant portion of the property, and also urges the State Party to make a commitment not to allow any additional dam constructions that are likely to have an impact on the property;

9. Requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations from the 2014 IUCN reactive monitoring mission, in particular:
  - a) Enhance and strengthen inter-agency and international cooperation, including with the military and local police, to address the issue of illegal Siamese Rosewood logging, transportation, and sale, including through budgetary provisions to facilitate increased regular joint patrolling activities, and through encouraging interactions at higher levels and consideration of new approaches, including ways to reduce demand,
  - b) Urgently address the severe threats from the various types of encroachment to the property which affect its OUV, by implementing measures specified in the reactive monitoring mission report;
  - c) Urgently submit to the World Heritage Centre:
    - (i) detailed plans for long-term enforcement actions to prevent encroachment after expansion of Highway 304,
    - (ii) any plans to expand or reopen other roads bisecting the property, and confirmation of the status of discussions on expanding Highway 348 and reopening of Route 3462,
  - d) Building on the positive results already achieved in reducing illegal grazing activities, continue to engage with local communities to fully remove the remaining domestic cattle from the property, and increase cooperation with local provincial authorities, including the Department of Agriculture, to support small scale cattle herders in finding and securing land outside the property,
  - e) Take urgent measures, as specified in the reactive monitoring mission report, to improve the property's management effectiveness;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above as well as on the requested action plan and its implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015 in order to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 72. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672bis)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.72**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Commends the State Party for comprehensively addressing the conservation issues previously identified by the Committee, and welcomes the satisfactory progress made in finding effective solutions, related to industrial developments outside the property, population growth inside the property, aquaculture activities, tourism pressure and visitor management, and development of the Cua Van Cultural Centre;
4. Also welcomes the intention of the State Party to evaluate the management effectiveness of the property and establish an integrated management system;
5. Requests the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2013 IUCN reactive monitoring mission, and in particular to strengthen the administrative capability of the Ha Long Bay Management Department by allowing it a greater degree of independence, authority, and decision-making power in conducting its day-to-day management and enforcement roles and responsibilities;
6. Encourages the State Party to further strengthen its efforts toward ensuring that tourist visitor pressure in the property continues to be reduced to a level that is compatible with the long-term conservation of the property and, also encourages the State Party to increase the contribution of tourism revenue to the Ha Long Bay Management Department, including from tourism operator concession fees;
7. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure that the floating villages can be sustainably managed without pressure on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, a progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

## 73. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.73**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party that further developments in the buffer zone of the property could be considered within the new management plan for Pirin National Park, and given the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, requests the State Party to ensure that the new management plan is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prior to being adopted, in line with the European Union (EU) SEA Directive, the EU Habitat Directive, and IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
4. Also requests the State Party to expedite the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission which have not yet been implemented, in particular to complete the process of the demarcation of the boundaries of the property, including its buffer zone;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **74. Gros-Morne National Park (Canada) (N 419)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.74**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the decision taken by the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador not to accept applications for petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing until a full review of the process is completed, as well as the decision by the joint federal-provincial Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board to reject the extension of the Exploration License adjacent to the property;
4. Notes that the reactive monitoring mission requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session has not been carried out as the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN considered the mission not necessary in the current circumstances, in particular in view of the moratorium on acceptance of applications for petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, if the moratorium on acceptance of applications for petroleum exploration in the vicinity of the property is discontinued without putting in place other appropriate measures for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to complete the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process, to review the potential impacts on the VUE of the property and to submit a copy of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;



7. Encourages the State Party to establish a buffer zone to enhance the effective protection of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the findings of the SEA, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.75**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine towards a closer transnational cooperation, in particular the establishment of an integrated management system for the trilateral property, as well as research and monitoring plans and capacity building to share best practices, and encourages the States Parties to continue strengthening their technical cooperation, particular in the field of forest management;
4. Regrets that the State Party of Slovakia did not provide any information on the concerns raised in Decision **37 COM 7B.26** and reiterates its concern about the integrity and management of the component sites in Slovakia, and particularly about Poloniny National Park (PNP);
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that a comprehensive vision for development and effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Slovak components of the property and in particular its integrity be included in the management plan of Poloniny National Park requested by the Council of Europe in order to ensure that the requirements of the *Convention* for the co-ordinated management of the serial transnational property, and those of the Council of Europe can be met in one single management system;
6. Urges the State Party of Slovakia to intensify efforts to strengthen cooperation between different Ministries and Agencies relevant for the management of the property and to ensure that the World Heritage status of the property is recognized and supported in their strategies and plans, and to urgently halt unsustainable logging activities within component sites of the World Heritage property, particularly Poloniny National Park, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7B.26**;
7. Reiterates that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* , an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for all development projects within the property and its surroundings that could affect its OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and also urges the State Party of Slovakia to

immediately halt all infrastructure development that could affect the OUV of the property until such EIA is conducted and submitted;

8. Requests the State Party of Slovakia to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the component sites of the property in Slovakia and in particular Poloniny National Park, to assess the threats to the property, in particular issues related to its integrity and management and the implementation of the specific recommendations of Decision **37 COM 7B.26**;
9. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **76. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.76**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.22**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) has been shut down, although it continues to produce heat, and requests the State Party to develop a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the future use of the BPPM site and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the State Party of Mongolia continues to consider the development of dams on the Selenga and Orkhon rivers, and also requests the State Party of Mongolia to ensure that no dam development on either river proceeds before the potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of these projects on OUV have been duly assessed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to provide a copy of the environmental impact assessments of these projects to the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
5. Further requests the State Party of Mongolia to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission, with an invitation also extended to the authorities of the Russian Federation, in order to review the scope, scale and status of the dam projects in Mongolia and to have a discussion early in the planning process about the potential impacts of these projects on the property;
6. Reiterates its position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, and requests furthermore the State Party of the Russian Federation to ensure that mining at the Kholodninskoye deposit remains prohibited beyond 31 December 2014;
7. Expresses its concern over the continued development of the "Baikal Harbour" and "Gate of Baikal" Special Economic Zones and the lack of assessment of the impacts of

these developments on the OUV of the property, and requests moreover the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), in particular concerning tourism development within the property and its vicinity, in order to identify alternatives that will not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;

8. Also expresses its concern over reported proposals to introduce changes to Federal Law N 94-FZ which would weaken the protection of the property, and requests in addition the State Party to provide further information on these proposed changes;
9. Urges the State Party to expedite the development of management plans for the protected areas which constitute the property as well as an integrated management plan for the property as a whole, in line with Paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including on the implementation of the actions noted above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **77. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)**

##### **Decision: 38.COM 7B.77**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.23**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Expresses its utmost concern about the adoption of amendments to Federal Law N°406-FZ, dated 28 December 2013, which make it possible to develop large scale tourism infrastructure in strict nature reserves, and could also impact other natural World Heritage properties in the Russian Federation, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that no large scale ski or tourism infrastructure is built within the property;
4. Takes note of the intention of the State Party to submit a proposal for a boundary modification by excluding parts of the Lagonaki plateau from the property which are reported to be degraded and by including other parts, and recalls that such a proposal has to be clearly justified in terms of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for which the property was inscribed, should be based on reliable scientific data and should be submitted as a major boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines* ;
5. Reiterates its position that the installation of capital construction on the Lagonaki Plateau, including Mount Fisht and Oshten, would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

6. Notes with concern that development pressures on the property appear to increase continuously, as noted by reports that new construction works have been conducted inside the property without prior assessment of their potential impact on its OUV, including upgrade of Babuk Aul forest road, cable car construction at “Biosphere scientific centre” and other facilities nearby, and urges the State Party to ensure that the potential impacts of any proposed infrastructure upgrading inside the property on its OUV are carefully assessed and that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
8. Requests the State Party to report on the status of the proposed Persian leopard reintroduction project and provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information and data on this project, in line with the 2013 IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **78. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation) (N 719)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.78**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Regrets that the State Party has reversed neither the boundary changes which removed the legal protection of four areas within the property nor the 19.9 square km gold mining concession and has not revoked or frozen mining exploitation licences granted inside the property as requested by the Committee at its 35th and 36th sessions, reiterates its position that mining activities are not compatible with World Heritage status, and urges the State Party to immediately halt all activities associated with gold mining in the property;
4. Takes note of the August 2013 decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which declared inoperative the order of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology on approval of the Regulations about “Yugyd Va” National Park”, thereby confirming that the original boundaries of the national park, which coincide with the boundaries of the northern component of the property, remain valid;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the following measures:
  - a) Revoke or freeze the exploration and exploitation licenses already granted,
  - b) Reverse the boundary changes made to Yugyd Va National Park;

6. Notes that the State Party had submitted a re-nomination of the property proposing significant boundary modifications, which was incomplete and was therefore not transmitted for evaluation;
7. Considers that any resumption of mining activities inside the property would provide the basis for immediate inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **79. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.79**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.27**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party that populations of bird species and Iberian Lynx are recovering, as well as the progress reported by the State Party on the implementation of the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/Ramsar reactive monitoring mission of 2011 and on addressing the requests from the World Heritage Committee, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts;
4. Also notes that dredging to deepen the estuary of the Guadalquivir River has not commenced, and also requests the State Party to make a permanent commitment to not permit plans for dredging to deepen the Guadalquivir River, considering the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Expresses its utmost concern about the continued reported decline in the condition of the Doñana aquifer, reported plans to increase water use for irrigation of rice paddies upstream of the property, to legalise illegal water use under the revised Strawberry Plan, and to construct a dam on the Guadiamar River, as well as the absence of a plan of action to address unsustainably high levels of water extraction, and further requests the State Party to provide more information about these plans to the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to take urgent measures to address this situation, including through the enforcement of existing regulations to combat illegal water use;
6. Urges the State Party to ensure that any future projects increasing water use upstream of the property will not be allowed to proceed if they would impact adversely on the property's OUV, and considers that the continued depletion of the Doñana aquifer, if not urgently reversed, could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Also urges the State Party to ensure that potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the property's OUV from mining and gas exploitation and storage projects in its vicinity are thoroughly assessed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
  8. Further urges the State Party, in light of the concerns noted above, to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Guadalquivir River Basin, particularly in relation to water supply scenarios, agricultural, industrial and commercial development, in order to prepare revised plans and actions for water management and use in the river basin, which will provide long-term protection for the OUV of the property;
  9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, including an invitation to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, to assess its state of conservation as well as potential threats to its OUV;
  10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including on progress with the implementation of the actions mentioned above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.
- 80. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United-Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 369)**

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.80**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party that the majority of the recommendations from the 2013 IUCN advisory mission are being implemented;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to consider, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, potential modifications and alternatives to the golf resort development project to avoid potential adverse impacts;
5. Expresses concern that a petroleum exploration license was awarded in February 2011, which overlaps with the property, and that the State Party did not inform the Committee as required by paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Also notes the confirmation provided by the State Party that no exploratory works have taken place within the property to date, nor that any planning applications for such work within the property have been submitted, and urges the State Party to ensure that no exploration activities will take place within the boundaries of the property and that any exploration activities outside the property do not have an adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value;

7. Reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and also urges the State Party to exclude the property from the petroleum exploration license;
8. Takes note of the State Party's intention to submit a proposal for a boundary modification of the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that any planned modifications of the property's boundaries would not result in a further overlap between the petroleum exploration license and the property;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including on the implementation of actions outlined above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 81. Iguazú National Park (Argentina) (N 303)

#### Decision: 38 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Regrets that the brief joint State Party report only commented on transboundary cooperation and did not address important conservation issues, including issues of transboundary significance, such as water flows and alien invasive species (AIS);
4. Also regrets the lack of tangible progress in formalizing and operationalizing transboundary cooperation with the neighbouring property of Iguazu National Park in Brazil, and reiterates its request to the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to formalize transboundary cooperation between the two contiguous World Heritage properties to politically confirm and technically guide cooperation and coordination;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure full coordination with the State Party of Brazil in updating both management plans, addressing in particular law enforcement, AIS, public use communication, education and awareness;
6. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the State Party of Brazil, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## 82. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes that the construction of the Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric Project has been suspended due to major flooding in the surroundings of the property on 7-9 June 2014, which has paralyzed the project, and that the State Party has confirmed that the construction licence for the project has been declared invalid;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment, to assist the State Party on the re-evaluation of the Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric project, prior to any further authorisation of construction;
5. Also notes with significant concern that proposed Bill 7123/2010, currently under consideration by the Brazilian Congress, represents a continued risk that the "Settler's Road" might be re-opened, and recalls that the illegal opening of the road in 1997 led the Committee to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Considers that a re-opening of the "Settler's Road" or the continued construction of the Baixo Iguaçu Hydroelectric Project prior to an assessment of impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value having been completed, could create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Expresses its concern about the changes to federal protected area legislation as proposed in Bill 7123/2010, which would enable road construction in protected areas, and which could also impact on other World Heritage properties in Brazil, and urges the State Party to rigorously ensure that road construction in World Heritage properties affected by this Bill remains prohibited by law;
8. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Brazil and Argentina to foster transboundary cooperation between the two contiguous properties of Iguaçu National Park and Iguazú National Park, in order to politically confirm and technically guide cooperation and coordination;
9. Also requests the State Party to ensure reinforced coordination with the State Party of Argentina in updating both management plans, addressing in particular conservation financing, law enforcement, alien invasive species, public use, communication, education and awareness;
10. Further request the State Party of Brazil to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess the status and potential impact of the Baixo Iguaçu dam and the overall state of conservation of the property, including the area previously affected by the "Settler's Road";



11. Further requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2015** to the World Heritage Centre, a progress report on the implementation of the above and, in consultation with the State Party of Argentina, by **1 December 2015** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **83. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1bis)**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.83**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission;
4. Urges the State Party to sustain its efforts to fully implement all of the recommendations of the 2010 reactive monitoring mission, in particular putting in place the biosecurity infrastructure for the islands, with a particular focus on the requirements to rigorously apply international biosecurity standards both for cargo ships, and for loading and offloading facilities;
5. Notes with concern that despite the reported implementation of a sustainable tourism strategy, visitor numbers continue to increase rapidly, and also urges the State Party to complement a comprehensive tourism strategy with the necessary enforcement of regulatory and monitoring instruments to achieve long-term sustainable tourism for the property as a whole;
6. Also welcomes the State Party efforts to ban sport fishing in the property and strongly encourages it to closely monitoring the regulation to ensure that artisanal experiential fishing remains the only tourist activity involving fishing;
7. Also encourages the State Party to finish and effectively implement its Sustainable Development and Zoning Plan as an instrument to provide integral management of the archipelago and to ensure conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value, and requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan, including the zoning plans, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.84**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the State Party's progress with the removal of the livestock from the property and encourages the State Party to fully implement its commitment to have all livestock removed from the property by end 2014;
4. Also welcomes the State Party's progress with the development and implementation of biosafety measures and naval staff training and encourages the State Party to remain vigilant in ensuring that the naval base does not become a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Notes the conclusion of the joint 2014 World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission that the property remains under pressure, and requests the State Party to implement all its recommendations;
6. Expresses its concern about the negative impact of fisheries, and in particular illegal and sport fisheries, on the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party to complete and implement the management plan for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) as a matter of priority, which should include clear regulations related to fisheries management, including no-take zones and seasonal closures of critical areas, such as Hannibal Bank, Montuosa Island and Uva Island, and also requests the State Party to provide an electronic copy and three printed copies of the draft management plan for the SZMP as soon as it is available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Further requests the State Party to rigorously ensure that no development will be permitted within the boundaries of the property, and that cumulative and combined impacts on the property's OUV caused by mainland developments are effectively addressed;
8. Also urges the State Party to ensure the Coiba Fund becomes fully operational at the earliest time possible and the decision-making power of the Executive Council is strengthened, by including representatives from the tourism sector and the local communities from the coastal areas opposite the property;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the progress made with the implementation of the recommendation of the reactive monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016

## 85. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to address the problem of invasive species and to improve stakeholder engagement;
4. Welcomes the completion of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Study, and requests the State Party to ensure its legal recognition and integration within the development planning and control legislation and processes for the property, to fully implement its recommendations, and to not allow any developments to proceed if they are considered to exceed the LAC;
5. Notes that a number of planned and ongoing developments, such as Freedom Bay and Sugar Beach, are considered to exceed the LAC, and also requests the State Party to ensure these developments are either abandoned, or significantly modified to ensure they have no impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre any revised master plans, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Considers that, should any development exceeding the LAC be allowed to proceed, the integrity of the property would clearly be compromised, leading to consideration of the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Recommends that the development of geothermal energy within the property should be prohibited, and urges the State Party to ensure that any planned development of geothermal energy outside the property is subject to a detailed environmental impact assessment to assess the potential impacts on its OUV, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and including the legal adoption and full implementation of the recommendations of the Limits of Acceptable Change study and additional measures to prevent development impacting the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## AFRICA

### 86. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

#### Decision: 38 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the efforts of the State Party to increase staff and the operational budget and the investment in the Conservation Service of the property, and encourages the State Party to continue and further strengthen its support;
4. Notes with concern that to date, the State Party has not yet fulfilled all the conditions set out by the Committee in its Decision **36 COM 7B.1**, and in particular that no concrete measure appears to have been taken to reduce the direct and indirect impacts of the Mekin dam and the industrial plantation of Sud Hevea Cameroun to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Commends the commitment of the State Party in carrying out a Strategic Environmental and Social Study (SESS) of all the current and future projects around the property and requests the State Party to undertake this SESS without delay and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Expresses its utmost concern regarding continued deforestation and increase in poaching and also requests the State Party and its partners to strengthen their support to the Conservation Service of the property to reverse this tendency;
7. Urges the State Party to:
  - a) prevent any start-up of mining work until an Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIS) has been carried out, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Impact Assessments,
  - b) define, in consultation with the Sud Hevea Cameroun Company, adequate measures to be undertaken to foresee, mitigate and compensate the negative effects of the agricultural exploitation project of Sud Hevea and other commercial species to the OUV of the property,
  - c) implement adequate urgent measures to mitigate the direct and indirect impacts on the OUV of the property and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN before the filling up of the Mekin dam reservoir;
8. Encourages the State Party to ensure significant progress by the end of 2014 regarding all of the above-mentioned recommendations and to envisage an exhaustive assessment of this property for the Committee's next session;
9. Urges the State Party to clarify whether the boundaries of the Reserve as inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 have been modified and recalls that any such modification to the boundaries must be referred to the Committee, in conformity with

Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and should avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property and its protection;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and more particularly on progress accomplished in further reducing the threats to the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering in the case if significant progress has not been accomplished concerning all the conditions enumerated in Decision 36 COM 7B.1, as well as the new requests above, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **87. Sangha Trinational (Cameroun/Central African Republic/Congo) (N 1380rev)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.87**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.8** and **37 COM 7B.2** adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions,
3. Commends the States Parties of the Congo, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon for having taken measures to ensure security in the area of the property and to ensure the protection of the property and its adjacent areas and avoid the degradation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Notes with satisfaction the adoption by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) of a short and long-term plan and of an Extreme Emergency Anti-Poaching action plan at the regional and international levels, as well as the signing of a tripartite transboundary anti-poaching cooperation agreement between the CAR, Cameroon and Chad;
5. Requests the States Parties to accelerate the implementation of these mechanisms and launches an appeal to donors to assist in the mobilization of the necessary technical and financial support;
6. Also requests the States Parties to continue their actions for the security of the property and to allocate the necessary technical and financial means to sustain them over the long-term;
7. Expresses its grave concern with regard to the granting by the States Parties of the Congo and the CAR, of mining exploration and exploitation concessions encroaching upon the property and its buffer zone despite the legislation in force, and urges them to review the boundaries of these mining permits to eliminate any encroachment upon the property, in accordance with the position of the Committee that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status;
8. Further requests the States Parties of the Congo and the CAR to submit to the World Heritage Centre environmental impact studies (EIS) demonstrating that the mining activities outside the property do not impact on its OUV, in accordance with Paragraph

172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and in conformity with IUCN's advice note on Environmental Assessments for World Heritage;

9. Notes with concern the multiplication of infrastructure development projects within and around the property that could impact its OUV, in particular the Ouessou-Bangui road project and the project to distribute optical fibre around Ouessou, and moreover requests the States Parties of Congo and the CAR to carry out detailed Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) to identify potential impacts on the OUV in conformity with the IUCN advice note on Environmental Assessments for World Heritage and to submit them to the World Heritage Committee before the continuation of these projects;
10. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report including a one-page executive summary on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **88. Lakes of Ounianga (Chad) (N 1400)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.88**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8B.7** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report that was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), but welcomes the publication of a management plan for the property for 2014-2023, as requested by the Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to implement the management plan for the property and to provide adequate staffing and resources to this end;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in Decision **36 COM 8B.7**, adopted at the time of inscription of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the time of inscription of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## 89. Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.89**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.2** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts undertaken to regain control of the property, notably through the strengthening of patrols for illegal activities and the first steps taken in recovering land illegally occupied for agricultural activities, and welcomes the announcement that the final recuperation of illegally occupied land will be achieved by the end of 2014;
4. Welcomes the information concerning the identification of sufficient financial means for the implementation of the updated development and management plan;
5. Requests the State Party, with assistance from the regional consultation committee on extraction activities, to intensify the control of gold mining activities to eliminate it;
6. Also requests the State Party to adopt a protocol for monitoring poaching and other illegal activities to enable a detailed assessment, for annual comparison;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to publish as soon as possible the decree formalizing the extension of the Park, and to submit, once published, a request for the modification of the boundaries of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

## 90. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.90**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.4** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the initiation of bilateral discussions between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia on the potential impact of the Gibe III dam and associated agricultural irrigation projects on the property, and the stated intention to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the developments on the Omo River, the completion of which is expected in December 2014;

4. Notes with concern that construction of large scale irrigation schemes has continued, and that initial filling of the reservoir of the Gibe III dam is reported to start this year, i.e. prior to the expected completion of the SEA, and prior to the identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures;
5. Considers that the imminent completion of the Gibe III dam and initial filling of its reservoir, and the ongoing development of associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo River Valley could lead to an irreversible loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and represent a clear potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party of Ethiopia for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the impacts of the Gibe III dam, other planned hydro-electric developments and associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo region on the OUV of the property;
7. Decides to re-examine this issue at its 39th session in 2015, **with a view to considering in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;
8. Urges the State Party of Ethiopia not to start the filling of the dam and to halt the construction of the large scale irrigation projects before the SEA is completed and appropriate mitigation measures are identified to guarantee sufficient inflow of water to Lake Turkana and sufficient seasonal variations to preserve the OUV of the property;
9. Requests the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop, a set of corrective measures, which should include actions and indicators to ensure that impacts to OUV from the filling of the dam and irrigation projects will be avoided, for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
10. Recalls its request to the State Party of Kenya, in consultation with the State Party of Ethiopia, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 monitoring mission, as well as those contained in the report of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission mentioned in paragraph 6 above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

#### **91. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.91**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.6**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the decision of the State Party to stop further developments in part of the Ututu Conservancy on the southern shores of Lake Elementaita, including a 1-year



moratorium on developments in riparian areas, considers that the developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in a critical buffer zone to the property is likely to have significant adverse impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to ensure that any existing illegal developments are removed, and affected areas ecologically restored;

4. Notes the resolutions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) with regard to the recognition of rights of the Endorois in relation to Lake Bogoria, and urges the State Party to respond to ACHPR regarding these resolutions and to ensure full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of the property, and in particular the Lake Bogoria component, through their own representative institutions;
5. Also considers that any development of geothermal energy within the property is likely to have a significant impact on its OUV and should not be permitted, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any proposed development of geothermal energy outside the property is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a specific assessment of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
6. Further requests the State Party of Tanzania to provide to the World Heritage Centre further information on reported plans for the construction of a soda ash plant at Lake Natron, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to ensure that the EIA for this project assesses its potential adverse impacts on the OUV of the property;
7. Reiterates its encouragement to the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania to cooperate regarding the effective conservation of Lake Natron and other lakes in the region, and to consider further potential serial extensions as part of a potential transnational serial World Heritage property, taking account of relevant recent thematic studies by Birdlife International and IUCN;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party of Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **92. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.92**

The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Reiterates its concern over oil exploration activities throughout the lake, noting that an accidental spill would pose a potentially severe risk to the integrity of the entire lake ecosystem including the aquatic zone and shoreline of the property

4. Notes that an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for oil exploration in the northern part of the lake is being carried out, and requests the State Party to ensure that this ESIA includes a specific assessment of potential impacts of oil exploration and subsequent exploitation on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
5. Urges the State Party to cancel the oil exploitation permit which overlaps with the property and reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
6. Calls on Surestream and RAKGAS, who have been awarded oil exploration concessions on the lake, to make a commitment to not exploit nor explore for oil or gas in World Heritage properties;
7. Also requests the State Party of Malawi to implement all the recommendations of the 2014 joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission:
  - a) Demarcate the boundary of the outer limits of the aquatic zone of the property with floating buoys,
  - b) Deploy patrol boats, other equipment and personnel to ensure enforcement of fishing restrictions and other measures aimed at protecting the OUV of the property,
  - c) Design and implement an effective monitoring protocol to provide a basis for assessing changes in fish diversity and populations, other fauna, water quality and management parameters that could be used in adapting management interventions for better protection of the property's OUV,
  - d) Closely engage with communities in the village enclaves and in the periphery of the property to develop suitable resource management programmes,
  - e) Promote low-impact eco-tourism ventures that comply with appropriate environmental and social impact standards;
8. Also urges the State Party to revise the 2007-2011 management plan for the property, provide an electronic and three printed copies for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as soon as it is available and to ensure that the revised management plan includes provisions for the implementation of the above-mentioned mission recommendations;
9. Encourages the States Parties of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania to collaborate in identifying important localities for the protection of endemic fish and evolutionary processes with a view to incorporating such areas into an extended trans-national serial property, in cooperation with international conservation non-governmental organizations and scientific experts;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### 93. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

#### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.93**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes progress made in engaging local communities in management, fire protection activities, sustainable use of resources, sharing of benefits and recognition of the cultural values of the property as well as towards the development of a sustainable financing strategy for the property;
4. Also welcomes the ongoing trans-boundary collaboration with the management authorities responsible for the bordering Virunga National Park World Heritage property (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and also encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts towards developing a formal protocol to further strengthen this collaboration;
5. Acknowledges completion of an ecological monitoring plan for the property, the measures taken to strengthen management effectiveness and the work carried out to monitor the effects of climate change on snow recession, glacial melting and species dynamics, and reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to work with the Mountains Specialist Group of the World Commission on Protected Areas to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in the long term;
6. Expresses its utmost concern about the decision by the State Party to award a 25 year concession agreement to re-open Kilembe copper mine around and potentially inside the property and urges the State Party to ensure that no mineral exploration or mining is allowed within the property, in line with the Committee's established position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status;
7. Requests the State Party to urgently submit to the World Heritage Centre details of the concession awarded to Tibet Hima Ltd and reiterates that before mining activity is resumed outside the property, a detailed environmental impact assessment should be conducted to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan, including the sustainable financing plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### 94. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

##### Decision: 38 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to address the escalating threat of poaching, particularly affecting elephant and rhino populations, and calls upon the international community, and in particular destination countries, to take all necessary measures to curb the illicit trade in wildlife products in line with their commitments under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES);
4. Also welcomes the information that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is underway for the “Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan” and urges the State Party to ensure an open, transparent and participatory process taking into account scientific advice as well as the guidance provided in the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, especially in relation to the proposed road network in and around the property and submit a copy of the SEA to the Committee for its consideration, before a final decision on possible developments is taken;
5. Notes that the State Party re-confirms that the construction of a proposed North road traversing the park has been abandoned and reiterates its call to the international community to support the development of an alternative alignment, passing to the south of the property;
6. Also notes the efforts made in evaluating road-surfacing options for the heavily used main road through the property and requests the State Party to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in cooperation with Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, to assess the impacts of the different options and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to a decision on stabilising this road being made;
7. Also requests the States Parties of Kenya and Tanzania to further strengthen efforts towards the sustainable management of the Mara River Basin and preparation of a joint management plan for the basin and to sustain and strengthen management programmes, including collaboration with other stakeholders across the wider Serengeti Ecosystem through the “Serengeti Ecosystem Forum”;
8. Encourages the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for a hydrological survey of the property and related determination of the water use carrying capacity, feeding in to the planned revision of the management plan, which should include a strategy for future tourism development within the limits of the carrying capacity;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
10. Recognizes the progress made in negotiations over the possible future extension of the park to incorporate critical lake-shore habitats around the Speke Gulf and also

encourages the State Party to conclude this process in close consultation with all stakeholders at the earliest opportunity;

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide detailed information about reported plans for an airport development at Mugumu, including a copy of the EIA of this project for review, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and before a decision is made on the project;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **95. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.95**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.5**, **36 COM 8B.43** and **37 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the establishment of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), the formulation of a comprehensive National Anti-poaching Strategy, the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation Basket Fund for supporting anti-poaching initiatives, and the mobilisation of human, material and financial resources;
4. Notes with concern the poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations, as evidenced by the results of the recent aerial elephant survey, and considers that poaching and the effects thereof represent a clear ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Appreciates the State Party's concurrence with the recommendation of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to include the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. **Decides to inscribe Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
7. Requests the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, in particular on the formulated National Anti-poaching Strategy, the implementation of which would eradicate this plague in the Larger Selous Ecosystem within 12 months;
8. Exhorts the international donor community, to provide urgent technical and financial assistance for the implementation of the anti-poaching strategy, and also calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

9. Also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission, which build upon earlier mission recommendations, in particular to:
  - a) Ensure full disaster preparedness and independent quantitative and qualitative water monitoring related to the Mkuju River Project (MRP) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the case of consideration of In-Situ Leaching (ISL),
  - b) Develop a strategy to manage the property at the wider landscape level of the “Larger Selous Ecosystem” and formalize this landscape level management through the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property,
  - c) Clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project and ensure a comprehensive understanding of the impacts, risks, costs, benefits, and alternatives as a basis for any decision-making regarding the project both in the form of an in-depth EIA and the comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) noted below, taking into account the OUV of the property,
  - d) Complete the existing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam project and fully consider the OUV of the property in all assessments and decision-making,
  - e) Take advantage of the upcoming updating of the General Management Plan to fully consider the World Heritage status of the property and to address the emerging issue of alien invasive species,
  - f) Further enhance the involvement of, and benefits for, local communities, in particular by consolidating Wildlife Management Areas as a promising entry point and framework;
10. Reiterates its request to the State Party not to undertake any development activities within Selous Game Reserve and its surrounding areas without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party not to engage in any mining activity within the property after exclusion of the Mkuju River Mining site as per Decision **36 COM 8B.43**, in line with its established position that mining and oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
12. Welcomes the willingness of the State Party to address the multiple threats to the OUV of the property, and to undertake a SEA for the Larger Selous Ecosystem, and recalls that this SEA should comprehensively identify the cumulative impacts of the various existing and proposed developments both within the property and in important wildlife corridors and dispersal areas that are critical for maintaining the OUV and integrity of the property, including but not limited to the Selous-Niassa Corridor, in conformity with the IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Impact Assessment;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including a one-page executive summary and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including a timeframe for achieving it, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

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

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.96**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 36 COM 7B.7, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the completion of the monitoring plan, and requests the States Parties to report on the monitoring results as soon as these are available;
4. Also welcomes the voluntary measures taken by the State Party of Zambia to limit the dry-season diversion of water from the falls for hydro-electric power generation, thereby restoring part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and encourages the State Party of Zambia to consider further reductions in water abstraction;
5. Notes with concern the notified intention of the State Party of Botswana to abstract 495 million cubic metres of water per annum from the Zambezi River for irrigation, which represents 5-10 % of dry season water flow at the falls, and strongly urges the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe, in consultation with the State Party of Botswana and the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), to include a full evaluation of this project and its impacts on the OUV of the property in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that is currently in preparation;
6. Recognises the measures taken by the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to protect the OUV of the property by denying authorisation of inappropriate tourism development activities, and urges them to not permit any further proposals for a tethered balloon, cableway or other tall structure in the vicinity of the property, if they would have a negative visual impact on the property;
7. Further urges the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to expedite the completion of the sustainable financing/business plan, and to consider mechanisms for financing management operations largely from park entry fees and other site-based revenue;
8. Further requests the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to provide, to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised joint management plan as well as the SEA for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
9. Requests furthermore the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

## 97. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (N 302) (Zimbabwe)

### Decision: 38 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the decision of the State Party of Zimbabwe to implement the “no mining in World Heritage properties” policy and withdraw the prospecting permit for mining of mineral sands within the property;
4. Also welcomes the reported improvements made to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Vine semi-permanent camp, through more comprehensive inclusion of stakeholders’ concerns and development of mitigation measures as well as initiation of the development of the comprehensive management plan for the entire property, including Sapi and Chewore Safari areas;
5. Notes with concern that the State Party of Zambia approved an open cast mining development in Lower Zambezi National Park across the Zambezi River from the property, without due consideration of potential impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party of Zambia to reverse this decision;
6. Recalls its recommendation to the State Party of Zambia to consider nominating the Lower Zambezi National Park in order to eventually constitute a joint trans-boundary inscription on the World Heritage List, in line with the World Heritage Committee’s recommendation at the time of inscription of the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Zimbabwe to conduct a new survey of key wildlife species to determine current wildlife population estimates of the area, to continue site monitoring programmes and to conduct a feasibility study for a possible reintroduction programme of black rhinoceros, which disappeared from the property due to poaching;
8. Requests the State Party of Zimbabwe to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan for the property as a whole, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
9. Also requests the State Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to inform the World Heritage Centre of any planned developments that might impact on the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to ensure that EIAs conducted for any such planned developments are in accordance with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Impact Assessments;
10. Further requests the State Party of Zambia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report on the status of the decision regarding the Kangaluwi and Chisawa open cast mine in Lower Zambezi National Park and its potential impacts on the property’s OUV;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party of Zimbabwe, in consultation with the State Party of Zambia, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the



property, including on the implementation of the mitigation measures for the Vine Camp site as well as the above-mentioned requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **OMNIBUS**

### **Decision: 38 COM 7B.98**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:
  - **Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic),**
  - **Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments (Russian Federation),**
  - **Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (Barbados),**
  - **Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia),**
  - **Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico),**
  - **Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay),**
  - **Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin),**
  - **Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia),**
  - **Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius);**
3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;
4. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2014, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8A,

2. Stresses the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool for regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and of long term planning of its development;
3. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document;
4. Recalls that all States Parties to the *Convention* shall, in so far as possible, submit tentative lists of those properties situated on their territory which might be considered suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List;
5. Encourages States Parties to the *Convention* who have not yet submitted any tentative list of those properties situated on their territory which might be considered suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List to request International Assistance in order to help them prepare such a list;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a proposal for revising the procedure of registration of Tentative Lists in the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session, in 2015.

## **8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

### **Changes to names of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to Hal Saflieni Hypogeum as proposed by the Maltese authorities. The name of the property becomes **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** in English and **Ipogée de Hal Saflieni** in French.

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to the Church Village of Gammelstad, Luleå as proposed by the Swedish authorities. The name of the property becomes **Church Town of Gammelstad, Luleå** in English and **Ville-église de Gammelstad, Luleå** in French.

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8B,

2. Approves the name change to Varberg Radio Station as proposed by the Swedish authorities. The name of the property becomes **Grimeton Radio Station, Varberg** in English and **Station radio Grimeton, Varberg** in French.

## **Examination of nominations of natural, mixed and cultural properties to the World Heritage List**

### **NOMINATIONS TO BE PROCESSED ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Considers that **Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine** is unquestionably of Outstanding Universal Value;
3. Also considers that the site faces an emergency for which an immediate decision by the World Heritage Committee could ensure its safeguarding;
4. Inscribes **Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine**, on the World Heritage List on an emergency basis, on the basis of **criteria (iv) and (v)**;
5. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief Synthesis**

Battir is a major Palestinian cultural landscape, the adaptation of a deep valley system for agricultural purposes as a result of a good supply of water. The complex and unique irrigation system of this water supply has led to the creation of dry walls terraces which have been exploited since at least 4000 years onwards, as confirmed by strong archaeological evidence. The agricultural terraces, exploiting this irrigation system, were the basis for a strong presence of agriculture through the cultivation of olives and vegetables. The area still today has the same use.

The unique water distribution system used by the families of Battir is a testament to an ancient egalitarian distribution system that delivers water to the terraced agricultural land based on a simple mathematical calculation and a clear time-managed rotation scheme. This outstanding cultural landscape has been awarded the UNESCO-Melina Mercouri prize in 2010.

**Criterion (iv):** The dry-stone architecture represents outstanding example of a landscape that illustrates the development of human settlements near water sources and the adaptation of the land for agriculture.

The village of Battir, which developed on the outskirts of this cultural landscape, and was inhabited by farmers who worked and still work the land, attests to the sustainability of this system and to its continuation for the past 4,000 years.

The traditional system of irrigated terraces is an outstanding example of technological expertise, which constitutes an integral part of the cultural landscape.

**Criterion (v):** The strategic location of Battir and the availability of springs were two major factors that attracted people to settle in the area and adapt its steep landscape into arable land.

The property is an outstanding example of traditional land-use, which is representative of thousands of years of culture and human interaction with the environment.

The agricultural practices that were used to create this living landscape embody one of the oldest farming methods known to humankind and are an important source of livelihood for local communities.

### **Integrity**

The Battir cultural landscape encompasses ancient terraces, archaeological sites, rock-cut tombs, agricultural towers, and most importantly an intact water system, represented by a collection pool, channels, etc. The integrity of this traditional water system is guaranteed by the families of Battir, who depend on it.

### **Authenticity**

The irrigation system and the cultivation have hardly changed in time. There is a high level of authenticity in cultural landscape. This will be destroyed severely by the construction of the separation barrier, as it will destroy a large part of landscape and the terrace system, visually as well as physically, due to the service road on both sides of the barrier.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The cultural landscape is well protected by the Palestinian laws, among which the National charter for the Conservation of cultural heritage in Palestine, which was drafted with the contribution of UNESCO and ICCROM. A management plan is currently being finalized by the village council and actions are being taken to preserve the terraces, the pathways and the irrigation system. An Eco museum was created to ensure a sustainable system of management and protection. These efforts were carried out in full partnership with the main stakeholders and the local community.

6. Also inscribes **Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Encourages the international community to facilitate the conservation of the property and requests that the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS provide support to the State Party as may be appropriate;
8. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2015**, a report including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## NATURAL SITES

### AFRICA

#### New Nominations

##### Decision: 38 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Okavango Delta, Botswana**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

##### **Brief Synthesis**

The Okavango Delta is a large low gradient alluvial fan or 'Inland Delta' located in north-western Botswana. The area includes permanent swamps which cover approximately 266,165 ha along with up to 1,106,422 ha of seasonally flooded grassland. The inscribed World Heritage property encompasses an area of 2,023,590 ha with a buffer zone of 2,286,630 ha. The Okavango Delta is one of a very few large inland delta systems without an outlet to the sea, known as an endorheic delta, its waters drain instead into the desert sands of the Kalahari Basin. It is Africa's third largest alluvial fan and the continent's largest endorheic delta. Furthermore it is in a near pristine state being a largely untransformed wetland system. The biota has uniquely adapted their growth and reproductive behaviour, particularly the flooded grassland biota, to be timed with the arrival of floodwater in the dry, winter season of Botswana.

The geology of the area, a part of the African Rift Valley System, has resulted in the 'capture' of the Okavango River that has formed the Delta and its extensive waterways, swamps, flooded grasslands and floodplains. The Okavango River, at 1,500kms, is the third largest in southern Africa. The Delta's dynamic geomorphological history has a major effect on the hydrology, determining water flow direction, inundation and dehydration of large areas within the Delta system. The site is an outstanding example of the interplay between climatic, geomorphological, hydrological, and biological processes that drive and shape the system and of the manner in which the Okavango Delta's plants and animals have adapted their lifecycles to the annual cycle of rains and flooding. Subsurface precipitation of calcite and amorphous silica is an important process in creating islands and habitat gradients that support diverse terrestrial and aquatic biota within a wide range of ecological niches.

**Criterion (vii):** Permanent crystal clear waters and dissolved nutrients transform the otherwise dry Kalahari Desert habitat into a scenic landscape of exceptional and rare beauty, and sustain an ecosystem of remarkable habitat and species diversity, thereby maintaining its ecological resilience and amazing natural phenomena. The annual flood-tide, which pulses through the wetland system every year, revitalizes ecosystems and is a critical life-force during the peak of the Botswana's dry season (June/July). The Okavango Delta World Heritage property displays an extraordinary juxtaposition of a vibrant wetland in an arid landscape and the miraculous transformation of huge sandy, dry and brown depressions by winter season floods triggers spectacular wildlife displays: large herds of African Elephant, Buffalo, Red Lechwe, Zebra and other large

animals splashing, playing, and drinking the clear waters of the Okavango having survived the dry autumn season or their weeks' long migration across the Kalahari Desert.

**Criterion (ix):** The Okavango Delta World Heritage property is an outstanding example of the complexity, inter-dependence and interplay of climatic, geo-morphological, hydrological, and biological processes. The continuous transformation of geomorphic features such as islands, channels, river banks, flood plains, oxbow lakes and lagoons in turn influences the abiotic and biotic dynamics of the Delta including dryland grasslands and woodland habitats. The property exemplifies a number of ecological processes related to flood inundation, channelization, nutrient cycling and the associated biological processes of breeding, growth, migration, colonization and plant succession. These ecological processes provide a scientific benchmark to compare similar and human-impacted systems elsewhere and give insight into the long-term evolution of such wetland systems.

**Criterion (x):** The Okavango Delta World Heritage property sustains robust populations of some of the world's most endangered large mammals such as Cheetah, white and black Rhinoceros, Wild Dog and Lion, all adapted to living in this wetland system. The Delta's habitats are species rich with 1061 plants (belonging to 134 families and 530 genera), 89 fish, 64 reptiles, 482 species of birds and 130 species of mammals. The natural habitats of the nominated area are diverse and include permanent and seasonal rivers and lagoons, permanent swamps, seasonal and occasionally flooded grasslands, riparian forest, dry deciduous woodlands, and island communities. Each of these habitats has a distinct species composition comprising all the major classes of aquatic organisms, reptiles, birds and mammals. The Okavango Delta is further recognized as an Important Bird Area, harbouring 24 species of globally threatened birds, including among others, six species of Vulture, the Southern Ground-Hornbill, Wattled Crane and Slaty Egret. Thirty-three species of water birds occur in the Okavango Delta in numbers that exceed 0.5% of their global or regional population. Finally Botswana supports the world's largest population of elephants, numbering around 200,000: the Okavango Delta is the core area for this species' survival.

### **Integrity**

The property covers most of the Delta, encompassing a vast area of over 1.37 million ha of substantially undisturbed wetlands and seasonally flooded grasslands. It is of sufficient size to represent all of the delta's main biophysical processes and features and support its communities of plant and animal species. Because of its vast size and difficult access the delta has never been subject to significant development and it remains in an almost pristine condition. Tourism to the inner Delta is limited to small, temporary tented camps with access by air. Facilities are carefully monitored for compliance with environmental standards and have minimal ecological impact. Most importantly, the source of the Okavango Delta's waters in Angola and Namibia remain unaffected by any upstream dams or significant water abstraction and the three riparian states have established a protocol under the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) for the sustainable management of the entire river system. OKACOM has formally supported the inscription of the Okavango Delta on the World Heritage List. It is imperative that upstream environmental water flows remain unimpeded and that over abstraction of water, the building of dams and the development of agricultural irrigation systems do not impact on the sensitive hydrology of the property.

Concerns have been noted regarding fluctuating populations of large animals. Elephant numbers have been increasing whilst other species are reported as exhibiting significant declines. Data is variable, subject to different survey techniques and uncoordinated

surveys undertaken by different institutions all contribute to an unclear picture of the Okavango Delta's wildlife. Authorities have initiated efforts to establish a comprehensive and integrated wildlife monitoring system that can accurately track population size and trends for the entire property, however ongoing work is needed to realise this. Causes of decline are attributed to seasonal variability, poaching (for example of giraffe for meat) and veterinary cordon fencing used to manage animal sanitation and control the spread of disease between wildlife and domestic stock.

Mining activities including prospecting will not be permitted within the property. Furthermore, potential impacts from mining including concessions in the buffer zone and outside the buffer zone need to be carefully monitored and managed to avoid direct and indirect impacts to the property, including water pollution. The State Party should also work with State Parties upstream from the Delta to monitor any potential impacts, including from potential diamond mining in Angola, which could impact water flow or water quality in the Delta.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Okavango Delta comprises a mosaic of protected lands. About 40% of the property is protected within the Moremi Game Reserve, and the remainder is composed of 2 Wildlife Management Areas and 18 Controlled Hunting Areas managed by community trusts or private tourism concession-holders. Legal protection is afforded through Botswana's Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act, 1992 and an associated Wildlife Conservation Policy. The Tribal Land Act of 1968 also applies to the property and the whole of the nominated area (and the buffer zone) is communally-owned Tribal Land under the control of the Tswana Land Board.

As noted above the underlying causes of wildlife population declines are not clear, but an imposed hunting ban will further strengthen conservation measures in the property. The State Party is encouraged to develop a coordinated and systematic wildlife monitoring programme to establish population baselines for key species and to track trends. Veterinary cordon fences are known to cause significant disruption to wildlife at individual, population and species levels. Most of the property's core and buffer zones are free of veterinary cordon fencing and the location of site's boundaries was guided by these considerations. However, the Southern Buffalo Fence defines the southern boundary of the World Heritage property and whilst damage has compromised its effectiveness in disease control, it acts as a locally known demarcation to stop cattle grazing within the property. The Northern Buffalo Fence, also within the alignment of the property buffer zone, is known to disrupt connectivity in particular for the region's Roan and Sable Antelope populations. Veterinary fencing is recognised as a sensitive, multi-dimensional issue. The State Party is encouraged to continue efforts to rationalize fencing, removing it when its effectiveness for disease control has become questionable or where more holistic approaches to animal sanitation and disease control are possible.

Ongoing vigilance is critical to ensure mining developments do not adversely impact the property. Past mining prospecting licences have been extinguished, and will not be renewed or extended. No extractive activity is undertaken in the property, and no new licenses will be issued within the property. The State Party should implement rigorous environmental impact assessment procedures for mining activities outside the property but which have the potential to negatively impact on its Outstanding Universal Value, to avoid such impacts.

The Delta has been inhabited for millennia by small numbers of indigenous people, living a hunter-gatherer existence with different groups adapting their cultural identity and lifestyle to the exploitation of particular resources (e.g. fishing or hunting). This form

of low-level subsistence use has had no significant impact on the ecological integrity of the area, and today mixed settlements of indigenous peoples and later immigrants to the area are located around the fringes of the delta, mostly outside the boundaries of the property. Continued special attention is needed to reinforce the recognition of the cultural heritage of indigenous inhabitants of the Delta region. Ongoing efforts should focus upon sensitively accommodating traditional subsistence uses and access rights consistent with the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Efforts should centre on ensuring that indigenous peoples living in the property are included in all communication about the World Heritage status of the property and its implications, that their views are respected and integrated into management planning and implementation, and that they have access to benefits stemming from tourism.

The State Party is encouraged to address a range of other protection and management issues to improve integrity. These include enhanced governance mechanisms to empower stakeholders in the management of the property; the development of a property specific management plan which harmonizes with planning in the wider landscape; ensuring adequate staffing and funding to build the capacity of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks; and programmes to strengthen the control and elimination of invasive alien species from the property.

4. Commends the efforts and achievements of the State Party and its neighbouring countries for adopting significant measures serving the long term conservation and protection of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to:
  - a) continue efforts to develop, in partnership with Universities, NGOs and wildlife experts, a coordinated and systematic wildlife monitoring programme to establish population baselines for key species and to track long term trends,
  - b) continue efforts to rationalize veterinary cordon fencing, removing it when its effectiveness for disease control has become questionable or where more holistic approaches to animal sanitation and disease control are possible,
  - c) ensure no extractive industry activity is permitted in the property, and permanently extinguish all the few remaining mineral prospecting concessions, which are scheduled to expire in 2014, without awarding any timeframe extensions and not issue any new concessions within the property,
  - d) carefully monitor and manage mining in areas outside of the property so as to avoid any adverse impacts to the property,
  - e) expand and strengthen programmes which accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights, cultural rights and access to opportunities to participate in the tourism sector, in keeping with the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and
  - f) continue efforts to address a range of other protection and management issues including governance, stakeholder empowerment, management planning, management capacity and control of alien invasive species;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of progress on the issues and actions noted above to ensure effective protection and management of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.



## ASIA / PACIFIC

### New Nominations

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.6**

The nomination of **Cat Ba Archipelago, Viet Nam**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

### Properties deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.7**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Inscribes the **Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief Synthesis**

The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area is located in the western part of the Himalayan Mountains in the northern Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. The 90,540 ha property includes the upper mountain glacial and snow melt water source origins of the westerly flowing Jiwa Nal, Sainj and Tirthan Rivers and the north-westerly flowing Parvati River which are all headwater tributaries to the River Beas and subsequently, the Indus River. The property includes an elevational range from high alpine peaks of over 6,000m a.s.l to riverine forest at altitudes below 2,000m a.s.l. The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area encompasses the catchments of water supplies which are vital to millions of downstream users.

The property lies within the ecologically distinct Western Himalayas at the junction between two of the world's major biogeographic realms, the Palearctic and Indomalayan Realms. Displaying biotic elements from both these realms, the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area protects the monsoon affected forests and alpine meadows of the Himalayan front ranges which sustain a unique biota comprised of many distinct altitude-sensitive ecosystems. The property is home to many plants and animals endemic to the region. The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area displays distinct broadleaf and conifer forest types forming mosaics of habitat across steep valley side landscapes. It is a compact, natural and biodiverse protected area system that includes 25 forest types and an associated rich assemblage of fauna species.

The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area is at the core of a larger area of surrounding protected areas which form an island of undisturbed environments in the greater Western Himalayan landscape. The diversity of species present is rich; however it is the abundance and health of individual species' populations supported by healthy ecosystem processes where the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area demonstrates its outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation.

**Criterion (x):** The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area is located within the globally significant “Western Himalayan Temperate Forests” ecoregion. The property also protects part of Conservation International’s Himalaya “biodiversity hot spot” and is part of the BirdLife International’s Western Himalaya Endemic Bird Area. The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area is home to 805 vascular plant species, 192 species of lichen, 12 species of liverworts and 25 species of mosses. Some 58% of its angiosperms are endemic to the Western Himalayas. The property also protects some 31 species of mammals, 209 birds, 9 amphibians, 12 reptiles and 125 insects. The Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area provides habitat for 4 globally threatened mammals, 3 globally threatened birds and a large number of medicinal plants. The protection of lower altitude valleys provides for more complete protection and management of important habitats and endangered species such as the Western Tragopan and the Musk Deer.

### **Integrity**

The property is of a sufficient size to ensure the natural functioning of ecological processes. Its rugged topography and inaccessibility together with its location within a much larger ecological complex of protected areas ensures its integrity. The altitudinal range within the property together with its diversity of habitat types provide a buffer to climate change impacts and the needs of altitude sensitive plants and animals to find refuge from climate variability.

A 26,560 ha buffer zone known as an Ecozone is defined along the south-western side of the property. This buffer zone coincides with the areas of greatest human pressure and is managed in sympathy with the core values of the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area. The property is further buffered by high mountain systems to the north-west which include several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. These areas also offer scope to progressively increase the size of the World Heritage property.

Human settlement related threats pose the greatest concern and include agriculture, localised poaching, traditional grazing, human-wildlife conflicts and hydropower development. Tourism impact is minimal and trekking routes are closely regulated.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property is subject to sound legal protection, however, this needs to be strengthened to ensure consistent high level protection across all areas. Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries are designated in recognition of their ecological and zoological significance and are subject to wildlife management objectives, and a higher level of strict protection is provided to Great Himalayan National Park which is a national park. National parks under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provide for strict protection without human disturbance.

The property’s boundaries are considered appropriate and an effective management regime is in place including an overall management plan and adequate resourcing. The property has a buffer zone along its south-western side which corresponds to the 26,560 ha Ecozone, the area of greatest human population pressure. Continued attention is required to manage sensitive community development issues in this buffer zone and in some parts of the property itself.

The sensitive resolution of access and use rights by communities is needed to bolster protection as is fostering alternative livelihoods which are sympathetic to the conservation of the area. Local communities are engaged in management decisions; however more work is needed to fully empower communities and continue to build a strong sense of support and stewardship for the Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area.

Included within the property is the Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary with 120 inhabitants and the Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary, which is uninhabited but currently subject to traditional grazing.

The inclusion of these two Wildlife Sanctuaries supports the integrity of the nomination; however, it opens up concerns regarding the impacts of grazing and human settlements. Both these aspects are being actively managed, a process that will need to be maintained. The extent and impacts of high pasture grazing in the Tirthan area of the property needs to be assessed and grazing phased out as soon as practicable. Other impacts arising from small human settlements within the Sainj area of the property also need to be addressed as soon as practicable.

4. Requests the State Party to:
  - a) expedite, in accordance with legislated processes, the resolution of community rights based issues with respect to local communities and indigenous peoples in the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, including in relation to the phasing out of grazing in the Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary,
  - b) continue, in consultation with communities and stakeholders, longer term plans to progressively increase the size of the property, in order to increase integrity and better provide for the conservation of wide-ranging species, through extensions of other surrounding protected areas potentially including the Rupi Bhabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Pin Valley National Park, Khirganga National Park and the Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuary;
5. Commends the State Party and the range of stakeholders in the nominated property for their efficient and effective action to address concerns related to the property's integrity, protection and management, as previously raised by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Recommends the States Parties to consider undertaking a regional comparative study with the possible support of the IUCN, other partners such as the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the newly established UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia-Pacific Region in India to assess the scope of ecosystems within the Himalayas and adjacent mountain regions with a view to identifying potential World Heritage candidate areas and boundary configurations in this region, including potential serial nominations / extensions;
7. Requests the State Party of India to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of progress on the above-mentioned requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.8**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Inscribes the **Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, Philippines**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

Forming a north-south running mountain ridge along the Pujada Peninsula in the southeastern part of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor, the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary has an elevation range of 75-1,637 m above sea level, and provides critical habitat for a range of plant and animal species. The property showcases terrestrial and aquatic habitats and the species that they host at a series of different elevations are responding to highly dissimilar soil and climate conditions. The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary provides a sanctuary to a host of globally threatened and endemic flora and fauna species, eight of which are found nowhere else except Mount Hamiguitan. These include critically endangered trees, plants and the iconic Philippine Eagle and Philippine Cockatoo.

**Criterion (x):** The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary represents a complete, substantially intact and highly diverse mountain ecosystem, in a significant biogeographic region of the Philippines. Its diversity of plants and animals include globally threatened species as well as a large number of endemic species including those species that exist only in the Philippines, only in Mindanao and only in the nominated property. The fragile tropical “bonsai” forest that crowns the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary epitomizes nature’s bid to survive in adverse conditions. As a result of its semi-isolation and its varied habitat types growing in dissimilar soil and climate conditions, its biodiversity has shown a significantly high level of endemism that has led scientists to believe that there may be more globally unique species waiting to be discovered in the area.

The combination of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems within the boundaries of the property and the large number of species inhabiting each makes the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary home to a total of 1,380 species with 341 Philippine endemics that include critically endangered species such as the iconic Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and the Philippine Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematurpygia*), as well as the trees *Shorea polysperma*, *Shorea astylosa*, and the orchid *Paphiopedilum adductum*. Its high level of endemism is well exemplified by the proportion of its amphibian (75% endemic) and reptile (84% endemic) species.

The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary exhibits segmentation of terrestrial habitats according to elevation. In the lower elevations the agro-ecosystem and remnants of dipterocarp forests house some 246 plant species including significant numbers of endemics such as the globally threatened dipterocarps of the genus *Shorea*. The dipterocarp forest ecosystem at 420-920 m asl is characterized by the presence of large trees and is home to 418 plant and 146 animal species, which include threatened species such as the Mindanao Bleeding-heart dove (*Gallicolumba crinigera*) and Philippine warty pig (*Sus philippensis*). At higher elevations the montane forest ecosystem exhibits numerous species of mosses, lichens and epiphytes. This ecosystem type houses 105 animal species representing all the animal groups found in the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary as well as the relatively recently discovered rat species, Hamiguitan hairy-tailed rat (*Batomys hamiguitan*). The fourth ecosystem type is the typical mossy forest ecosystem characterized by thick mosses covering roots and tree trunks; it provides habitat for the Philippine pygmy fruit bat, (*Haplonycteris fischeri*) and the threatened Pointed-snouted tree frog (*Philautus acutirostris*). At the topmost (1160-1200m a.s.l.) is the mossy-pygmy forest ecosystem, adding a unique natural tropical bonsai forest layer to the property. It is the only known habitat in the world of the pitcher plant (*Nepenthes hamiguitanensis*) and the *Delias* butterfly (*Delias magsadana*).

## **Integrity**

The property is substantially intact and of adequate size to provide for the conservation of its biodiversity and other natural resources. It remains well preserved and intact as evidenced by the results of studies and ongoing monitoring. The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary protects typical mountain ecosystems of the biogeographic region and include the agro-ecosystem, dipterocarp, montane, mossy, and mossy-pygmy forests. These ecosystems harbour an assemblage of endemic, rare and economically important flora and fauna. The level of vegetative cover indicates that the property is in relatively pristine condition with its surface area covered by a mix of closed and open canopy forest and smaller areas of brush land. The terrestrial and aquatic habitats are well preserved and a number of globally threatened and endemic species rely on or occur within the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary. The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary's marked vertical zonation of vegetation and associated habitats makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change impact.

## **Protection and management requirements**

The property straddles two municipalities and one city: San Isidro Municipality, Governor Generoso Municipality and the City of Mati, in the Province of Davao Oriental, and totals an area of 16,923 ha with a buffer zone of 9,729 ha. The Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary is protected through several protected area regulations and is a component of the Philippines' National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). Several layers of national and provincial legislation and policies serve to protect the property and guide management. Apart from delineating the boundaries of the property, these laws prohibit incompatible activities such as logging, mining, exploration or surveying for energy resources inside the property. Responsibility for enforcement is shared by both the national and local government agencies in partnership with other stakeholders.

The protection of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary is further strengthened by the engagement with and involvement of local and indigenous communities living in its periphery in the management of the property. Their lifestyles and spiritual beliefs are based on respect for the environment and its biodiversity and they have, over time, subtly molded their way of life to ensure the sustainable use of their resources. At the same time, the harsh conditions of the mountain range serve as a deterrent for other human settlements that do not conform to a similarly symbiotic lifestyle. Threats in and around the property include illegal collection of wildlife, mining, development pressures, potential pressures and impacts from tourism and climate change. Management authorities have implemented a monitoring and research programme to anticipate climate change effects on the biota and try to mitigate consequent impacts. Ongoing monitoring will be needed to predict and respond to such impacts.

The Mount Hamiguitan Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) oversees protection and management of the property according to the approved Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan of 2011. The Protected Area Superintendents Office (PASO) implements the activities set down in the plan as well as the policies and directives issued by the PAMB. Together with the "Bantay Gubat" personnel from the three municipalities with territorial jurisdiction over the nominated property, the PASO conducts regular monitoring and patrol activities over the core and buffer zones. A five year visitor and tourism management plan is in place to ensure the effective management of use, and should be kept updated. The municipalities overlapping the property have aligned their tourism and development plans to the Management Plan of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, helping to ensure that the importance of protection of the property will be given the necessary recognition and consideration

and that development will not hamper or detract from the conservation and protection of the biodiversity of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary.

4. Commends the State Party and the range of stakeholders in the nominated property for their efficient and effective action to address concerns related to the property's integrity, protection and management, as previously raised by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue efforts to work collaboratively with local communities and indigenous peoples on the management of the property and to ensure the equitable access and sharing of benefits, including those that may accrue from tourism;
6. Also encourages the State Party, in consultation with communities and other stakeholders, to consider the possible further nomination of serial extensions to the property to include other protected areas with highly significant biodiversity values on Mindanao, provided that these areas meet the integrity, protection and management requirements for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

## **Extensions of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of the South China Karst to include the **South China Karst Phase II, China**, on the World Heritage List under **criteria (vii)** and **(viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The huge karst area of South China is about 550,000 km<sup>2</sup> in extent. The karst terrain displays a geomorphic transition as the terrain gradually descends about 2000 meters over 700 kilometers from the western Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau (averaging 2100 meters elevation) to the eastern Guangxi Basin (averaging 110 meters elevation). The region is recognized as the world's type area for karst landform development in the humid tropics and subtropics.

The World Heritage Property of South China Karst is a serial property that includes seven karst clusters in four Provinces: Shilin Karst, Libo Karst, Wulong Karst, Guilin Karst, Shibing Karst, Jinfoshan Karst, and Huanjiang Karst. The total area is 97,125 hectares, with a buffer zone of 176,228 hectares. The property was inscribed in two phases.

Phase I inscribed in 2007, include three clusters totalling 47,588 hectares, with buffer zones totalling 98,428 hectares. The Shilin Karst component is in Yunnan province and contains stone forests with sculpted pinnacle columns and is considered the world reference site for pinnacle karst. Shilin Karst consists of two core areas surrounded by a common buffer zone. The area is 12,070 hectares with a buffer zone of 22,930 hectares. The buffer zone is designated as a UNESCO Geopark. The Libo Karst component is in Guizhou province and includes high conical karst peaks, intervening deep enclosed depressions (cockpits), sinking streams and long underground caves. The area is considered a world reference site for cone karst. The property consists of two core areas surrounded by a common buffer. The area is 29,518 hectares with a

buffer zone of 43,498 hectares. One of the components is a national nature reserve. The Wulong Karst component is in Chongqing province and consists of high inland karst plateaux that have experienced considerable uplift. Its giant dolines and bridges are representative of South China's tiankeng (giant collapse depression) landscapes, and provide the evidence for the history of one of the world's great river systems, the Yangtze and its tributaries. The Wulong Karst component is a cluster of three core zones, each with a separate buffer zone. The areas total 6,000 hectares with buffer zones of 32,000 hectares.

Phase II inscribed in 2014 includes four clusters totaling 49,537 hectares, and buffer zones totaling 77,800 hectares. The Guilin Karst component in Guangxi province is located within Lijiang National Park and contains fenglin (tower) and fengcong (cone) karst formations. Guilin Karst is divided into two sections: the Putao Section with an area of 2,840 hectares and a buffer zone of 21,610 hectares and the Lijiang Section with an area of 22,544 hectares and a buffer zone of 23,070 hectares. The Shibing Karst component in Guizhou province includes dolomitic karst formations and is located within Wuyanghe National Park. Shibing Karst has an area of 10,280 hectares and a buffer zone of 18,015 hectares. The Jinfoshan Karst component is a unique karst table mountain surrounded by towering cliffs. Jinfoshan Karst is located in Chongqing province within the boundaries of the Jinfoshan National Nature Reserve and Jinfoshan National Park. The Jinfoshan component has an area of 6,744 hectares and a buffer zone of 10,675 hectares. The Huanjiang Karst component is a cone karst area located in Guangxi Province within the boundaries of the Mulun National Nature Reserve. The Huanjiang Component has an area of 7,129 hectares and a buffer zone of 4,430 hectares.

The South China Karst World Heritage property protects a diversity of spectacular and iconic continental karst landscapes, including tower karst (fenglin), pinnacle karst (shilin) and cone karst (fengcong), as well as other karst phenomena such as Tiankeng karst (giant dolines), table mountains and gorges. The property also includes many large cave systems with rich speleothem deposits. The karst features and geomorphological diversity of the South China Karst are widely recognized as among the best in the world. The region can be considered the global type-site for three karst landform styles: fenglin (tower karst), fengcong (cone karst), and shilin (stone forest or pinnacle karst). The landscape also retains most of its natural vegetation, which results in seasonal variations and adds to the outstanding aesthetic value of the area.

The property contains the most spectacular, scientifically significant and representative series of karst landforms and landscapes of South China from interior high plateau to lowland plains and constitutes the world's premier example of humid tropical to subtropical karst: one of our planet's great landscapes. It complements sites that are also present in neighbouring countries, including Viet Nam, where several World Heritage properties also exhibit karst formations.

**Criterion (vii):** The South China Karst World Heritage property includes spectacular karst features and landscapes, which are both exceptional phenomena, and of outstanding aesthetic quality. It includes the stone forests of Shilin, superlative natural phenomena which include the Naigu stone forest occurring on dolomitic limestone and the Suyishan stone forest arising from a lake, the remarkable fengcong and fenglin karsts of Libo, and the Wulong Karst, which includes giant collapse depressions, called Tiankeng, and exceptionally high natural bridges between them, with long stretches of deep unroofed caves.

It also includes Guilin, which displays spectacular tower karst and internationally acclaimed fenglin riverine landscapes, Shibing Karst, which has the best known

example of subtropical fengcong karst in dolomite, deep gorges and spine-like hills often draped with cloud and mist, and Jinfoshan Karst, which is an isolated island long detached from the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau, surrounded by precipitous cliffs and punctured by ancient caves. Huanjiang Karst provides a natural extension to Libo Karst, contains outstanding fengcong features and is covered in almost pristine monsoon forest.

The property's forest cover and natural vegetation is mainly intact, providing seasonal variation to the landscape and further enhancing the property's very high aesthetic value. Intact forest cover also provides important habitat for rare and endangered species, and several components have very high biodiversity conservation value.

**Criterion (viii):** The South China Karst World Heritage property reveals the complex evolutionary history of one of the world's most outstanding landscapes. Shilin and Libo are global reference areas for the karst features and landscapes that they exhibit. The stone forests of Shilin developed over 270 million years during four major geological time periods from the Permian to present, illustrating the episodic nature of the evolution of these karst features. Libo contains carbonate outcrops of different ages shaped over millions of years by erosive processes into impressive Fengcong and Fenglin karsts. Libo also contains a combination of numerous tall karst peaks, deep dolines, sinking streams and long river caves. Wulong represents high inland karst plateaus that have experienced considerable uplift, with giant dolines and bridges. Wulong's landscapes contain evidence for the history of one of the world's great river systems, the Yangtze and its tributaries. Huanjiang Karst is an extension of the Libo Karst component. Together the two sites provide an outstanding example of fengcong karst and also preserve and display a rich diversity of surface and underground karst features.

Guilin Karst is considered the best known example of continental fenglin and provides a perfect geomorphic expression of the end stage of karst evolution in South China. Guilin is a basin at a relatively low altitude and receives abundant allogenic (rainfed) water from surrounding hills, leading to a fluvial component that aids fenglin development, resulting in fenglin and fengcong karst side-by-side over a large area. Scientific study of karst development in the region has resulted in the generation of the 'Guilin model' of fengcong and fenglin karst evolution. Shibing Karst provides a spectacular fengcong landscape, which is also exceptional because it developed in relatively insoluble dolomite rocks. Shibing also contains a range of minor karst features including karren, tufa deposits and caves. Jinfoshan Karst is a unique karst table mountain surrounded by massive towering cliffs. It represents a piece of dissected plateau karst isolated from the Yunnan-Guizhou-Chongqing plateau by deep fluvial incision. An ancient planation surface remains on the summit, with an ancient weathering crust. Beneath the plateau surface are dismembered horizontal cave systems that appear at high altitude on cliff faces. Jinfoshan records the process of dissection of the high elevation karst plateau and contains evidence of the region's intermittent uplift and karstification since the Cenozoic. It is a superlative type-site of a karst table mountain.

### **Integrity**

The components of the serial property have within their boundaries all the necessary elements to demonstrate the natural beauty of karst landscapes. They also contain the scientific evidence required to reconstruct the geomorphic evolution of the diverse landforms and landscapes involved. The components are of adequate size and they have buffer zones which will help ensure the integrity of the earth science values, including tectonic, geomorphic and hydrological features. Some issues that face the property require policies and actions to be taken beyond the buffer zone boundaries.



Challenges to the integrity of the property include human pressure both from people living in and/or around the property, and the pressures from visitors. However many measures have been and are being undertaken to address these issues. The natural environment and natural landscapes within the nominated properties are all well-maintained, in order to protect the features of Outstanding Universal Value, and the natural landscapes and processes that support them.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property is well managed, with management plans in place for each component, and which will be established and maintained for the serial property as a whole, and with effective involvement of stakeholders. Part of Libo Karst is within a national nature reserve. The buffer zone for Shilin is a UNESCO-recognised Global Geopark. Traditional management by minority peoples is an important element in management of a number of components, and the relationship between karst and the cultural identity and traditions of minority groups, including for example the Yi (Shilin), the Shui, Yao and Buyi (Libo) and Jinfoshan bamboo harvesters requires continued recognition and respect in site management. There are strong international networks in place to support continued research and management. Continued efforts are required to protect upstream catchments and their downstream and underground continuation to maintain water quality at a level that ensures the long term conservation of the property and its subterranean processes and ecosystems. Potential for further extension of the property requires development of a management framework for effective coordination between the different clusters.

Guilin, Shibing and Jinfoshan are national parks; Jinfoshan is a national nature reserve and Huanjiang is a national nature reserve and a Man and Biosphere Reserve. These components therefore benefit from a history of protection under relevant national and provincial laws and regulations and each of the Phase II component parts has a management plan. An integrated Management Plan of the South China Karst to support the sites added in 2014 has been developed.

Long term protection and management requirements for the component parts of the South China Karst include the need to ensure coordination throughout the serial site as a whole, through the establishment of a Protection and Management Coordination Committee for the South China Karst World Heritage; further enhance involvement of local communities and the maintenance of the traditional practices of the indigenous peoples concerned; strengthen whole catchment management to assure water quality is protected, and to avoid pollution; and strictly prevent negative impacts from tourism, agriculture and urban development activities from impacting the values of the property.

4. Urges the State Party to continue efforts to integrate planning, governance and management across the whole South China Karst World Heritage property including the proposed finalization of a management plan anticipated by 2015;
5. Commends the State Party for its efforts to manage diverse threats to the property arising from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development activities and recommends the continued close monitoring of these potential impacts;
6. Notes that the inscription of this property completes the South China Karst serial property, thereby making a significant contribution to the recognition of karst sites on the World Heritage List and setting a high standard for the quality of argument required to support inscription of any further karst sites; and therefore signals that the numbers of additional karst sites suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List is likely to be very small;

7. Also recommends that the State Party consider future re-nomination of South China Karst properties under biodiversity criteria in light of the intact forest cover in many of the properties which are of high biological value;
8. Encourages the State Party to cooperate with the State Party of Viet Nam to ensure technical cooperation and exchange as well as the harmonization of management practice and promotion in line with the transnational dimension of the karst systems of the South China region, recognising sites in neighbouring States Parties that may have potential Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2016**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including progress on the finalization of a property-wide management plan; the implementation of integrated governance arrangements; and the implementation of actions to manage tourism, water quality, agricultural and urban development impacts to ensure protection of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

## EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Stevns Klint, Denmark**, on the World Heritage List under **criterion (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Stevns Klint is a globally exceptional testimony to the impact of meteorite impact on the history of life on Earth. The property provides evidence of the Chixulub meteorite impact that took place at the end of the Cretaceous Period, c.67 million years ago, and is widely believed to have caused the end of the Age of the Dinosaurs. The property has further iconic scientific importance due to its association with the radical theory for asteroid driven extinction developed through the seminal work of Walter and Luis W Alvarez, with their co-workers. Stevns Klint is highly significant in terms of its past, present and future contribution to science, and makes these values accessible to the wider global community as a whole.

**Criterion (viii):** Stevns Klint is a globally exceptional testimony to the impact of meteorite impact on the history of life on Earth. The property provides a globally exceptional representation of the evidence of the Chixulub meteorite impact that took place at the end of the Cretaceous Period, c.67 million years ago. This impact is widely believed by modern scientists to have caused the end of the Age of the Dinosaurs, and led to the extinction of more than 50% of life on Earth. This is the most recent of the major mass extinctions in Earth's history. Comparative analysis indicates this is the most significant and readily accessible site, of hundreds available, to see the sedimentary record of the ash cloud formed by the meteorite impact, the actual site of the impact being deep underwater offshore the Yucatan peninsula. In addition, the site has iconic scientific importance as the most significant and accessible of the three

localities where the radical theory for asteroid driven extinction was developed through the seminal work of Walter and Luis W Alvarez, with their co-workers. Stevns Klint is highly significant in terms of its past, present and future contribution to science especially pertaining to the definition of and explanation of the Cretaceous/Tertiary (K/T) boundary.

The outstanding fossil record at Stevns Klint provides a succession of three biotic assemblages including the most diverse end-Cretaceous marine ecosystem known. The million years recorded in the rock at Stevns Klint provides evidence of a climax pre-impact community, fauna that survived a mass extinction event, and the subsequent faunal recovery and increased biodiversity following this event. The fossil record shows which taxa became extinct and which survived and reveals the tempo and mode of evolution of the succeeding post impact fauna that diversified to the marine fauna of today, thus providing important context for the main K/T boundary layer exposed at Stevns Klint.

### **Integrity**

The property contains the coastal rock exposures that are of Outstanding Universal Value. There is a small break in the site where an active quarry is located, in the buffer zone, resulting in the site being a serial property. Boundaries along the cliff address and accommodate the natural erosion processes of the sea, and include the beach area where eroded blocks fall as natural erosion progresses. The landward and seaward buffer areas are adequate.

Existing human made exposures landward of the cliff also support the integrity of the site. These exposures are in areas that include two abandoned quarries and tunnels that had historically been used for military purposes. The inclusion of these areas enhances opportunities for visitor services and interpretation and supports further understanding related to the three dimensions of the paleo-seascape. These anthropogenic features, based on calculated rates of sea level rise and planned coastal management strategies, are durable as accessible exposures for hundreds of years.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property benefits from overlapping national and local legislation, and has an up to date management plan supported through local government planning strategies. The property is protected from development and will continue to evolve as a natural and unprotected stretch of coastline.

A specific organizational structure for management of the property has been designed to support management needed following inscription on the World Heritage list. The site is governed and managed through a steering group with representation from state, regional governments, and landowners including private (majority of the nominated property is privately owned) and public. The steering group is complemented by a local organization with a board of directors, a secretariat supported by a Director and Site Manager, and two standing committees (a local reference group and a scientific reference group).

There is strong community support for the nomination, and a co-management approach with a range of partners including local government, the local museum, NGOs and private sector interests. Sustained and adequate finance for the management of the property is a long-term requirement. Project funding has been secured with a plan for securing sustainable funding based on a five-year management cycle. Ongoing management funding will be provided through the local government. Both national level and private sector involvement in the management of the site will also provide support to the property.

There are some threats to the property that require continued attention. There is notable visitation, and projections that this will increase. This has the potential to negatively impact the fossil heritage through uncontrolled/poorly managed fossil collecting. This threat is managed through the legislative framework for protection of natural heritage in Denmark and regional and municipal planning to support the protection of the nominated property. Guidelines are in place that regulate collecting and also zoning the property for managing visitation along the coast. It will be of additional importance that tourism and visitation is part of a local strategy for sustainable tourism, and that effective education, interpretation and curation facilities are provided.

The property is protected from extractive use, in line with the principle that such uses are incompatible with World Heritage property status, and the State Party has provided a series of examples of cases where government has denied requests for extraction of resources to ensure the protection of natural heritage values. A dormant claim for quarrying adjoining the property expires in 2028 and will not be renewed, nor activated prior to its expiry.

4. Recommends the State Party, in managing the property following inscription, to:
  - a) establish without delay the revised and specific management system proposed to assume responsibility for the property upon inscription on the World Heritage List,
  - b) retain policies to ensure that no mining and/or quarrying activities take place within the property, nor any adjacent extraction activities that could impact the property,
  - c) ensure effective implementation of fossil collecting guidelines, including appropriate curation of key specimens,
  - d) ensure effective engagement of the private landowners in the protection and management of the property on an ongoing basis,
  - e) ensure effective presentation of the property, to provide for a high quality visitor experience, supported by appropriate education and interpretation facilities,
  - f) continue strong processes of local community engagement in the property, and the commendable shared management approach with local communities and stakeholders;
5. Considers that this nomination can be regarded as completing the recognition of the phenomenon of asteroid impact, and its impact on the history of life on Earth, on the World Heritage List.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Tectono-volcanic ensemble of the Chaîne des Puys and Limagne Fault, France**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) specify the tectonic and structural elements interacting with monogenetic volcanism in this geological scale model, which are outstanding examples

- representing major stages of Earth's history on which is based outstanding universal value;
- b) to provide additional information about the management of the site in relation to the public and private local stakeholders;
3. Notes the deep divergence in the scientific interpretations raised following the evaluation of this nomination;
  4. Recommends to the State Party and IUCN to deepen the dialogue, in relation with the specialist Earth Science organisations identified in point C.12 of Annex 6 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
  5. Requests the State Party to invite a mission to implement the upstream process proposed in Decision **38 COM 9A** for the evaluation of complex nominations;
  6. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.15** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), reiterates its request to IUCN to revisit and update its thematic study on “World Heritage Volcanoes” to clearly articulate a short and appropriately balanced list of the strongest remaining volcanic sites with potential for inscription on the World Heritage List, and also requests IUCN to revise its thematic study on geological sites, the “Geological World Heritage: A Global Framework” (2005) to refine the proposed 13 themes, articulate the threshold of Outstanding Universal Value, and clarify the difference between the criterion (viii) of the World Heritage and Geoparks status.

## **Extensions of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of the **Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Białowieża Forest, Belarus, Poland**, which becomes **Białowieża Forest, Belarus, Poland** on the World Heritage List under **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Białowieża Forest is a large forest complex located on the border between Poland and Belarus. Thanks to several ages of protection the Forest had survived in its natural state to this day. The Białowieża National Park, Poland, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 and extended to include Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Belarus, in 1992. A large extension of the property in 2014 results in a property of 141,885 ha with a buffer zone of 166,708 ha.

This property includes a complex of lowland forests that are characteristics of the Central European mixed forests terrestrial ecoregion. The area has exceptionally conservation significance due to the scale of its old growth forests, which include extensive undisturbed areas where natural processes are on-going. A consequence is the richness in dead wood, standing and on the ground, and consequently a high diversity of fungi and saproxylic invertebrates. The property protects a diverse and rich wildlife of which 59 mammal species, over 250 bird, 13 amphibian, 7 reptile and over 12,000 invertebrate species. The iconic symbol of the property is the European Bison:

approximately 900 individuals in the whole property which make almost 25% of the total world's population and over 30% of free-living animals.

**Criterion (ix):** Bialowieza Forest conserves a diverse complex of protected forest ecosystems which exemplify the Central European mixed forests terrestrial ecoregion, and a range of associated non-forest habitats, including wet meadows, river valleys and other wetlands. The area has an exceptionally high nature conservation value, including extensive old-growth forests. The large and integral forest area supports complete food webs including viable populations of large mammals and large carnivores (wolf, lynx and otter) amongst other. The richness in dead wood, standing and on the ground, leads to a consequent high diversity of fungi and saproxylic invertebrates. The long tradition of research on the little disturbed forest ecosystem and the numerous publications, including description of new species, also contributes significantly to the values of the nominated property.

**Criterion (x):** Bialowieza Forest is an irreplaceable area for biodiversity conservation, due in particular to its size, protection status, and substantially undisturbed nature. The property is home to the largest free-roaming population of European Bison, which is the iconic species of this property. However the biodiversity conservation values are extensive, and include protection for 59 mammal species, over 250 bird species, 13 amphibians, 7 reptiles, and over 12,000 invertebrates. The flora is diverse and regionally significant, and the property also is notable for conservation of fungi. Several new species have been described here and many threatened species are still well represented.

### **Integrity**

The property is a large, coherent area conserved via a range of protective designations representing the full range of forest ecosystems of the region, and providing habitat for large mammals. The presence of extensive undisturbed areas is crucial to its nature conservation values. Some of the ecosystems represented in the property (wet meadows, wetlands, river corridors) require maintenance through active management, due to the decrease of water flow and absence of agriculture (hay cutting). The buffer zone that has been proposed by both State Parties appears sufficient to provide effective protection of the integrity of the property from threats from outside its boundaries. There are some connectivity challenges, from barriers inside the property, and its relative isolation within surrounding agricultural landscapes, that require continued management and monitoring.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property benefits from legal and institutional protection in both States Parties, through a variety of protected area designations.

Protection and management requires strong and effective cooperation between the States Parties, and also between institutions in each State Party. The Bialowieza National Park (Poland), the Polish Forestry Administration and the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park authorities have entered into an agreement regarding preparation and implementation of an integrated management plan for the nominated property, and to establish a transboundary steering group. In addition the State Party of Poland has developed an agreement establishing a Steering Committee between the National Park and the Forest Administration aiming to achieve a coordinated approach to integrated management. It is essential to ensure the effective functioning of this Steering Committee, including through regular meetings, and its input to transboundary coordination and management. It is essential that the national parks of both States Parties maintain effective and legally adopted management plans, and an adopted

management plan for the Bialowieza National Park (Poland), to support its inclusion in the property, is an essential and long-term requirement.

It is essential to ensure that the integrated management plan for the property addresses all key issues concerning the effective management of this property, particularly forest, meadows and wetlands management, and that it is adequately funded on a long term basis to ensure its effective implementation.

Effective and well-resourced conservation management is the main long-term requirement to secure the property, and maintain the necessary management interventions that sustain its natural values. Threats that require long-term attention via monitoring and continued management programmes include fire management, the impacts of barriers to connectivity, including roads, firebreaks and the border fence. There is also scope to continually improve aspects of the management of the property, including in relation to ensuring connectivity within the property, and in its wider landscape, and to also secure enhanced community engagement.

4. Commends the State Parties of Belarus and Poland for their efforts to establish agreements aiming to enhance the coordination and effective management of this transboundary property;
5. Requests the State Party of Poland, as a matter of urgency, to:
  - a) adopt the new Management Plan for Bialowieza National Park as soon as possible, and by 1 October 2014 at the latest, and to provide a copy of the adopted and approved plan to the World Heritage Centre when available,
  - b) establish as a matter of urgency the Steering Committee between the National Park and the Forest Administration to ensure the integrated planning and management of the Polish side of the property, and to provide adequate financial resources for the effective functioning of this Steering Committee;
6. Also requests the States Parties of Poland and Belarus to:
  - a) establish as a matter of urgency the Transboundary Steering Committee that will coordinate, promote and facilitate the integrated management of the property,
  - b) provide adequate human and financial resources to ensure the effective functioning of the Transboundary Steering Committee,
  - c) expedite the preparation and further official adoption of the integrated management plan for the property addressing all key issues concerning the effective conservation and management of this transboundary property, particularly those concerning forest and wetlands management, and the need to increase functional ecological connectivity in the property, and to reduce the existing large network of roads and fire prevention corridors,
  - d) ensure that this integrated management plan is adequately funded to ensure its effective implementation, and
  - e) maintain and enhance the level of cooperation and engagement of local communities that have been achieved during the preparation of this nomination as to ensure their contribution to the effective management of the property;
7. Further requests the States Parties to submit, by **1 December 2015**, a joint report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of progress achieved on the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension proposed by **Denmark** and **Germany** of the **Wadden Sea, Germany, Netherlands**, on the World Heritage List under **criteria (viii), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Wadden Sea is the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world, with natural processes undisturbed throughout most of the area. The 1,143,403 ha World Heritage property encompasses a multitude of transitional zones between land, the sea and freshwater environment, and is rich in species specially adapted to the demanding environmental conditions. It is considered one of the most important areas for migratory birds in the world, and is connected to a network of other key sites for migratory birds. Its importance is not only in the context of the East Atlantic Flyway but also in the critical role it plays in the conservation of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds. In the Wadden Sea up to 6.1 million birds can be present at the same time, and an average of 10-12 million pass through it each year.

**Criterion (viii):** The Wadden Sea is a depositional coastline of unparalleled scale and diversity. It is distinctive in being almost entirely a tidal flat and barrier system with only minor river influences, and an outstanding example of the large-scale development of an intricate and complex temperate-climate sandy barrier coast under conditions of rising sea-level. Highly dynamic natural processes are uninterrupted across the vast majority of the property, creating a variety of different barrier islands, channels, flats, gullies, saltmarshes and other coastal and sedimentary features.

**Criterion (ix):** The Wadden Sea includes some of the last remaining natural large-scale intertidal ecosystems where natural processes continue to function largely undisturbed. Its geological and geomorphologic features are closely entwined with biophysical processes and provide an invaluable record of the ongoing dynamic adaptation of coastal environments to global change. There are a multitude of transitional zones between land, sea and freshwater that are the basis for the species richness of the property. The productivity of biomass in the Wadden Sea is one of the highest in the world, most significantly demonstrated in the numbers of fish, shellfish and birds supported by the property. The property is a key site for migratory birds and its ecosystems sustain wildlife populations well beyond its borders.

**Criterion (x):** Coastal wetlands are not always the richest sites in relation to faunal diversity; however this is not the case for the Wadden Sea. The salt marshes host around 2,300 species of flora and fauna, and the marine and brackish areas a further 2,700 species, and 30 species of breeding birds. The clearest indicator of the importance of the property is the support it provides to migratory birds as a staging, moulting and wintering area. Up to 6.1 million birds can be present at the same time, and an average of 10-12 million each year pass through the property. The availability of food and a low level of disturbance are essential factors that contribute to the key role of the property in supporting the survival of migratory species. The property is the essential stopover that enables the functioning of the East Atlantic and African-Eurasian migratory flyways. Biodiversity on a worldwide scale is reliant on the Wadden Sea.



## **Integrity**

The boundaries of the extended property include all of the habitat types, features and processes that exemplify a natural and dynamic Wadden Sea, extending from the Netherlands to Germany to Denmark. This area includes all of the Wadden Sea ecosystems, and is of sufficient size to maintain critical ecological processes and to protect key features and values.

The property is subject to a comprehensive protection, management and monitoring regime which is supported by adequate human and financial resources. Human use and influences are well regulated with clear and agreed targets. Activities that are incompatible with its conservation have either been banned, or are heavily regulated and monitored to ensure they do not impact adversely on the property. As the property is surrounded by a significant population and contains human uses, the continued priority for the protection and conservation of the Wadden Sea is an important feature of the planning and regulation of use, including within land/water-use plans, the provision and regulation of coastal defences, maritime traffic and drainage. Key threats requiring ongoing attention include fisheries activities, developing and maintaining harbours, industrial facilities surrounding the property including oil and gas rigs and wind farms, maritime traffic, residential and tourism development and impacts from climate change.

## **Protection and management requirements**

Maintaining the hydrological and ecological processes of the contiguous tidal flat system of the Wadden Sea is an overarching requirement for the protection and integrity of this property. Therefore conservation of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems through the effective management of protected areas, including marine no-take zones, is essential. The effective management of the property also needs to ensure an ecosystem approach that integrates the management of the existing protected areas with other key activities occurring in the property, including fisheries, shipping and tourism.

The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation provides the overall framework and structure for integrated conservation and management of the property as a whole and coordination between all three States Parties. Comprehensive protection measures are in place within each State. Specific expectations for the long-term conservation and management of this property include maintaining and enhancing the level of financial and human resources required for the effective management of the property. Research, monitoring and assessment of the protected areas that make up the property also require adequate resources to be provided. Maintenance of consultation and participatory approaches in planning and management of the property is needed to reinforce the support and commitment from local communities and NGOs to the conservation and management of the property. The State Parties should also maintain their commitment of not allowing oil and gas exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of the property. Any development projects, such as planned wind farms in the North Sea, should be subject of rigorous Environmental Impacts Assessments to avoid any impacts to the values and integrity of the property.

4. Commends the State Parties of Germany, Netherlands and Denmark for their joint efforts in extending this property;
5. Requests the State Party of Denmark, in cooperation with the State Parties of the Netherlands and Germany, to prepare an implementation plan to enhance the conservation and management of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value within the Danish National Park. This could be supported by the development and adoption of a binding agreement between the Danish Nature Agency and the National Park Board;

6. Also requests the State Parties of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to develop a single integrated management plan for the entire transboundary property in conformity with the requirements of Paragraph 111 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to consider the options to strengthen the effectiveness of implementation of coordinated management within the property;
7. Recommends the States Parties to extend further the monitoring of impacts of fisheries activities within the existing and extended property, and consider the opportunities to ensure protection of the property from any detrimental impacts;
8. Further requests the State Parties of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to submit, by **1 December 2016**, a joint report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including confirmation of progress on the development and adoption of the integrated management plan and the institutional and financial provisions that will be in place to ensure its effective implementation.

## MIXED SITES

### ASIA-PACIFIC

#### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes the **Trang An Landscape Complex, Viet Nam**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (v), (vii) and (viii)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief Synthesis**

Located in Ninh Binh Province of North Vietnam, the Trang An Landscape Complex (Trang An) is a mixed cultural and natural property contained mostly within three protected areas, the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and the Trang An-Tam Coc-Bich Dong Scenic Area, and the Hoa Lu Special-Use Primary Forest. The property covers 6,172 ha within the Trang An limestone massif, and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 6,079 ha, mostly comprising rice paddy fields. Trang An is administered by the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee and managed by the Trang An Landscape Complex Management Board. There are 14,000 residents, mostly families of subsistence farmers, but much of the property is uninhabited and in a natural state. Trang An is of global significance as an outstanding humid tropical tower karst landscape in the final stages of geomorphic evolution. It is composed of a variety of classical karst cones and towers and a network of enclosed depressions inter-connected by an intricate system of subterranean waterways. The area is unique in having been invaded by the sea several times in the recent geological past but is now emergent on land. The blend of towering mountains draped in natural rain forest, with huge internal basins containing quietly flowing waters, creates an extraordinarily beautiful and tranquil landscape. Archaeological deposits in many caves reveal a regionally significant, continuous

sequence of human occupation and utilization spanning more than 30,000 years. There is convincing evidence showing how early human groups adapted to changing landscapes in the massif, including some of the most extreme climatic and environmental changes in the planet's recent history.

**Criterion (v):** Trang An is the most outstanding locale within Southeast Asia, and significant in the wider world for demonstrating the way early humans interacted with the natural landscape and adapted to major changes in environment over a period of more than 30,000 years. The long cultural history is closely associated with geological evolution of the Trang An limestone massif in late Pleistocene and Holocene times, when the inhabitants endured some of the most turbulent climatic and environmental changes in Earth history, including repeated submergence of the landscape due to oscillating sea levels. Within the one compact landscape there are multiple sites covering multiple periods and functions, comprising a unique early human settlement system.

**Criterion (vii):** The tower karst landscape of Trang An is among the most beautiful and awe-inspiring areas of its kind anywhere on Earth. Dominating the landscape is a spectacular array of forest-mantled, 200m-high limestone rock towers, linked in places by sharp ridges enclosing deep depressions filled by waterways that are interconnected by a myriad of subterranean cave passages. Blending with the forests are extensive rice paddy fields bordering streams, with local farmers and fisher folk engaged in their traditional way of life. Visitors, conveyed in traditional sampans rowed by local guides, experience an intimate connection with the natural environment and a wonderful relaxing sense of security and serenity. The dramatic mountains, secretive caves and sacred places in Trang An have inspired people through countless generations. It is a place where culture encounters the wonder, mystery and magnificence of the natural world and is transformed by it.

**Criterion (viii):** Trang An is an exquisite geological property that displays more clearly than any other place on Earth the final stages of tower karst landscape evolution in a humid tropical environment. It is a superb model of its kind and outstanding at a global scale. Deep dissection of an uplifted limestone massif over a period of five million years has produced a series of classical karst landforms, including towers, cones, enclosed depressions (cockpits), interior-draining valleys (poljes), foot caves and subterranean cave passages with speleothems. Extremely significant is the presence of transitional forms between 'fengcong' karst with ridges connecting towers, and 'fenglin' karst where towers stand isolated on alluvial plains. During Pleistocene and Holocene times, the landscape was completely transformed by repeated marine transgression and regression. Former stands of sea level are revealed by an altitudinal series of erosion notches in cliffs, with associated caves, wave-cut platforms, beach deposits and marine shell layers.

### **Authenticity**

Knowledge of the outstanding universal cultural value of the property is primarily based on archaeological evidence from intensive research on cave sites, which are still largely in their original condition – a rarity in Southeast Asia. The rich archaeological resources are predominantly midden accumulations containing shells, animal bones, stone tools, hearths, corded-ware pottery and occasionally human remains. The sites are yielding vivid palaeo-environmental records from analysis of pollen, seeds and plant tissue, and fauna, and from geomorphic evidence of ancient shorelines. These studies are supported by sophisticated modern techniques such as geo-chemical analysis of plant carbon isotopes and lipids, and shell oxygen isotopes, and the pioneering use in Southeast Asia of LiDAR (Light Distancing and Ranging) to create millimetre-accurate images of cave sites. All data are professionally mapped, collected, catalogued and

analysed. The results of studies have been communicated through an impressive portfolio of published scientific papers, and are also reported in a definitive monograph on human adaptation in the Asian Palaeolithic, whose author has conducted seven years' research in Trang An.

### **Integrity**

The property is of sufficient size and scope to encompass the entire limestone massif, with a full range of classical karst landforms and associated geomorphic processes. All caves and other sites of archaeological significance are included. There are no structures that obstruct the scenery or detract from the aesthetic appeal of the area. The very rugged topography has isolated the property from occupation and utilization, and most of it remains in a natural state. A large buffer zone completely surrounds the property, protecting it from any external disruption. Occupied areas are largely small traditional villages and associated rice paddy fields tended by subsistence farmers. The greater part of the property is enclosed within three officially designated and secure protected areas, and the property boundary is endorsed by all Government authorities.

### **Management and protection requirements**

Trang An has been accorded the highest legal status for protection available in Viet Nam. The property is owned by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and controlled by the Ninh Binh Provincial People's Committee. Most of it is secured within three statutory protected areas. Six primary national laws and a series of Government decrees provide for: protection of cultural heritage and archaeological resources; biodiversity conservation; environmental protection; eco-tourism and other commercial activities; and administration and management. The property is managed by the Trang An Landscape Complex Management Board an independent agency with extensive decision-making powers, responsibilities and resources, and with close functional links to Government ministries, research institutes, and commercial and community stakeholders. Management is guided by a comprehensive Government-approved and legally binding management plan, prepared with wide public consultation and support. The plan, which is modeled on the highest international standards, addresses all important factors affecting the property, and is effectively implemented by professional, well-resourced staff. Future management priorities include: completion of an archaeological research and site conservation plan, implementation of a tourism management sub-plan and ongoing education, training and awareness-raising.

#### 4. Commends the State Party for:

- a) ensuring application of the highest legal protection available in the country, including designation of three protected areas of national status within the property,
- b) commencing revision of the Management Plan and Zoning Plan, that recognise the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and ensure that the protection is aligned and integrated into provincial planning,
- c) preparing, as part of the Management Plan, an effective, well enforced, and adequately resourced tourism management section specifying regulations that ensure full protection of the natural features of the site, and that establish daily, seasonal and annual limits to visitor numbers based on ecologically sustainable use criteria as well as a social carrying capacity based on quiet enjoyment of the site,
- d) publishing a substantial body of work that demonstrates the way that Trang An has to be seen as an exemplar site related to the way communities adapt to changing climatic conditions,

- e) nominating the site within a boundary that clearly considers the archaeological record,
  - f) providing national protection for the archaeological sites and their essential setting,
  - g) ensuring adequate conservation of excavated and unexcavated archaeological sites, and
  - h) putting in place strong management arrangements to ensure the protection and appropriate presentation of the archaeological sites and appropriate visitor management arrangements;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a revised management plan and zoning plan to the World Heritage Centre, which includes a tourism management plan;
6. Requests the State Party to:
- a) Provide continued support for ongoing archaeological research and publication,
  - b) Update the archaeological management plan as new information becomes available,
  - c) Ensure effective implementation of the tourism section of the management plan including its measures for preventing overcrowding and environmental impacts,
  - d) Revise the property management plan to incorporate the archaeological and tourism sections and updates it as necessary,
  - e) Modify the boundary of the property to better reflect the areas and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and ensure an appropriate surrounding buffer zone;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a copy of the gazetted property management plan including its section on tourism, and a report on progress made in the undertaking of the recommended work, including a one-page executive summary, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.15

The nomination of **Arrábida, Portugal**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

## LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

### Extensions of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension and re-nomination of the **Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche**, to include the protected tropical forests of Calakmul and become the **Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche, Mexico is a Renomination and Extension of the existing 3,000 ha cultural World Heritage property, Ancient Maya City of Calakmul, Campeche. The property is located in the central/southern portion of the Yucatan Peninsula, in southern Mexico. The total area of the extended property is 331,397 ha, surrounded by a buffer zone of 391,788 ha, both totals the area of the entire Calakmul Biosphere Reserve.

This property, while nowadays completely uninhabited and covered by tropical forest, is the heartland of the area in which, from the mid-first millennium B.C. to about A.D. 1000, one of the most splendid civilizations in human history reached its climax, but where it also suffered the most dramatic downfall, resulting in an almost complete abandonment of formerly flourishing settlements. Since the area has, thereupon, remained virtually depopulated, it represents an exceptional testimony to a long-living civilization, offering unique possibilities for archaeological research and presentation of its results.

Being located at the core of the second largest expanse of tropical forests in America, only surpassed by the Amazon jungle in South America, the area represents a singular case of adaptation to, and management of, a natural environment that, at a first glance, seems little appropriate for the development of urban civilization. The colonization of the territory, the population growth and the evolution of complex, state-organized societies are attested in a wide variety of material vestiges. Apart from Calakmul, the largest archaeological site, where the Kaan, one of the most powerful Maya dynasties, had its seat during the Late Classic, remains of dozens of other ancient settlements have been found in the area, including several major urban centers with huge

architectural complexes and sculpted monuments. Along with settlement remains, the inter-site and intra-site roads (sacbé), defensive systems, quarries, water management features (such as reservoirs and artificially modified aguadas or water ponds), agricultural terraces and other land modifications related with subsistence strategies are also constituent parts of the extremely rich and exceptionally well preserved ancient cultural landscape.

During excavations carried out so far at Calakmul and Uxul, spectacular stucco friezes and mural paintings have been found in some of the massive temple pyramids and palaces, as well as burials of kings and other members of nobility, containing a rich variety of body ornaments and other accompanying objects, such as elaborate jade masks, ear spools and exquisite polychrome pottery vessels. The hieroglyphic inscriptions on stelae, altars and building elements reveal important facts about the territorial organization and political history, and some epigraphic records are entirely unique, providing information that has not been found anywhere else in the Maya Area.

The inscriptional evidence, the characteristics of architecture and urban layouts, pottery styles, tool kits and funerary objects – information collected at a number of sites surveyed in the area, as well as through excavations at some of them – indicate the existence of extensive trade networks and exchange of ideas with the neighboring regions, but they also reflect original and ingenious local developments. While a version of the so-called Peten style prevails in monumental buildings, a peculiar architectural style developed in the northeastern part of the area during the Late Classic period (ca. A.D. 600-900), being characterized by elegant towers and intricate stone mosaic decoration of facades, including the so-called zoomorphic entrances. The far reaching appeal of this magnificent and completely singular style, called Rio Bec, is evidenced in the adoption of its characteristic elements, after A.D. 800, at sites as distant as El Tigre to the southwest, in the Candelaria river basin, and Kohunlich to the east, in the state of Quintana Roo. To what extent the evolution of these diverging architectural expressions reflects the ever changing political geography, including the role of the Kaan dynasty and its alliances and conflicts with the neighboring polities, is obviously a question of foremost importance, which can only be solved by future research.

Finally, due to the exceptionally well preserved and rich archaeological heritage, the potential of the area for clarifying the still poorly understood processes that resulted in the collapse of the Classic Maya civilization in the 9th and 10th centuries cannot be overstated.

For the natural component, the mature forests of Calakmul, with their current structure and floristic composition, are extraordinary evidence of the long interaction between man and nature. Largely the result of ancient agricultural and forestry practices of the Maya, they combine complex processes of human selection and the regeneration of natural systems. Traditional management practices of indigenous communities who still inhabit the region, outside the property, are evidence of ancient Mayan practices.

These humid and sub-humid tropical forests develop in a geological province under seasonal dry conditions, and karst soils. Given the particular environmental conditions, such as reduced availability of water and moisture, presence of fire and hurricanes, and karst soils, here the flora and fauna of wetland ecosystems have developed adaptations to these seasonal dry conditions. For such factors, Calakmul Tropical Forests could be considered as one of the most resilient ecosystems in the continent and these features could be relevant for biodiversity conservation in a climate change context. Still, the site is an important water catchment area, a key factor as it represents a critical habitat for a number of endemic and threatened species.

It is also the area with great abundance of wildlife. The Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche, hosts rich biodiversity, that were very appreciated by the Mayans and represented in their paintings, pottery, sculptures, rituals, food and arts in general. Several of the species are considered threaten and in danger. The property has the greatest diversity of mammals in the Mayan region. It is home to two of the three species of primates, two of the four edentates and five of the six wildcat species (felines) that exist in Mexico.

The location of the property also increases its importance as the centre of the connectivity of the Selva Maya, with corridors that provide ecological continuity to forests in the region (Mexico, Guatemala and Belize) and allow the conservation of biodiversity and development of dynamic ecological and evolutionary processes of species. They also help maintain populations of species with high spatial requirements, as are the animals with local migrations (butterflies, parrots, waterfowl, bats), and large predators with large displacement capacity, such as the jaguar, puma and several birds of prey.

**Criterion (i):** As a whole, the area is unique in that it preserves largely intact vestiges of the relatively rapid development of a splendid urban civilization in a hostile environment of tropical forest. The information available for research is vital for understanding multiple aspects of Maya culture and its evolution in the central lowlands of the Yucatan peninsula. The archaeological sites in the area (13 major urban centers and some 40 secondary centers and minor sites have been recorded so far) constitute remnants of at least 1500 years (from ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 1000) of intensive population growth and evolution of social complexity, conditioned by a successful adaptation to the inhospitable natural setting and accompanied by technological achievements and cultural development in general, which is reflected in splendid architecture, hieroglyphic writing, sculpted monuments and other unique pieces of fine arts.

**Criterion (ii):** Pertaining to the Preclassic and Classic Maya civilization, the cultural aspects of the property include a mixture of autochthonous developments and exchange of ideas with the neighboring regions. The creative combination of different traditions resulted in specific architectural styles, unique pieces of fine arts and ingenious modifications of natural landscape. While Calakmul, the largest site in the area, displays 120 commemorative stelae with relief carvings, including hieroglyphic inscriptions with important information on regional political history and territorial organization, a number of monuments of this kind have also been found at other major and medium centers, such as La Muñeca, Uxul, Oxpemul, Balakbal, Champerico, Altamira and Cheyokolnah. The date corresponding to A.D. 396, recorded on three stelae at Candzibaantún, is the earliest date known so far on the Maya monuments in Mexico, whereas Altar 3 of Altar de los Reyes, with its 13 emblem glyphs (names of dynasties), not only sheds light on important aspects of the Classic Maya political geography, but is also entirely unique: no other monument featuring so many emblem glyphs is known in the whole Maya Area! Excavations at Calakmul have unveiled stucco facades illustrating important religious concepts (Structure II), extraordinary murals that shed light on the little known and rarely depicted daily life (ChiikNahb acropolis), as well as royal burials with rich accoutrements, including jade masks, polychrome pottery and other objects of outstanding artistic value. As revealed by extensive surveys throughout area, the location of important centers, regularly in the immediate vicinity of seasonally flooded wetlands, obey the latter's agricultural potential, whereas the astronomical orientations of important civic and ceremonial buildings, recording agriculturally important moments of the year, reflect both practical uses of astronomical knowledge, which facilitated an efficient scheduling of subsistence activities, and its embeddedness in religion, world view and political ideology. Also present at several major sites are ritual ball courts, defensive walls and quarries, as



well as water reservoirs and other land modifications related with intensive agriculture and fresh water procurement, which indicate highly sophisticated ways of adaptation to the karst environment of the Yucatan peninsula. Furthermore, the roads (sacbé) connecting different settlements represent another engineering achievement attesting to the importance of communication routes and trade networks.

**Criterion (iii):** The property witnessed an unprecedented growth of an extraordinary civilization, which came to an abrupt end at the end of the Classic period. Considering that, after the dramatic population decline evidenced in the abandonment of virtually all the settlements in the 9th and 10th centuries A.D., the area has ever since remained practically uninhabited and has suffered little recent intervention (limited to wood and chicle sap exploitation in the 20th Century), it represents an exceptional testimony to a long-living civilization and offering a unique possibility to understand both the foundations of its florescence and the causes of its collapse.

**Criterion (iv):** The archaeological sites in the property contain some unrivalled examples of Maya monumental architecture, mostly pertaining to the so-called Peten tradition in the core area and the Rio Bec style confined to its northeastern fringes. While the first is exemplified by palaces and huge temple pyramids at sites such as Calakmul, Yaxnohcah and Balakbal, which mirror the growth of social complexity during the Preclassic and Early Classic periods, the second represents a unique in kind Late Classic development, characterized by false pyramid temples, normally in the shape of elegant twin towers, and impressive stone mosaic façade decorations. Since the epigraphic records show that the Classic period political geography of the area was overwhelmed by the Kaan, one of the most powerful royal dynasties, which in the Late Classic moved its capital city from Dzibanché to Calakmul, the protection measures implemented in the property should facilitate future research, which is expected to clarify whether, or to what extent, the political domination of the Kaan dynasty, and its alliances and rivalries with the neighboring polities, are reflected in the diverging trajectories of cultural development.

**Criterion (ix):** The mature tropical forests of Calakmul provide extraordinary evidence of the long-standing interaction between man and nature, insofar as they display a floristic composition and structure largely resulting from thousand-year old Maya agricultural and forestry practices, which intertwine processes of human selection and regeneration of natural systems, both considered traditional management practices among native communities still inhabiting in the buffer zone and surrounding areas. These processes resulted in a complex mosaic of tropical forests communities which allows complex ecological and trophic networks. It is also an important area for water recharging for the whole Yucatan Peninsula, a key factor in the development of the Maya Culture in the Ancient City of Calakmul and its surroundings.

**Criterion (x):** The tropical rain forest vegetation of the Property and the region of Calakmul, developed under particular seasonal dry conditions, contains a rich biodiversity and critical habitats for a number of endemic and threatened species and populations. The species are adapted to particular geomorphological and environmental conditions, such as the reduced availability of water and moisture, the presence of forest fires and hurricanes, and karst soils, conditions that impose strong limitations on the growth of plants characteristic of moister tropical forests. The resulted resilience of this tropical rainforests is a unique and relevant argument for its nomination. The area contains the greatest abundance of wildlife and the highest diversity of mammals in the Mayan Region; it is home to two out of the three species of primates, two out of the four species of edentates, and five out of the six feline species (cats) existing in Mexico.

### **Integrity**

The property is located in the heart of the second largest extension of tropical forest in America, one of the best conserved in the region and the centre of connectivity in the Selva Maya. These ecosystems are the product of evolution and adaptation under prevailing environmental influences, which in turn were modified significantly by the management practices of the Mayan culture that inhabited the region continually for more than 1,500 years.

The various ecological elements and attributes that contains, make these tropical forests clear examples of biodiversity conservation, in terms of species, structures and ecological functions. The recovery of some of the species has been favoured by the presence of water collecting depressions, the aguadas and "chultunes", a type of water reservoirs used by the Mayans, which today are of vital importance for the survival of these tropical species.

The Property has exceptional ecological and cultural integrity, even though there has been no significant human intervention since the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve was established as a natural protected area in 1989, it remains the environment in which developed one of the great ancient cultures of the world, the Maya, whose legacy is present not only in the cities but in the agroforestry practices who made the beautiful tropical forests of Calakmul.

### **Authenticity**

The region has been continuous occupied for over 1500 years. It constitutes a unique example of the formation and development of a cultural group for which Calakmul can be considered the guiding axis and strategic centre in regard to all the surrounding sites with archaeological evidence, which at some point in history coexisted with the ancient Maya City and its surroundings. Calakmul encouraged symbolic processes that were directly reflected in architectural styles, social, family, political and religious relationships, and the sharing of experiences, ideas and beliefs. The chronological periods represented by the archaeological sites included in the property, demonstrate the space-time relationship of these with comparison to Calakmul.

Calakmul and the other 37 archaeological sites within the property were part of a settlement system that depended on the surrounding ecosystem for its supporting agricultural and forestry activities. Evidence of these still exists in the form of raised fields, channels and reservoirs.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The property protection is guaranteed due to its location within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, established in 1989 as a Natural Protected Area. The management of the whole property and its buffer zone corresponds to the Federal Government, through the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas / CONANP), for the Natural Heritage, in coordination with the National Institute of Anthropology and History (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia / INAH), responsible for the Cultural Heritage.

Legal instruments needed for the management of the property, where cultural and natural elements coincide in the same area, are in place. Almost 90% of the land surface of the site is Federally owned and all archaeological monuments that are included in it, already are legally protected.

4. Commends the State Party for the active involvement of local and indigenous communities, academic and research institutions, NGOs, and authorities at all levels of government, in the protection and management of the protected area of Calakmul Biosphere Reserve and the archaeological monuments;
5. Recognizes the important work of the Advisory Council which coordinates the protection and management activities of the Cultural and Natural authorities (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia-INAH and Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas-CONANP), and all other relevant stakeholders and encourages the State Party to strengthen this coordinating mechanism for the governance of the mixed property;
6. Requests the State Party to build upon the existing coordination for the protection and management archaeological and the natural heritage in order to establish an integrated Plan for the Protection and Management of the property as a mixed site, and to provide adequate financial resources for the effective functioning of this integrated plan;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2015**, such joint Management Plan and report the progress achieved in the strengthening of the Advisory Council as a coordination mechanism for the protection and management at the mixed property;
8. Further requests the State Party to consider in the future a revision of the boundaries of the property to include additional identified cultural sites within and around it that relate to Calakmul as well as to assure that the buffer zone is configured in a way designed to protect the property;
9. Encourages the State Party to continue its technical and financial support for Natural and Cultural studies, that will continue to reveal new sites and updated information of the Mayan Culture, as well as of the tropical forests environment, where it flourished;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to strengthen the monitoring system for the Cultural and Natural values, and submit a report on progress achieved, by **1 December 2015**, to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## CULTURAL SITES

### AFRICA

#### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Tongo-Tangzuk Tallensi Cultural Landscape, Ghana**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:

- a) develop, through survey and research, a database of the overall Tallensi cultural landscape and its context in order to allow a fuller understanding of its distinctiveness, structures and challenges,
  - b) provide adequate protection to defeat major threats,
  - c) put in place management measures to provide a framework within which traditional practices and rituals associated with building, farming, and forestry practices can be supported and encouraged through an appropriate collaborative management system,
  - d) enhance capacity building for local committees on earthen architecture which can begin to reverse the decline of the traditional buildings;
3. Considers that such a new nomination would need to encompass a large enough area to provide a sustainable socio-economic unit that might be able to harness the benefits of cultural tourism and promote ways for farmers to add value to their local produce, and would need to cover all aspects of the cultural landscape, not just the shrines;
  4. Also considers that any new nomination would need to include an augmented comparative analysis;
  5. Further considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape, Malawi**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
  - a) Strengthen the justification of criterion (vi) and explore the applicability of criterion (iii) to illustrate in more detail how spiritual traditions as well as traditional management approaches for cultural and natural resources might be said to be of Outstanding Universal Value and illustrate the tangible attributes these are associated to,
  - b) Identify in relation to the identified attributes of Outstanding Universal Value the information sources of authenticity,
  - c) Augment the comparative analysis, in particular at a regional level, to highlight the specific aspects of cultural guardianship at Mount Mulanje that would demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value;
3. Considers that, if such studies suggest that a robust case could be made to justify the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, then the State Party should also:
  - a) Initiate documentation and conservation activities for tangible cultural heritage resources, in particular those subject to regular visitation,
  - b) Analyse and describe the traditional management mechanisms and establish closer ties between the three official management agencies and community elders in view of integrating the traditional and spiritual management practices in the overall property management,

- c) Promote a more active role of the Department for Culture in the management of the property, including – if necessary – additional financial resources and training to enable staff to fully commit to this responsibility,
  - d) Explore options of extending the buffer zone towards the east,
  - e) Prohibit mining activity in the property and carry out an impact study on any new project that may affect the integrity of the site prior to any new nomination;
4. Also considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;
5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Developing a training program and a system of licensing for local guides to ensure consistent quality standards in guiding services,
  - b) Exploring the qualities of Mount Mulanje with regard to natural heritage criteria as initially envisaged in the tentative list entry.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.19**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **Barotse Cultural Landscape, Zambia**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to strengthen the nomination file with:
  - a) a robust boundary that takes account of the major negative impacts of new roads, and other developments, and excludes urban areas, the airport, and zones for mining and oil and gas extraction, and includes essential attributes that reflect fully the key aspects of the Barotse socio-cultural-political system and its landscape impacts,
  - b) survey, documentation and recording of the physical manifestations of the wider flood plain cultural landscape including the Liuwa National Park, and all of its traditional land management practices and other traditions,
  - c) a structured management approach that brings together traditional practices and planning policies based on the involvement and know-how of local communities,
  - d) elaborate a sustainable landscape protection policy that would, in the future, protect the site from the risks that threaten its integrity;
3. Recommends that, as a matter of urgency, steps should be taken to ensure that further pylons are not installed in the landscape next to palaces;
4. Encourages the State Party to call upon ICOMOS in the framework of upstream processes to advise them on the above recommendations;
5. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;
6. Recommends the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory Mission.

## ARAB STATES

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Recognizing that no additional information was asked from the State Party by ICOMOS during the evaluation process of the property, decides that in future ICOMOS shall ask for additional information within the stipulated timelines so that States Parties have an opportunity to present their rightful case;
3. Inscribes Erbil Citadel, Iraq, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
4. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief description**

The Citadel of Erbil is a rare surviving example of an urban ancient settlement which developed on an archaeological tell, following, layer by layer and time after time, a spontaneous, non-planned growth that was influenced by a combination of previous urban layouts and successive architectural and urban elements, in a continuous process of addition and transformation extending back at least six thousand years, to the earliest phase of urbanism. It is also a rare site where the process of tell formation has continued up to the present. Erbil Citadel is an imposing archaeological tell in which the artificial topography is a determinant of the urban form of the settlement still standing on its top. The structure of the Ottoman-period urban fabric is clearly legible, being characterized by a maze of alleys and cul-de-sacs radiating from the main Grand Gate. The Citadel town handed down throughout history is the result of an organic evolution and of a process of decay and reconstruction which is at the very core of the development of the Citadel hill. The original fortifications were in time replaced by houses which were built on top or in front of the ancient city walls, but the imposing character of the uninterrupted line of brick walls makes this site one of the most dramatic urban landscapes in the Middle East. Defined by Erbil's inhabitants the 'crown of Erbil', the Citadel is today both physically and symbolically at the centre of the modern city, which has expanded in concentric rings at the foot of this iconic site. The Citadel stands still powerful in the image of a mighty fortress, and strong in the memory of its previous inhabitants and of the citizens of Erbil. In fact, the significance of Erbil Citadel is given not only by its archaeology, the historical events it has witnessed, and the historical figures that have lived in, reigned over, or conquered the city, but also by the stories, feelings, and relationships that the inhabitants of Erbil still have with their Citadel. Erbil Citadel is mentioned, with a remarkable continuity of its name (Irbilum, Urbilum, Urbel, Arbail, Arbira, Arbela, Erbil/Arbil) since pre-Sumerian times, in many historical sources providing evidence for the reconstruction of the events that shaped its form. Erbil Citadel's proposed nomination criteria are:

**Criterion (iv):** Erbil Citadel is an outstanding example of multilayer archaeological mound still physically emerging from the surrounding landscape. The physical structure of the Citadel town is characterized by the permanence of the urban form on top of the mound. Its shape with definite boundaries has in part dictated the transformations of the urban fabric while, at the same time, has allowed the adaptation to changing needs throughout the millennia.

### **Integrity**

Erbil Citadel is an intact archaeological tell which still keeps its role of landmark in the landscape of Erbil. It preserves over thirty metres of archaeological deposits going back to the very early beginnings of urbanization in Mesopotamia. The overall urban form of the Citadel town on its top is integral, due to the permanence of a mutual relationship between the build-up of the man-made mound and the town initial plan and successive developments. The fabric of the urban settlement on the Citadel is largely intact and clearly recognizable in its blocks division and alleyways. Some demolitions made by the previous regime have opened some spaces and the building stock has suffered from natural decay in the past fifty years, but these will be carefully filled following the recommendations of the Erbil Citadel Management Plan, in order to return the Citadel to its role as the central place for Erbil and its citizens. Its buffer areas have some problems of integrity due to modern constructions encroaching on the street immediately surrounding the tell, but this is being addressed by the implementation of new guidelines regulating uses and form of modern activities in this area.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of Erbil Citadel is substantial within different perspectives. First of all, as an archaeological tell which has not been excavated, the site retains all the archaeological layers. As a settlement with a layout influenced by the artificial topography of the mound, the ancient urban form of the Citadel town on its top is fully authentic while its Ottoman-period built fabric is preserved to a high extent. Cases of demolition and abandonment were not accompanied by replacements with modern, incompatible materials and forms, leaving substance and design of the historic city remarkably preserved. Moreover, the construction of temporary housing by newcomers who occupied the site for a couple of decades can be considered part of the history of the Citadel, and another element of authenticity of function and use. The site fully preserves authenticity of spirit and feeling and inspires sense of place, being not only a physical and symbolic landmark of Erbil city landscape but also a popular venue for gatherings of former residents and Friday prayers. If in terms of location the development scheme of Erbil has marked the central position of the Citadel, authenticity of setting is being improved thanks to specific guidelines.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The Citadel is a protected site under the legislation of Iraq and of the Kurdistan region. The authority in charge of its revitalization efforts, the High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR), is working in a strategic partnership with UNESCO and other agencies to conserve and rehabilitate the Citadel through programs of physical improvements within the framework of detailed studies and plans. Its action has resulted in the publication of the Erbil Citadel Management Plan, the instrument that is now regulating all activities concerning the site's future development and conservation. This plan was preceded by detailed studies resulting in recommendations for conservation and rehabilitation activities presented in a Conservation and Rehabilitation Master Plan. The buffer areas of the Citadel are not under the responsibility of HCECR, but of Erbil Municipality, which has benefited from UNESCO's, HCECR's and international assistance to generate the Urban Design Guidelines for the Buffer Zone of Erbil Citadel, which are under implementation. The current efforts to revitalize the Citadel and the strong relationship that the people of Erbil have with it, will be determining factors in returning the Citadel to the role and position it has always held in its history, as a place central to the life of the city of Erbil and the northern regions of Iraq, and as an urban landscape of importance for all humanity.

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Surveying, documenting and mapping surviving surface buried archaeological remains of all types and establishing mechanisms to document and protect buried archaeological remains in order to enable justification in future of criteria (iii) and (v),
  - b) Proceeding with the implementation of the stabilization of the slopes of the archaeological mound,
  - c) Reconsidering the location of the Kurdistan National Museum or substantially revising the architectural design of the current project to harmonise with the Citadel and its relationship with its setting,
  - d) Elaborating a strategy to attract private investors and to build a solid public/private partnership to implement the conservation and revitalisation programme,
  - e) Undertaking juridical studies with a view to improving the existing legal framework by introducing mechanisms to support private investment,
  - f) Strengthening involvement of former inhabitants and of Erbil's civil society at large in the revitalisation of the Citadel;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah, Saudi Arabia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Historic Jeddah represents a unique development of the Red sea architectural tradition, a construction style once common to cities on both coasts of the Red sea, of which only scant vestiges are preserved outside the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the nominated property. The style is characterized by the imposing tower houses decorated by large wooden Roshan(s) built in the late 19th century by the city's mercantile elites.

Its strict association with the Muslim annual pilgrimage (Hajj) gave Historic Jeddah a cosmopolitan population where Muslims from Asia, Africa and the Middle East resided and worked, contributing to the city's growth and prosperity.

The Outstanding Universal Value of Historic Jeddah relates to its unique development of the Red sea architectural style, to its preserved urban fabric, and to its symbolic role as a gate to Makkah for Muslim pilgrims reaching Arabia by boat throughout the centuries

**Criterion (ii):** The cityscape of Historic Jeddah is the result of an important exchange of human values, technical Know-how, building materials and techniques across the Red Sea region and along the Indian Ocean routes between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup>



centuries. It represents a cultural world that thrived, thanks to international sea trade; possessed a shared geographical, cultural and religious background; and built settlements with specific and innovative technical and aesthetic solutions to cope with the extreme climatic conditions of the region (humidity and heat).

Jeddah was, for centuries, the most important, largest and richest among these settlements and today, Historic Jeddah is the last surviving urban site along the Red Sea coast that still preserves the ensemble of the attributes of this culture: commercial-based economy, multi-cultural environment, isolated outward-oriented houses, coral masonry construction, precious woodwork decorating the facades, and specific technical devices to aid internal ventilation.

**Criterion (iv):** Historic Jeddah is the only surviving urban ensemble of the Red Sea cultural world. Jeddah's Roshan tower houses are an outstanding example of a typology of buildings unique within the Arab and Moslem world. Their specific aesthetic and functional patterns ---absence of courtyard, decorated Roshan façades, ground floor room used for offices and commerce, rooms rented for pilgrims--- reflect their adaptation to both the hot and humid climate of the Red Sea and to the specificity of Jeddah, the Gate to the Holy City of Makkah for the pilgrims arriving by sea, and an important international commercial pole. The development of the Roshan tower houses in the second half of 19th century illustrates the evolution of the patterns of trade and pilgrimages in the Arabian Peninsula and in Asia following the opening of the Suez Canal in (1869) and the development of steamboat navigation routes linking Europe with India and East Asia. The extraordinary relevance of Jeddah's tower houses is further increased by the fact that they are not only unique within the Red Sea culture region, but they are also the sole remnants of an architectural typology born in Jeddah that, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, spread to the nearby Hejaz cities of Al-Madinah, Makkah and Taif from where it has since completely disappeared under the pressure of modern development.

**Criterion (vi):** Historic Jeddah is directly associated, both at the symbolic intangible level and at the architectural and urban level with the Hajj, the yearly Muslim pilgrimage to the Holy City of Makkah.

Jeddah was the landing harbour for all the pilgrims that reached Arabia by sea, and for centuries, up to the present, the city lived in function of the pilgrimages .The goods the pilgrimage brought with them from Asia and Africa and sold in the city, the religious debates with Ulama(s) from Java and India, the spices, the food, and the intangible heritage of the city were all related to the pilgrimage that has immensely contributed to defining the identity of Jeddah. The association with Hajj is also very evident in the urban structure of the nominated property and is found in the traditional souks running East –West from the sea to Makkah Gate, the Ribat(s) and the Wakala(s) that used to host the pilgrims; in the architecture, notably in the facades and internal structure of the houses; and in the very social fabric of the city, where Muslims from all over the world mingled, lived, and worked together. The ensemble of these elements, tangible and intangible, demonstrates the intimate and long-lasting connection between the pilgrimage and the nominated property and is an example of the very rich cultural diversity resulting from this religious event unique in the whole Islamic World.

### **Integrity**

The nominated property covers about one-third of the original walled-in city and contains the ensemble of the attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value, such as the main examples of Jeddah's Roshan tower houses, outward-oriented houses, coral masonry construction, precious woodwork decorating the facades and specific technical devices for internal ventilation, Furthermore, Historic Jeddah, the

Gate to Makkah is an urban environment boasting a strong trade-based economy intimately associated, both at the symbolic intangible level and at the architectural and urban level, with the Hajj, and a multi-cultural social framework where Muslims from all over the world live and work together. Its complete representation of the features and processes conveying its significance.

Notwithstanding the inevitable decay of the historic structures and the overall evolution of its urban surroundings, the nominated property still possesses all the necessary attributes complying with the concept of "intactness", including the commercial processes, the social relationships and the dynamic functions essential to define its distinctive character.

### **Authenticity**

Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah is a living urban environment primarily hosting residential and commercial activities, with mosques and charitable structures. The nominated property represents an authentic and traditional urban environment where the headquarters of century old economic enterprises, retail shops, traditional souks, small cafes, popular restaurants, and street food vendors are still concentrated. A surprisingly rich human environment where Yemeni, Sudanese, Somali, Pakistani and Indian migrant workers purchase and market their products to Saudi and non- Saudi clients in crowded traditional souks. Far from a frozen and dead tourist attraction, the nominated property is an authentic sector of the city that still fully conveys the image of what this Red Sea commercial and pilgrimage city used to be. Its historic houses have not been substantially altered by modern additions and in-depth transformations, and the high "Roshan tower houses" from the second half of the 19th century are mostly well preserved. Historic mosques have preserved their function and role for the community and most of their original features. Buildings have only been subject to minor maintenance that has rarely reached the original masonries and their embedded wooden beams, preserving the overall authenticity of the site.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The general strategy for the preservation and revitalization of the area has been drawn by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA) in coordination with the Jeddah Municipality and the participation of the civil society.

The daily management of the nominated property is the responsibility of the local branches of the Municipality of Jeddah and SCTA, located in the heart of old city. Their staff is in charge of supervising maintenance, cleaning, protection and presentation of the site. A parallel, traditional system, depending from the Ministry of Interiors, is responsible of the social welfare of the population and of the security arrangement in the area in coordination with Police and Civil Defense. This traditional mechanism, based on the charismatic figure of the Umdah(s), permits to reach the ensemble of the population and to involve merchants, and owners' associations in the management of the property.

The preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site is guaranteed by the new Urban Regulation approved by the Jeddah municipality that sets precise and strict obligation when nominated property and its buffer zone.

The key long-term requirement and most relevant priorities for the protection and management of the property include the reduction of the rate of decay of the historic houses, which are often abandoned and squatted by poor immigrants and the control of the speculative moves that jeopardize the ensemble of the historic city. The new Urban Regulation defines standard and official rules that can be verified and implemented on site. The involvement of merchants and owners, and punctual restoration and

revitalization projects are expected to set a new virtuous circle to tackle the most significant threats to the property reducing its vulnerability to negative development that could affect its authenticity and integrity.

4. Recommends the State Party in managing the property following inscription to:
  - a) Establish the management system proposed in the nomination file,
  - b) Ensure effective presentation of the property to provide high quality visitor experience,
  - c) Paying particular attention to the conservation of the authenticity with regard to the ongoing projects and development work,
  - d) Reinforcing the monitoring system for the building in place where they are tending to deteriorate,
  - e) Continue strong processes of local community engagement in the property;
5. Encourages the State Party to establish a detailed database of all attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and in particular details of all the tower houses, other urban houses, the wikalas, mosques and Zawiyas and of the urban form and defined urban quarters;
6. Recommends that the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS launches a programme in order to develop a comprehensive strategy for the conservation of the property based on the historic urban landscape approach;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the state of implementation of the above, including a 1-page executive summary for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Khor Dubai (Dubai Creek), United Arab Emirates**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:
  - a) Reconsider the limits of the nominated property and its buffer zone in relation to the proposed criteria and ongoing urban development plans,
  - b) Deepen the urban historic and comparative analysis in order to understand whether the property might be considered of Outstanding Universal Value,
  - c) Develop the analysis of the role of Historic Dubai as international trade centre on a natural harbour, and demonstrate the uniqueness and the preservation of the waterway feature and role,
  - d) Better explain the uniqueness of the technological elements characteristic of Historic Dubai buildings, particularly the wind-towers,
  - e) Reinforce the existing legal and regulatory protection mechanisms for the historic areas and natural elements and prove the effectiveness of the management system to control and direct urban development plans within the property;

3. Recommends the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory Mission.

## ASIA / PACIFIC

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Grand Canal, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The Grand Canal forms a vast inland waterway system in the north-eastern and central eastern plains of China, passing through eight of the country's present-day provinces. It runs from the capital Beijing in the north to Zhejiang Province in the south. Constructed in sections from the 5th century BC onwards, it was conceived as a unified means of communication for the Empire for the first time in the 7th century AD (Sui Dynasty). This led to a series of gigantic worksites, creating the world's largest and most extensive civil engineering project ensemble prior to the Industrial Revolution. Completed and maintained by successive dynasties, it formed the backbone of the Empire's inland communications system. Its management was made possible over a long period by means of the Caoyun system, the imperial monopoly for the transport of grain and strategic raw materials, and for the taxation and control of traffic. The system enabled the supply of rice to feed the population, the unified administration of the territory, and the transport of troops. The Grand Canal reached a new peak in the 13th century (Yuan Dynasty), providing a unified inland navigation network consisting of more than 2,000 km of artificial waterways, linking five of the most important river basins in China, including the Yellow River and the Yangtze. Still a major means of internal communication today, it has played an important role in ensuring the economic prosperity and stability of China over the ages.

**Criterion (i):** The Grand Canal represents the greatest masterpiece of hydraulic engineering in the history of mankind, because of its very ancient origins and its vast scale, along with its continuous development and its adaptation to circumstances down the ages. It provides tangible proof of human wisdom, determination and courage. It is an outstanding example of human creativity, demonstrating technical capabilities and a mastery of hydrology in a vast agricultural empire that stems directly from Ancient China.

**Criterion (iii):** The Grand Canal bears witness to the unique cultural tradition of canal management via the Caoyun system, its genesis, its flourishing, and its adaptations to the various dynasties and their successive capitals, and then its disappearance in the 20th century. It consisted of an imperial monopoly of the transport and storage of grain, salt and iron, and a taxation system. It contributed to the fundamental link between the peasant economy, the imperial court and the supply of food to the population and troops. It was a factor of stability for the Chinese Empire down the ages. The economic and urban development along the course of the Grand Canal bears witness to the

functioning core of a great agricultural civilisation, and to the decisive role played in this respect by the development of waterway networks.

**Criterion (iv):** The Grand Canal is the longest and oldest canal in the world. It bears witness to a remarkable and early development of hydraulic engineering. It is an essential technological achievement dating from before the Industrial Revolution. It is a benchmark in terms of dealing with difficult natural conditions, as is reflected in the many constructions that are fully adapted to the diversity and complexity of circumstances. It fully demonstrates the technical capabilities of Eastern civilisations. The Grand Canal includes important, innovative and particularly early examples of hydraulic techniques. It also bears witness to specific know-how in the construction of dykes, weirs and bridges, and to the original and sophisticated use of materials, such as stone and rammed-earth, and the use of mixed materials (such as clay and straw).

**Criterion (vi):** Text to be added

### **Integrity**

The canal sections, the remains of hydraulic facilities, and the associated complementary and urban facilities satisfactorily and comprehensibly embody the route of the Grand Canal, its hydraulic functioning in conjunction with the natural rivers and lakes, the operation of its management system and the context of its historic uses. The geographic distribution of these attributes is sufficient to indicate the dimensions, geographic distribution of the routes, and the major historic role played by the Grand Canal in the domestic history of China. Of the 85 individual elements forming the serial property, 71 are considered to be appropriately preserved and in a state of complete integrity, with 14 in a state of lesser integrity. However, the inclusion of recently excavated archaeological elements means that it is not always possible to properly judge their contribution to the overall understanding of the Grand Canal, particularly in terms of technical operation; Furthermore, a paradoxical situation arises for the property: on the one hand, the repetitive succession of long sections of canal does not seem to make a decisive contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value; on the other hand, the continuity of the course of the canal across China, and the continuity of its hydraulic systems, is not well highlighted by a discontinuous series. In conclusion, the power, complementarity and scale of testimony provided mean that the conditions of integrity of the individual sites forming the series are considered to have been met.

### **Authenticity**

All the elements of the Grand Canal presented in the serial property are of satisfactory authenticity in terms of their forms and conceptions, construction materials and location. They appropriately support and express the values of the property. The functions of use in particular are present and easily recognisable in most of the elements. As an overall organisational structure, the Grand Canal sites also express great authenticity in terms of appearance and the feelings they generate in the visitor. There are however two difficulties in the presentation of the property. The first relates to the very history of certain sections of the Grand Canal and the successive dredging, deepening and widening operations they have undergone, along with the technological alterations made to associated facilities. Some of the sections presented have clearly been recently rebuilt, either in the same bed, or alongside the earlier course. The second concerns the landscapes of certain urban or suburban sections of the canal, once again from the viewpoint of a historic canal whose elements are supposed to represent the long history of China. Despite a certain number of reservations, particularly for perceived historical authenticity and the landscape authenticity of certain sections of a heritage which is moreover living and still in use, the conditions of authenticity of the series as a whole and of the individual sites have been met.

### **Management and Protection requirements**

In 2008, the List of the six key examples of the cultural heritage of China was promulgated, and includes 18 sections and 49 elements of the Grand Canal. This recognition by the Council of State gives these sites priority in protection terms. However, the legal protection in place requires various improvements and extensions. It is necessary to systematically widen the protection of the banks to include immediately adjacent elements, by extending the buffer zones along the canal.

The state of conservation is generally good, and a determined and diversified conservation policy has been carried out, to its benefit. However, greater attention should be given to: setting archaeological findings into a more critical perspective, clarifying which historical periods are actually represented by sections of the canal, and increasing the efforts made in environmental and landscape conservation.

The management system is based on several levels of responsibility. At national level, under the auspices of the State Council, the coordination of the property's management is in the hands of the Inter-Provincial and Ministerial Consultation Group for the conservation of the Grand Canal. The group is made up of the governments of the six provinces and of the two cities with provincial status, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), the Water Distribution Office, the Ministry of Water Resources and the other ministerial departments concerned.

The Master Plan is divided into 35 sector conservation plans, all of which have been promulgated and are being applied, up to 2030. The 2013-2015 Management Plan has led to the fine tuning of protection levels, the improvement and reinforcement of conservation, the enrichment and standardisation of management measures, the precise definition and harmonisation of buffer zone protection, and the development of short-term action plans to improve knowledge of the property.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Continuing the work that has begun to revise the system of buffer zones in terms of their territorial definition, by major canal environment zone type, and enact protection measures that are fully adapted to local situations and negotiated with the municipal and regional authorities,
  - b) Completing the setting up of the Grand Canal Heritage Monitoring and Archive Centre. Better explaining the technological elements that form part of the canal, particularly the hydraulic functioning of the archaeological parts of the Grand Canal. A more critical analysis of the archaeological findings should be carried out,
  - c) Clarifying the historic periods that are actually represented by the preserved sections of the canal,
  - d) Stepping up efforts in environmental and landscape conservation, for example by defining priority cones of vision for the properties, and then protecting them from the impact of new buildings,
  - e) Strengthening the quality of the tourism development and visitor reception plans in those zones of the canal that have recently been opened up for tourism (interpretation centre, qualified guides),
  - f) Examining the possibility of a supplementary continuous buffer zone with a low level of constraint, which could both indicate the value of the functional continuity of the Grand Canal and also involve all the local residents in adhering to its values,

- g) Clarifying recent and projected funding, drawing a clearer distinction between operations and investment, and drawing a distinction between funding relating to the hydraulic conservation of the waterway, its conservation as cultural and natural heritage, and tourism development programmes,
  - h) Continuing and deepening efforts to improve water quality by incorporating them systematically in conservation and development programmes linked to the Grand Canal,
  - i) Strengthening the continuing education of the permanent or temporary staff at the various sites with regard to the overall values of the Grand Canal,
  - j) Encouraging international cooperation in order to promote the sharing of knowledge relating to canal management/conservation;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
- 2. Inscribes the **Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi)**;
- 3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Silk Roads were an interconnected web of routes linking the ancient societies of Asia, the Subcontinent, Central Asia, Western Asia and the Near East, and contributed to the development of many of the world's great civilizations. They represent one of the world's preeminent long-distance communication networks stretching as the crow flies to around 7,500 km but extending to in excess of 35,000 km along specific routes. While some of these routes had been in use for millennia, by the 2nd century BC the volume of exchange had increased substantially, as had the long distance trade between east and west in high value goods, and the political, social and cultural impacts of these movements had far-reaching consequences upon all the societies that encountered them.

The routes served principally to transfer raw materials, foodstuffs, and luxury goods. Some areas had a monopoly on certain materials or goods: notably China, who supplied Central Asia, the Subcontinent, West Asia and the Mediterranean world with silk. Many of the high value trade goods were transported over vast distances – by pack animals and river craft – and probably by a string of different merchants.

The Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor is one section or corridor of this extensive overall Silk Roads network. Extending across a distance of around 5,000 km, it encompassed a complex network of trade routes extending to some 8,700 km that developed to link Chang'an in central China with the heartland of Central Asia between the 2nd century BC and 1st century AD, when long distance trade in high value goods, particularly silk, started to expand between the Chinese and Roman Empires. It flourished between the

6th and 14th century AD and remained in use as a major trade route until the 16th century.

The extremes of geography along the routes graphically illustrate the challenges of this long distance trade. Falling to 154 metres below sea level and rising to 7,400 metres above sea level, the routes touch great rivers, alpine lakes, crusty salt flats, vast deserts, snow-capped mountains and 'fecund' prairies. The climate varies from extreme drought to semi-humid; while vegetation covers temperate forests, temperate deserts, temperate steppes, alpine steppes and oases.

Starting on the Loess plateau at Chang'an, the central capital of China in the Han and Tang Dynasties, the routes of the Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor passed westwards through the Hosi Corridor across the Qin and Qilian Mountains to the Yumen Pass of Dunhuang. From Loulan/Hami, they continued along the northern and southern flanks of the Tian-shan Mountain and then through passes to reach the Ili, Chuy and Talas valleys in the Zhetysu Region of Central Asia, linking two of the great power centres that drove the Silk Roads trade.

Thirty-three sites along the corridor include capital cities palace complexes of various empires and Khan Kingdoms, trading settlements, Buddhist cave temples, ancient paths, posthouses, passes, beacon towers, sections of the Great Wall, fortifications, tombs and religious buildings. The formal system of posthouses and beacon towers provided by the Chinese Empire facilitated trade, as did the system of forts, caravanserai and way stations operated by states in the Zhetysu region. In and around Chang'an, a succession of palaces reflect the power centre of the Chinese Empire over 1,200 years; while the cities of the Chuy valley are witness to the power centre of the Zhetysu region from the 9th to the 14th centuries and their organisation of the long distance trade.

The series of Buddhist pagodas and large, elaborate cave temples extending from Kucha (now Kuqa County) in the west to Luoyong in the east, record the eastward transmission of Buddhism from India via Karakorum, and demonstrate an evolution in the design of stupas as local ideas were absorbed. Their elaboration reflects the sponsorship of local authorities and the central Chinese imperial government as well as donations of wealthy merchants, and the influence of monks that travelled the routes, many of whose journeys were documented from 2nd century BC onwards. Other religious buildings reflect the co-existence of many religions (as well as many ethnic groups) along the corridor including Zoroastrianism, the main religion of the Sogdians of Zhetysu region, Manichaeism in the Chuy and Talas valleys and in Qocho city and Luoyong, Nestorian Christianity also in Qocho city, around Xinjiang and in Chang'an, and Islam in Burana.

The massive scale of the trading activities fostered large, prosperous and thriving towns and cities that also reflect the interface between settled and nomadic communities in a variety of ways: the mutual inter-dependence of nomads and farmers and different peoples such as between Turks and Sogdians in the Zhetysu region; the transformation of nomadic communities to settled communities in the Tian-shan mountains, resulting in highly distinctive construction and planning such as semi-underground buildings; and in the Hosi corridor the planned agricultural expansion of the 1,000 mile corridor after the 1st century BC as an agricultural garrison and its transformation to settled agricultural communities. Diverse and large scale water management systems were essential to facilitate the growth of towns, trading settlements, forts, and caravanserai and the agriculture necessary to support them, such as the extensive Karez underground water channels of the extremely arid Turpan basin, many still in use, that supplied water to Qocho city, and were supplemented by deep wells inside Yar city; the grand scale of the network of open canals and ditches along the Hosi corridor that drew river water to the



settlements, 90 km of which survive around Suoyang city; and in the Zhetsyu region, river water distribution through canals and pipes and collection in reservoirs.

As well as conduits for goods and people, the routes allowed the exceptional flow of ideas, beliefs and technological innovations such as those related to architecture and town planning that shaped the urban spaces and peoples' lives in many fundamental ways.

**Criterion (ii):** The vastness of the continental routes networks, the ultra-long duration of use, the diversity of heritage remains and their dynamic interlinks, the richness of the cultural exchange they facilitated, the varied geographical environments they connected and crossed, clearly demonstrates the extensive interaction that took place within various cultural regions, especially the nomadic steppe and settled agrarian/oasis/pastoral civilizations, on the Eurasian continent between the 2nd century BC and the 16th century AD.

These interaction and influences were profound in terms of developments in architecture and city planning, religions and beliefs, urban culture and habitation, merchandise trade and interethnic relations in all regions along the routes.

The Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor is an extraordinary example in world history of how a dynamic channel linking civilizations and cultures across the Eurasian continent, realized the broadest and most long-lasting interchange among civilizations and cultures.

**Criterion (iii):** The Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor bears an exceptional witness to traditions of communication and exchange in economy and culture, and to social development across the Eurasian continent between the 2nd century BC to the 16th century AD.

Trade had a profound influence on the settlement structure of the landscape, through the development of towns and cities that brought together nomadic and settled communities, through water management systems that underpinned those settlements, through the extensive network of forts, beacon towers, way stations and caravanserais that accommodated travellers and ensured their safety, through the sequence of Buddhist shrines and cave temples, and through manifestations of other religions such as Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, Nestorian Christianity and Islam that resulted from the cosmopolitan, multi-ethnic communities that organised and benefitted from the high value trade.

**Criterion (v):** The Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor is an outstanding example of the way high value, long-distance trade prompted the growth of sizeable towns and cities, supported by elaborate, sophisticated water management systems that harvested water from rivers, wells and underground springs for residents, travellers and the irrigation of crops.

**Criterion (vi):** The Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor is directly associated with Zhang Qian's diplomatic mission to the Western Regions, a milestone event in the history of human civilization and cultural interchange in the Eurasian Continent. It also reflects in a profound way the tangible impact of Buddhism into ancient China which had significant impact on cultures of East Asia, and the spread of Nestorian Christianity (which reached China in 500 AD), Manichaeism, Zoroastrianism and early Islam. Many of the towns and cities along the corridor also reflect in an exceptional way the impact of ideas that flowed along the routes related to harnessing water power, architecture and town planning.

## **Integrity**

The nomination sets out clearly why the nominated series as a whole should be seen to have integrity and, through a detailed analysis, how each of the individual sites can also be seen to have integrity.

The overall series adequately reflects the significant characteristics of the Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor and the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value in terms of the representation of towns and cities, smaller trading settlements, transport and defence facilities, religious sites and tombs and water management. The one area that could be strengthened is the ensemble of way stations, beacons, watch towers and caravanserais that facilitated regular trade and reflects the everyday use of the route. One watch tower has been nominated and one post house. Although these are significant, they do not fully demonstrate the extent of the formal support that was provided for trade and travellers. The numerous sites of beacon towers and forts that survive between the Hoxi corridor and the Tian-shan range need further survey and research in order to identify those that might be added to the series. Likewise formal structures in Zhetysay region also need further identification and research.

In terms of individual sites, although it is recognised that some are vulnerable in the face of pressure including urban, rural development, infrastructural development, tourism or changes in agricultural practices, for the majority of these the pressures are adequately contained. There is a need to ensure that new interventions such as screen walls at some sites built in traditional style do not confuse the archaeological record.

For some sites, in order to fully understand the relationship between urban areas and their surrounding desert landscapes, and in particular the trade routes, there is a need for further ground surveys or remote sensing of surrounding areas.

The extensive, intact water management systems, necessary for their survival, are currently outside the boundaries of some sites and in some cases outside the buffer zones. Consideration needs to be given to assessing the way these water management systems contribute to the integrity of the sites and in places minor adjustments to the boundaries need to be considered.

## **Authenticity**

The overall series includes adequate sites to fully convey the particular strengths and characteristics of this Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor. The authenticity of individual sites is mostly satisfactory.

If the full value of these sites is to be clearly conveyed, then more surveys, research and explanation are needed to show how the sites relate to the routes to which they are linked and, in the case of settlements, to show how they survived in desert areas through the use of sophisticated water management techniques.

In the Zhetysay region, all the eleven archaeological sites are backfilled and covered for protection and to control deterioration, which in the current absence of adequate means to stabilise exposed bricks is essential. Fully understanding the significance of the remains is difficult. There is a need to explore innovative ways of highlighting the scope and range of urban functions.

There is also a need for more archaeological and academic research to clarify the functions particularly of urban sites and to link them more clearly through interpretation to the ancient routes to which they were associated.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

An Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the overall Silk Roads was formed in 2009. This is a steering committee composed of representatives of all States Parties involved in the nominations of all Silk Roads corridors. The ICOMOS International Conservation Centre – Xi'an (IICC-X) is the Secretariat for Committee. The Committee oversees the development of trans-national serial nominations of corridors identified in the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study. In terms of management, this Committee aims to implement a coordinated management system based on mutual agreement and to provide guidelines on conservation principles, methods, and management.

For the Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor, the formal agreement between all the participating States Parties in the Committee has been augmented with a specific agreement between the three States Parties, in particular for the coordinated management of the sites in the corridor. A first agreement between the three States Parties was signed in May 2012 and a further detailed agreement was signed in February 2014. These agreements set out the management mechanisms, and identify principles and rules of conservation management. They also set out suggestions for exchange and collaboration on conservation, interpretation, presentation and publicity. The Steering Committee for the corridor consists of Vice Ministers. There is also a Working Group consisting of two experts and one government official from each State Party, and a Secretariat - the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre in Xi'an (IICC-X). Regular meetings are held between the three States Parties. Collaboration is supported by the development of an on-line platform at the IICC-X. This is in three languages, English, Russian and Chinese. It collects and promotes information on the conservation initiatives along the Silk Roads.

This international collaboration needs to be supported by national collaboration, particularly in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, if the many fragile archaeological sites are to share information on the most advanced techniques and conservation measures that are appropriate and beneficial for the sites. Within China, this management structure is well developed and appears effective. Within Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan this collaboration needs to be reinforced.

Management Plans are in place for all the individual sites in China. For Kazakhstan a timetable for developing detailed management plans that would provide strategies for conservation and visitor management, including interpretation, for all sites had been approved and the work will be undertaken between 2014 and 2016. It is essential that these plans go beyond archaeological excavation to encompass on-going management, site surveillance, conservation, environment protection and tourism management. In Kyrgyzstan, all three sites have management plans for 2011 – 2015 that include proposals for improving the conservation of the sites, visitor facilities, and monitoring.

Although the need for tourism plans is acknowledged in each of the three countries, and these have been put in place in China and are being implemented, and a plan has been approved for the Chuy Valley, there is an urgent need to tourism plans to be put in place for the remaining sites and implemented to ensure they are well prepared for an increase in visitors, who do not become the agents of their destruction.

As the majority of the thirty-three nominated sites are archaeological sites, there is also need for good information that allows understanding of their layout, function and history, why they are of significance and particularly their relationship to the Silk Roads routes, to water and its management which was so crucial for survival, to trade and to each other. Many are associated with remarkable finds but these are often in museums some distance from the sites. And these museums do not always provide specific information about the Silk Roads and how they relate to the sites. Given the scale and scope of the

Chang'an – Tian-shan corridor and the remoteness of some sites, there is a need for innovative techniques to provide the necessary information and interpretation.

The magnitude of this Silk Roads corridor, the number of sites, the comparative fragility of many of them and the enormous distances between them, makes monitoring a formidable task. Nevertheless monitoring (combined with adequate physical protection) is a crucial tool. In China all sites have up to date monitoring equipment. How this data is analysed and used will be crucial and more capacity building for these tasks would seem to be required. In the more remote sites in Kazakhstan, regular monitoring by trained staff is unlikely to be totally adequate (or in places technically feasible) and needs to be augmented by other means. In this context, the involvement of local communities needs to be encouraged.

It is also recommended that the latest approaches to remote sensing and video links are explored that might be used to support staff on the ground in both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:
  - a) Undertaking further studies of sites that reflect the many planned way stations and watch towers and consider how they might be added to the series in the future,
  - b) Considering extending boundaries of sites to include the sophisticated arrangements for water management that underpinned many of the settlements and their agriculture along the Silk Roads,
  - c) Implementing the timetables for developing detailed management plans that would provide strategies for conservation and visitor management, including interpretation,
  - d) Suggesting how international resources might contribute to the technical monitoring of remote sites;
5. Requests the States Parties to submit, by **1 December 2015**, a report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in the implementation of the above mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
6. Encourages the States Parties to call upon ICOMOS to provide further detailed advice on these recommendations or in relation to conservation and management of specific sites.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat, India, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

Rani-ki-Vav is an exceptional example of a distinctive form of subterranean water architecture of the Indian subcontinent, the stepwell, which is located on the banks of the Saraswati River in Patan. Initially built as a memorial in the 11th century CE, the stepwell was constructed as a religious as well as functional structure and designed as an inverted temple highlighting the sanctity of water. Rani-ki-Vav is a single-component, water management system divided into seven levels of stairs and sculptural panels of high artistic and aesthetic quality. It is oriented in an east-west direction and combines all of the principle components of a stepwell, including a stepped corridor beginning at ground level, a series of four pavilions with an increasing amount of storeys towards the west, the tank, and the well in tunnel shaft form. More than five hundred principle sculptures and over a thousand minor ones combine religious, mythological and secular imagery, often referencing literary works.

Rani-ki-Vav impresses not only with its architectural structure and technological achievements in water sourcing and structural stability, but also in particular with its sculptural decoration, of true artistic mastery. The figurative motifs and sculptures, and the proportion of filled and empty spaces, provide the stepwell's interior with its unique aesthetic character. The setting enhances these attributes in the way in which the well descends suddenly from a plain plateau, which strengthens the perception of this space.

**Criterion (i):** Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat, illustrates an example of the artistic and technological height of stepwell tradition. It has been decorated with religious, mythological and at times secular sculptures and reliefs, illustrating a true mastery of craftsmanship and figurative expression. The stepwell represents an architectural monument of human creative genius in its variety of motifs and its elegance of proportions, which frame an intriguing space, both functional and aesthetic.

**Criterion (iv):** Rani-ki-Vav is an outstanding example of a subterranean stepwell construction and represents a prime example of an architectural type of water resource and storage system which is widely distributed across the Indian subcontinent. It illustrates the technological, architectural and artistic mastery achieved at a stage of human development when water was predominantly resourced from ground water streams and reservoirs through access of communal wells. In the case of Rani-ki-Vav, the functional aspects of this architectural typology were combined with a temple-like structure celebrating the sanctity of water as a venerated natural element and the depiction of highest-quality Brahmanic deities.

### **Integrity**

Rani-ki-Vav is preserved with all its key architectural components and, despite missing pavilion storeys, its original form and design can still be easily recognized. A majority of sculptures and decorative panels remain in-situ and some of these in an exceptional state of conservation. Rani-ki-Vav is a very complete example of the stepwell tradition, even though it ceases to function as a source of water since the "disappearance" of River Saraswati through a geo-tectonic movement. It was however the silting of the flood caused during this historic event, which allowed for the exceptional preservation of Rani-ki-Vav for over seven centuries.

All components including the immediate surrounding soils which adjoin the vertical architecture of the stepwell are included in the property. In terms of intactness, the property does not seem to have experienced major losses since its flooding and silting in the 13th century. However, Patan like many Indian urban centres is experiencing rapid urban growth and the western expansion of the city towards Rani-ki-Vav has to be carefully controlled to protect the integrity of the property in the future.

### **Authenticity**

Rani-ki-Vav has a high level of authenticity in material, substance, design, workmanship and, to a certain extent, atmosphere, location and setting. While it maintained its authentic material and substance, it also required some reconstructions for structural stability. In all instances reconstructed elements were only added where structurally required to protect remaining sculpture, and they are indicated by smooth surfaces and a lack of decoration which can be easily distinguished from the historic elements. Around the outer terrace at ground level, slopes of smooth descent, a so-called sacrificial terrace, were created to prevent soil erosion following stronger rain falls. Unfortunately the Rani-ki-Vav cannot retain authenticity in use and function as a result of the altered ground water levels following the relocation of Saraswati River.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The property is protected as a national monument by the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Act of 1958 amended by its revision of 2010 and accordingly administrated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It is formally designated as an ancient monument of national importance and surrounded by a protective non-development zone of 100m to all sides of the architectural structure. The buffer zone has been included in the adopted Second Revised Development Plan, which ensures its protection from any inappropriate development.

The management of the property is under the sole responsibility of the ASI and steered by a Superintending Archaeologist with an in-house team of ASI archaeologists working and monitoring on site. Any proposed interventions require scientific review by the superintending archaeologist who may be advised by experts in a specific field. A management plan has been prepared by the ASI for the property and its implementation commenced in 2013.

The approaches taken to risk preparedness and disaster management planning should be further developed given that Rani-ki-Vav is situated in an earthquake prone area. Few interpretation facilities exist on site and the only information sources are two stone panels erected by the ASI. The Rani-ki-Vav would benefit from a more holistic concept to visitor management including local community concerns and revenue models. An information centre with food court and office building is planned on site but its location needs to be selected with care as some directions, in particular the western direction are more vulnerable with regard to developments which may change the view perspectives and settings of the property. For any future intervention in the property or buffer zone, Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the ICOMOS guidance for Heritage Impact Assessment on World Cultural Heritage properties should be carried out before any plans are approved and implemented.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Developing an adequate risk preparedness plan, including consideration for specific stabilization methods on site which may prevent major damage in case of seismic activity,
  - b) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to provide measurable benchmarks for the interpretation of data collected,
  - c) Combining the data sets of different surveys and studies now compiled in different lists and inventories into one single database, which links the inventory records to the photographic and cartographic documentation of sculptures,

- d) Conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for World Cultural Heritage properties once concrete plans for the visitor centre have been prepared,
- e) Strengthening approaches to visitor management including through community involvement and revenue generation models wherever possible.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Shahr-i Sokhta, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief Synthesis**

Located at the junction of Bronze Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau, the remains of the mud brick city of Shahr-i Sokhta represent the emergence of the first complex societies in eastern Iran. Founded around 3200 BCE, the city was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BCE, during which time there developed several distinct areas within the city. These include a monumental area, residential areas, industrial zones and a graveyard.

Changes in water courses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds and large number of significant artefacts unearthed there and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BCE.

**Criterion (ii):** Shahr-i Sokhta exhibits a transition from village habitation to an urbanized community with significant cultural, social and economic achievements and developments from the late Calcolithic to the early Bronze Age. It served as a link between the civilizations of the Indus Valley and Mesopotamia.

**Criterion (iii):** Shahr-i Sokhta bears exceptional testimony to a civilization and cultural tradition that linked trade and cultural relations with ancient sites and cultures on the Indus Plain, southern shores of the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea and South-west Iran, Mesopotamia and Central Asia. Archaeological remains and finds indicate the key role of the city on a very large scale in terms of working with metals, stone vessels, gems and pottery.

**Criterion (iv):** The ancient site of Shahr-i Sokhta is an outstanding example of a multi-cultural settlement during the 3rd Millennium BCE. The excavations show that the city was separated into various parts according to different functions-residential, industrial and burial; it therefore represents an important stage in urban planning and as such serves as a prototype in the region.

**Integrity**

All elements necessary to express the property's values are included within the nominated area, which is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of features and processes which convey the property's significance. The property does not suffer from development or neglect.

## **Authenticity**

In general the surrounding desert landscape and extraordinary scatter of archaeological material present on the surface of the low hill of Shahr-i Sokhta give a strong sense of authenticity, as does the sight of the complex architecture of the various parts so far excavated. The labyrinthine succession of rooms, corridors and courtyards give a genuine impression of these ancient buildings.

## **Protection and Management requirements**

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The property boundary encloses the known area of the extent of the archaeological remains of the city and is morphologically well-defined by the lower limit of the slope of the low hill on which the site is located. It is marked by stakes at the co-ordination points indicated on the plan provided in the nomination dossier. The buffer zone is marked in the same way. It surrounds the property concentrically at a distance of 1.5 – 2 km. Its boundary connects high points that define the basin in which the property is located and is essentially a desert area.

The buffer zone includes the single storey research base for the site, the emergency and fire station and water pumping station. The highway and adjacent power line pass through the buffer zone from north-east to southwest, not far outside the eastern boundary of the property. Surrounding the buffer zone concentrically at a distance of around 4–5km is a landscape zone which includes a police station; research missions' store of artifacts; two brick kiln sites; the Hauzdar basin; Machi castle, Asbad windmills and the village of Qal'a-e Rostam. The Hamoun Lake and the castle Qal'a-e Rostam are located outside the landscape zone.

The property is in State ownership. The property is protected by the Law for Protection of National Heritage (1930). The Law covers identification, criteria and legal protection for properties on the National Heritage List and legal provisions for archaeological excavations. Shahr-i Sokhta was registered in the list of national cultural properties of Iran as no. 542 in 1966. The bylaw Concerning Prevention of Unauthorised Excavation (1980) stipulates penalties for excavation and/or purchase of excavated historic objects and further regulation limits production, purchase, use or advertisement of metal detectors. The property is also subject to the Regulations of Cultural and Historical Properties covering all works, research and data organisation.

In the buffer zone use of heavy machinery and environmental pollutants that may harm the buffer zone is prohibited, as are installation of pollutant facilities and alteration of the topography of hills and mountains; plans for infrastructure and tourism are subject to approval by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism organisation (ICHHTO). The landscape zone is also regulated to prevent any large scale industrial projects that may harm the environment or “deeply” affect historical, cultural and natural structures of the region. All ancient mounds within the landscape zone are subject to the same regulations as those for the nominated property. It is intended that an archaeological map of the landscape zone will be completed by the Shahr-i Sokhta Base of ICHHTO as soon as possible.

The archaeological excavations and finds have been documented by the Italian Institute for Oriental Studies (IsMEO) and the Iranian Centre for Archaeological Research. Records, inventory and finds are stored and analysed at the ICHHTO multi-disciplinary Base at Shahr-i Sokhta. The Base comprises a library, archives, a museum, a laboratory, an anthropological and pathological studies centre; botany, zoology and restoration workshops; audiovisual facilities and visitors' centre. Recent research



includes Magnetometer surveys in 2012 to investigate areas around existing excavations for further remains.

The excavated remains are cleaned regularly during the year and Kahgel plaster is applied to conserve exposed walls. In some parts, the Kahgel plaster is used over jute matting. This is periodically replaced every two or three years when decayed.

Management structures and processes, including traditional management processes  
The property is managed by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO) on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran from ICHHTO's Base at the property, located in the buffer zone.

The Base is advised by a steering committee comprising regional officials and experts and a technical committee comprising regional officials and experts and is divided into six sections: Technical (4 staff), Research (3 staff), Presentation, Training and Monitoring (5 staff), Financial, Legal and Security. The Higher Education Centre of ICHHTO and national universities, especially Zabol University, provide sources of expertise and training in conservation and management. The Research Organisation of Cultural Heritage and Tourism is responsible for multi-disciplinary research and training. Students from local and national universities undertake internships at Shahr-i Sokhta. Funding is provided from national and provincial annual budgets.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

It is the intention of the Iranian authorities to open the country to more international tourism, incorporating cultural heritage sites such as Shahr-i Sokhta. As part of this overall policy, the provincial government has plans to relocate the road and power line out of the buffer zone. An outline management plan is provided in the nomination dossier together with an outline action plan covering short, medium and long term activities relating to research, conservation, visitor management and presentation.

Signage and a designated tourist path are provided at the site, together with visitor information (brochures and site map) at the ICHHTO Base. A guide book is also available.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Paying sustained attention to installation of speed-control systems on the Zahedan-Zabol road on the section it passes the buffer zone of Shahr-i Sokhta,
  - b) Conducting adequate archaeological studies of the property and its buffer zone prior to the implementation of the proposals by the provincial government on re-locating the high-voltage power transmission line and re-directing the Zahedan-Zabol main road both to a place out of the buffer zone,
  - c) Linking the data base of the property with a geographic information system (GIS),
  - d) Promoting risk preparedness management on the property, so that the already existing fire station, police station, and emergency services can function more effectively inside the property,
  - e) Enforcing the publication of an archaeological map of the landscape zone of Shahr-i Sokhta, intended by the ICHHTO Base of the property, as soon as possible;
  - f) Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the progress made in implementing a comprehensive Management Plan for the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **Decision: 38 COM 8B.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Tomioka Silk Mill and Related Sites, Japan** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

The Tomioka Silk Mill dates from the early Meiji period. With its related sites including two sericulture schools and an egg storage site, it illustrates the desire of Japan, a traditional silk producer, to rapidly access the best mass production techniques. The Japanese government imported French machinery and industrial expertise to create an integrated system in Gunma Prefecture. It included egg production, silkworm farming and the construction of a large mechanised raw silk reeling plant. In turn, the Tomioka model complex and its related sites became a decisive component in the renewal of sericulture and the Japanese silk industry, in the last quarter of the 19th century, and a key element in Japan's entry into the modern industrialised world.

**Criterion (ii):** The Tomioka mill illustrates the early and entirely successful transfer of French industrial sericultural techniques to Japan. This technological transfer took place in the context of a long regional tradition of silkworm farming and silk reeling, which it profoundly renewed. In turn, Tomioka became a centre for technical improvements and a model that enshrined Japan's role in the global raw silk market at the beginning of the 20th century, and which bears witness to the early advent of a shared international culture of sericulture.

**Criterion (iv):** Tomioka and its related sites form an outstanding example of an integrated ensemble for the mass production of raw silk. The extent of the plant, from its initial design, and the deliberate adoption of the best Western techniques illustrate a decisive period for the spread of industrial methods to Japan and the Far East. Its large, late 19th century buildings provide an eminent example of the emergence of a style of industrial architecture specific to Japan, combining foreign and local elements.

### **Integrity**

The integrity of the serial property's composition is good, illustrating the idea of a productive complex for an intermediate textile product: raw silk. The structural and functional integrity of each of the components is more uneven and at times difficult for the visitor to understand, notably the Takayama-sha sericulture school and Arafune cold storage. The landscape integrity, as it relates to the buffer zones, requires particular attention.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the components presented is generally satisfactory in terms of its various dimensions of structure, form and materials. The perceived authenticity is remarkable at the Tomioka mill, which has retained its complete textile machinery. The restoration activities at the Arafune site must remain within a strictly controlled framework in terms of its authenticity, which must remain archaeological in nature.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

Each of the four sites comprising the serial property is protected by Japan's Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The main buildings are also protected as cultural properties of national importance. Under the application of this law, each of the sites is covered by a conservation and management plan already in place under the aegis of the cities and municipalities, including in the case of the privately owned Tajima Yahei (S2). Continuing this protection policy, the buffer zones correspond with a desire to control the urban and natural environments using measures that are, in theory, stringent. The management system relies on the competent services of the municipalities, the Agency for Cultural Affairs of the Gunma Prefecture and a series of scientific institutions involved in the regional silk heritage, and volunteer associations. The Coordination Committee, established in spring 2012, is an overarching body responsible for coordinating the actual operation.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Continuing to pay close attention to economic and urban development in the vicinity of the sites by strictly applying the planned protection measures for the buffer zones, and even consider strengthening them,
  - b) Giving deeper consideration to the archaeological nature of the Arafune site and the advantages and disadvantages of a protective roof,
  - c) Strengthening the cooperation between the local structures and the Central Coordination Committee in order to harmonise the various provisions in the management plans for each of the sites and to arrive at a unified Management Plan,
  - d) Undertaking research on the transmission of expertise by women, from France and within Japan itself, thanks to their roles as instructors and workers; and improve knowledge about the latter's working and social conditions.

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Pyu Ancient Cities, Myanmar**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief Synthesis**

The Pyu Ancient Cities provide the earliest testimony of the introduction of Buddhism into Southeast Asia almost two thousand years ago and the attendant economic, socio-political and cultural transformations which resulted in the rise of the first, largest, and longest-lived urbanized settlements of the region up until the 9th century. The Pyu showed a striking capacity to assimilate the Indic influences and swiftly move into a significant degree of re-invention. They created a special form of urbanization, the city of extended urban format, which subsequently influenced urbanization in most of mainland Southeast Asia. These earliest Buddhist city-states played a seminal role in the process of transmitting the literary, architectural and ritual traditions of Pali-based Buddhism to other societies in the sub-region where they continue to be practiced up to the present.

Halin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra together as a Serial Property jointly testify to the several aspects of the development of this new model of urban settlement for the Southeast Asian region. Together the three cities provide evidence for the entire sequence and range of Pyu urban transformation from ca. 2nd century BCE to the 9th century CE: Pyu script, Buddhist monastic communities, distinctive mortuary practice, skillful water management and long distant trade. At all three city sites, the irrigated landscape of the Pyu era is still impacting on the rural livelihoods of the modern population of all three Pyu ancient cities.

**Criterion (ii):** Due to interaction between indigenous Pyu societies with Indic cultures from the 2nd century BCE, Buddhism achieved its first permanent foothold in Southeast Asia among the Pyu cities, where it was embraced by all classes of society from the ruling elite to agrarian labourers. Marked by imposing memorial stupas and other sophisticated forms of brick ritual structures, the Pyu Ancient Cities provide the earliest evidence of the emergence of these innovative architectural forms in the region, some of which have no known prototypes. The development of Pyu Buddhist urban culture had widespread and enduring impact throughout Southeast Asia, providing stimulus for later state formation after the 5th century CE following the onward transmission of Buddhist teaching and monastic practice into other parts of mainland Southeast Asia.

**Criterion (iii):** The Pyu Ancient Cities marked the emergence of the first historically-documented Buddhist urban civilization in Southeast Asia. The establishment of literate Buddhist monastic communities arose in tandem with the re-organization of agricultural production, based on expert management of seasonally-scarce water resources and the specialized production of manufactured goods in terracotta, iron, gold, silver and semi-precious stones both for veneration and for trade. Buddhism underpinned the construction of religious monuments in brick through royal and common patronage, marking the shift to permanent materials from earlier timber building techniques. The Pyu developed unique mortuary practices using burial urns to store cremated remains in funerary structures. Trading networks linked the Pyu ancient cities with commercial centres in Southeast Asia, China and India. Through this network Buddhist missionaries carried their Pali-based teaching into other areas of mainland Southeast Asia.

**Criterion (iv):** Technological innovations in resource management, agriculture and manufacturing of brick and iron at the Pyu Ancient Cities created the preconditions leading to significant advances in urban planning and building construction. These innovations resulted in the rise of the three earliest, largest, and most long-lived Buddhist urban settlements in all of Southeast Asia. The Pyu cities' urban morphology set a new template of extended urban format characterized by massive gated walls surrounded by moats; a network of roads and canals linking urban space within the walls with extensive areas of extramural development; containing civic amenities, monumental religious structures defined by towering stupas and sacred water bodies. At or near the center of each Pyu city was the palace marking the cosmic hub of the political and social universe.

### **Integrity**

The Pyu Ancient Cities are archaeologically intact, as seen in the standing monuments, the in-situ structural remains, the undisturbed unexcavated remains and the still functioning agrarian terrain. The urban footprint of each city, demarcated by the well-preserved moated city walls, remains highly legible two millennia after their initial construction. The property contains all the key attributes of ancient Pyu civilization, as delineated by the three criteria of outstanding universal value under which the property is inscribed. The completeness and reliability of dated archaeological sequences from

the site, with the radiocarbon dates derived from intact architectural features dating back to 190 BCE, provide scientific proof of the entire one-thousand year period of occupation of the cities, and reinforces palaeographic dates provided by inscriptions in Pyu script on artifacts excavated at the site. The landscape engineering of the three cities also remains intact with the manmade structures such as canals and water tanks remaining in continuing use for on-going agricultural process. As a serial property, the three cities together provide evidence – in the form of in-situ monumental and archaeological features and excavated artifacts – of the complete development trajectory of Pyu culture.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the Pyu Ancient Cities is to be found in the architectural form and design of unaltered and still-standing monumental structures and urban precincts; a continuous tradition of the use and function of property's sites of Buddhist veneration; enduring traditions and techniques of agricultural and production management systems, the origins of which are visible in the historic landscape and which continue to be practiced among the local community; the original location and setting of the cities as verified by archaeological research and which remains largely unchanged since the end of historic urbanized settlement 1,000years ago; the materials and substance of the excavated artifacts from the sites, sourced locally and manufactured On-site, and the spirit and feeling of the three ancient cities which throughout the history of Myanmar and until the present day continues to inspire pilgrimage.

### **Protection and management requirements**

Formal measures for the legal protection and administrative management of the Pyu Ancient Cities have been institutionalized at central government, regional, district, and township levels. The Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library (DANML) of the Ministry of Culture has the primary responsibility for all aspects of protection and management of the three Pyu Ancient Cities. The site is gazetted as protected areas under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904) of British India. The Pyu Ancient Cities are further protected by the Antiquities Act 1957 (Amended 1962), the Law on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage Regions 1998 (Amended 2009) and the Rules and Regulations of the Cultural Heritage Region Law 2011.

To ensure coordinated implementation of the provisions of the applicable laws at national and local levels, a number of mechanisms have been established. At the national level, there is the Central Committee for Myanmar National Heritage and the Myanmar National Committee for World Heritage. At the site level, to ensure the coordinated protection and management of the three ancient city sites, as well as to integrate the property's conservation into local development planning, a Pyu Ancient Cities Coordinating Committee (PYUCOM) has been established. The PYUCOM is central to the property management framework and is a key element of the Property Management Plan helping to ensure that local traditional systems are acknowledged and incorporated into the day-to-day management. At each of the sites, PYUCOM convenes local consultative groups that bring together the concerns of multiple stakeholders: regional authorities, local government, village representatives and the sangha (monk body).

A Property Management Plan, endorsed by the PYUCOM, was approved by the Ministry of Culture on 18 January 2013. Time-bound action plans provide the framework for the implementation of the provisions of the Property Management Plan.

The Property Management Plan can be strengthened in some areas such as risk preparedness, visitor management, capacity building for conservation, site interpretation, local community development and regulation of urban use and development. The excavated and exposed archaeological remains, in particular the burial sites and hydrological landscape features, require continued and, in some cases, enhanced conservation.

4. Notes that the State Party has provided documentation to clarify the scope and extent of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the three cities in relation to:
  - a) The urban planning and the overall relationship of the various elements of the cities' urban morphology revealed through archaeological excavation,
  - b) Details of the Pyu hydraulic system, what survives, what is still in use, and what needs conserving and how the best preserved parts are included within the property boundaries,
  - c) Sites of industrial production,
  - d) Locations and details of monasteries,
  - e) Locations of villages in the sites and buffer zones and details of those within the boundaries;
5. Also notes that the State Party has provided a deeper justification for the inclusion of all three cities in terms of how they each contribute to the overall series;
6. Further notes that the State Party has provided, in additional information, maps of the nominated sites (to a larger scale than those already provided in the dossier) that set out the attributes of the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property and their relationship to each other;
7. Notes furthermore that the State Party has an endorsed Property Management Plan to be complemented through the ongoing development of a risk preparedness strategy, a tourism management strategy/plan to prepare for an increase in visitors, and the addition of key priorities and an action plan that addresses ways to improve the living standards of local villages, and to manage an increased numbers of pilgrims;
8. Recommends the State Party to develop and implement as soon as possible a conservation plan for the burial sites, allied to capacity-building in the conservation of these particularly fragile and vulnerable sites;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Namhansanseong, Republic of Korea**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

Namhansanseong was designed as an emergency capital for the Joseon dynasty (1392-1910), in a mountainous site 25 km south-east of Seoul. Its earliest remains date from the 7th century, but it was rebuilt several times, notably in anticipation of an attack by the Sino-Manchu Qing dynasty, in the early 17th century. Built and defended by Buddhist soldier-monks, it embodies a synthesis of the defensive military engineering concepts of the period, drawing on Chinese and Japanese influences, and changes in the art of fortification following the introduction of firearms from the West. A permanently inhabited city that was the provincial capital over a long period, it includes inside its fortified walls evidence of various types of military, civil and religious buildings. It has become a symbol of Korean sovereignty.

**Criterion (ii):** The system of fortifications of Namhansanseong embodies a synthesis of the art of defence in the Far East in the early 17th century. It stems from a re-examination of Chinese and Korean standards of urban fortification, and from fears aroused by new firearms from the West. Namhansanseong marks a turning point in mountain fortress design in Korea, and it went on to influence in its turn the construction of fortresses in the region.

**Criterion (iv):** Namhansanseong is an outstanding example of a fortified city. Designed in the 17th century as an emergency capital for the Joseon dynasty, it was built and then defended by Buddhist soldier-monks who respected pre-existing traditions already in place.

### **Integrity**

The importance, diversity and extent of the property justify the integrity of its composition. It possesses a sufficient number of attributes, with clearly identified historic roles, for an understanding of its structure and of how it functioned in the past. Knowledge of the property and its history is satisfactory, particularly with regard to the various influences that guided the concepts of defensive military engineering of Namhansanseong. However, the present-day activities, of a folkloric and neo-shamanistic character, or those of a sovereignist nature, do not contribute either to the integrity of the property or to its Outstanding Universal Value.

### **Authenticity**

The restorations/reconstructions of the material elements of the property, notably the fortifications, have followed detailed scientific guidelines on forms, structures and materials. This activity has taken place over a long period of time and is being renewed. It is based on extensive documentation of the works throughout the history of the property. The conservation of the authenticity of the property, notably the temples and buildings made mainly of wood, follows a clearly identified and scientifically defined tradition of authenticity. However, the systematic aspect of this restoration policy seems to be excessive, and can lead to ex nihilo reconstructions of long-disappeared buildings, notably the royal palace, which was razed to the ground during the colonial period (late 19th century).

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The whole of the territory containing the fortifications and monuments of Namhansanseong is designated as a national historic site, under the terms of the Cultural Heritage Protection Act. 218 tangible and intangible cultural elements are today individually listed, and have been granted specific protection status (national, provincial or local). The technical and tourism management of the cultural ensemble is the responsibility of Namhansanseong Culture and Tourism Initiatives (NCTI) The property itself and the buffer zone have provincial park status (NPPO), and the NPPO is in charge of the management of plantations, green spaces and infrastructures (trails, parking areas,

etc.). The national Cultural Heritage Administration, the regional bodies and the municipalities concerned with the property and its buffer zone are closely involved in protection, conservation and tourism management. A large number of associations of volunteer citizens participate in the management and enhancement of the property. The Management Plan includes many sector plans, notably for the conservation of the property.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Paying sustained attention to the control of the development of tourism - in all its private and public forms - inside the property, and in the central urban part of the buffer zone, in order to protect the visual expression of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as a whole,
  - b) Paying attention to the urban development of the Gwangju City zone in the proximity of the outer buffer zone,
  - c) Focusing efforts on sharing the values of the property more effectively with the inhabitants of Namhansanseong, involving them in the management of the property, and encouraging them to participate in NCTI which coordinates the property's management;
  - d) Taking great care with fire safety, very susceptible during the dry season, and if necessary reinforcing fire safety protection,
  - e) Strengthening the role of the common overarching organisation NCTI in coordinating the various partners involved in the management and monitoring of the property.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Silk Roads: Penjikent-Samarkand-Poykent Corridor, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan**, back to the States Parties, in order to allow them, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
  - a) Augment the internal comparative analysis to broaden the selection of sites considered in relation to the re-appraised Outstanding Universal Value,
  - b) Provide more detailed information on each of the nominated sites in order to allow a fuller understanding of their structures and the way they have developed over time;
  - c) Also provide more detailed and accurate maps that show the precise location of the boundaries of the sites in relation to the topography;
  - d) Reconsider the boundaries of Penjikent and Poykent to allow the sites to include all the key archaeological areas, and extend the buffer zones in order that they provide adequate protection for the context and setting of the sites;
  - e) Develop conservation plans for the consolidation and/or back filling of the highly damaged and vulnerable excavated areas of Penjikent and Poykent and seek means and resources for the implementation of these plans;



- f) Provide clarity as to how the already inscribed properties of Samarkand and Bukhara contribute to the value of the series, and whether Bukhara should be included in the title;
  - g) Strengthen the management arrangements to allow coordination between the component parts in the series on a national basis.
3. Recommends the States Parties, if necessary, to invite an ICOMOS Advisory Mission in the framework of the Upstream Processes to advise on the implementation of the above recommendations;
  4. Invites the international community to consider support for projects to conserve and consolidate the excavated areas in Penjikent and Poykent that are currently threatened by severe erosion.

## EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.31

The nomination of the **Sites of Great Moravia: The Slavonic Fortified Settlement at Mikulčice and the Church of St Margaret of Antioch at Kopčany, Czech Republic, Slovakia**, was withdrawn at the request of the States Parties.

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Noting that the State Party agreed to a revised name of property;
3. Inscribes the **Decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc, Ardèche France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i) and (iii)**;
4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc is located in a limestone plateau of the meandering Ardèche River in southern France, and extends to an area of approximately 8,500 square meters. It contains the earliest known pictorial drawings, carbon-dated to as early as the Aurignacian period (30,000 to 32,000 BP). The cave was closed off by a rock fall approximately 20,000 years BP and remained sealed until its rediscovery in 1994. It contains more than 1,000 drawings, predominantly of animals, including several dangerous species, as well as a large number of archaeological and Palaeolithic vestiges.

The cave contains the best-preserved expressions of artistic creation of the Aurignacian people, constituting an exceptional testimony of prehistoric cave art. In addition to the anthropomorphic depictions, the zoomorphic drawings illustrate an unusual selection of animals, which were difficult to observe or approach at the time. Some of these are

uniquely illustrated in Grotte Chauvet. As a result of the extremely stable interior climate over millennia, as well as the absence of natural damaging processes, the drawings and paintings have been preserved in a pristine state of conservation and in exceptional completeness.

**Criterion (i):** The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc contains the first known expressions of human artistic genius and more than 1,000 drawings of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic motifs of exceptional aesthetic quality have been inventoried. These form a remarkable expression of early human artistic creation of grand excellence and variety, both in motifs and in techniques. The artistic quality is underlined by the skilful use of colours, combinations of paint and engravings, the precision in anatomical representation and the ability to give an impression of volumes and movements.

**Criterion (iii):** The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc bears a unique and exceptionally well-preserved testimony to the cultural and artistic tradition of the Aurignacian people and to the early development of creative human activity in general. The cave's seclusion for more than 20 millennia has transmitted an unparalleled testimony of early Aurignacian art, free of post-Aurignacian human intervention or disturbances. The archaeological and paleontological evidence in the cave illustrates like no other cave of the Early Upper Palaeolithic period, the frequentation of caves for cultural and ritual practices.

### **Integrity**

The nominated property comprises the entire subterranean space of the cave of approximately 8,500 square meters and all structurally relevant parts of the limestone plateau above the cave as well as its entrance situation and immediate surroundings. These spaces contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and the property is of adequate size. Strict preventive conservation policies including access restrictions have allowed for the maintenance of an almost identical situation to the time of discovery. These access restrictions and the continuous monitoring of the climatic conditions will be key factors for the preservation of integrity of the property and for averting potential dangers of human impact.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the property can be demonstrated by its pristine condition and state of conservation, having been sealed off for 23,000 years and carefully treated and access-restricted since its rediscovery. The dating of the finds and drawings has been confirmed by C14 analysis as between 32,000 and 30,000 years BP, and the materials, designs, drawing techniques and traces of workmanship date back to this time. The rock art as well as the archaeological and paleontological vestiges are free of human impact or alterations. The only modification is the installation of completely-reversible, stainless steel bridging elements to allow for access to parts of the cave whilst preventing disturbance of floor traces or finds.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The decorated cave of Pont d'Arc, known as Grotte Chauvet-Pont d'Arc is protected at the highest national level as a historic monument. Likewise, the buffer zone benefits from the highest level of national protection since early 2013. The buffer zone accordingly will not permit future development.

The focus of management is the implementation of a preventive conservation strategy based on constant monitoring and non-intervention. Several monitoring systems have been installed in the cave which form an integral part of these preventive conservation efforts. Any changes in relative humidity and/or the air composition inside the cave may

have severe effects on the condition of the drawings and paintings. It is due to this risk that the cave will not be open to the general public, but also that future visits of experts, researchers and conservators will need to be restricted to the absolute minimum necessary. Despite the delicateness of paintings and drawings, no conservation activities have been carried out in the cave and it is intended to retain all paintings and drawings in the fragile but pristine condition in which they were discovered.

The management authorities have implemented a management plan (2012-16), based on strategic objectives, activity fields and concrete actions, which are planned with time frames, institutional responsibilities, budget requirements and quality assurance indicators. The latter will allow for full quality assurance after the cycle of implementation in 2016, following which the management plan will have to be revised for future management processes.

After it became clear that the cave would never be accessible to the general public, the idea of a facsimile reconstruction to provide interpretation and presentation facilities emerged. The Grand Projet Espace de Restitution de la Grotte Chauvet (ERGC) was established, with the aim of creating a facsimile reconstruction of the cave with its paintings and drawings, and a discovery and interpretation area to attract visitors.

5. Recommends that the State Party create a long-term legal framework that retains the current access restrictions for visitors to a maximum annual number and which continues to prevent direct physical contact with the walls or floors of the cave.

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey, Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Takes notes of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Surrounded by a still largely preserved rural setting and revealed from a distance by the pointed roofs and the bare-stone towers of the westwork, the Carolingian Westwork and the Civitas Corvey lie along the western side of the river Weser in the east of the town of Höxter, in North Rhine-Westphalia, close to the border of Lower Saxony.

The Westwork of Corvey in Höxter on the River Weser is one of the few Carolingian structures of which the main parts have been preserved, and the only example of a westwork building from that time still standing. It combines innovation and references to ancient models at a high level. As a building type it has considerably influenced western ecclesiastical Romanesque and Gothic architecture.

Corvey was one of the most influential monasteries of the Frankish Empire. Its missionary task was highly important with regard to politico-religious processes in many parts of Europe.

As an imperial abbey, Corvey not only had intellectual and religious functions with regard to the conversion of Saxony and adjacent areas but was also of political and economic

importance as an outpost of the Frankish Empire on the edge of the Christian world at that time.

The original preserved vaulted hall with columns and pillars on the ground floor and the main room encircled by galleries on three sides on the upper floor make Corvey one of the most striking examples of the "Carolingian Renaissance". This applies to the documented original artistic decoration of the elements which still exist on the ground and on the upper floors, including life-size stucco figures and mythological friezes presenting the only known example of wall paintings of ancient mythology with Christian interpretation in Carolingian times. The structure and the decoration refer to the world of ideas of Carolingian times which has become an essential part of western history.

Corvey is linked with cultural centres in Europe through historical tradition as well as through the preserved design of the building and archaeological evidence from beyond the former Carolingian empire.

An inscription tablet originating from the time of the foundation of the monastery names the Civitas Corvey which can be identified with the area of the monastery by archaeological evidence.

The deserted town close to the Westwork and the monastic compound preserves archaeological evidence of a quite important settlement of the Early and the Late Middle Ages.

**Criterion (ii):** Corvey possesses the only almost completely preserved Carolingian Westwork. The central main room on the upper floor which is encircled on three sides by galleries is based on ancient styles in its form and its original artistic decoration for secular rooms of representation; the arch in the entrance hall also uses ancient construction techniques. All in all, the Westwork formed the basis for further technical and morphological developments in ecclesiastical architecture in the Romanesque and Gothic periods, further reinterpreted in the Baroque narrative.

**Criterion (iii):** The main room on the upper floor served liturgical purposes and high-status uses. The wider monastic area around the monastery itself, which was fortified in 940 at the latest, with its school and library and which served as a religious, cultural and economic centre, was already established during Carolingian times and included a pilgrims hospice, dwellings for guests and servants, working quarters and workshops. The political and cultural revival under the Carolingians on the edge of the Frankish Empire manifested itself in this complex.

**Criterion (iv):** The Westwork of Corvey abbey is an outstanding testimony to Carolingian building and monastic culture, which was not solely an expression of religious content and clerical goals but also an instrument to secure sovereignty and to develop the country. As archaeological monuments, the former fortified monastic compound and the medieval town which grew from the Carolingian centres of settlement around it, are outstanding documents of political, cultural and economic life in the Middle Ages.

### **Integrity**

The architecturally preserved Westwork and the formerly fortified monastery district which is a protected archaeological monument are comprehensible in terms of location and in their general context. The monastery complex has been preserved in its original size and its integration in the natural environment is undisturbed.

The baroque monastery complex contributes to the continuity of the monastic and religious functions of the site throughout the centuries; the reconstruction of the church

in its baroque form has allowed the retention of the religious use of the Westwork over time and up to the present day. The buried traces of the fortified village outside the monastery also strengthen the understanding of the important role played by Corvey Abbey in the settlement pattern of the region. The rural setting constitutes the appropriate context for the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the nominated property.

### **Authenticity**

The Westwork of Corvey abbey on the River Weser is one of the very rare preserved structures with Carolingian fabric and form right the way up to the roof and probably the only structure – through the towering front in its outward appearance – through which the lordly pretensions of Carolingian culture still appears directly vivid today. The form and the design of the Carolingian Westwork are largely preserved in its original substance and material. Its wall paintings are the only known example of integrated elements of profane ancient iconography in the mural schemes of Carolingian sacred rooms. Corvey offers the only reliably analyzed source of knowledge about the painting of flat and vaulted plaster ceilings in Carolingian times.

Sinopias, preparatory background drawings in red ochre pigment, and stucco fragments of the Westwork are the most important evidence of large-scale sculptures from Carolingian times north of the Alps and at that time the most convincing evidence for the close conceptual and manual synthesis of wall painting and ornamental sculpture in the decoration system of this era. The ground of the former fortified monastery district is of particular value as an archaeological monument because here discoveries and finds from a systematically built large Carolingian monastery with related dwelling and work areas, graveyards and chapel buildings have been largely preserved, unaffected by later destruction. The same applies to the remnants of the settlement preserved in the ground in front of the monastery's gates which was deserted in the Late Middle Ages and grew to become a town in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, in which an early urban development without major destruction caused by later settlement activity can be archaeologically traced.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The former St Stephanus and Vitus abbey church and the former monastery complex have been inscribed in the historic monument register of the town of Höxter as an architectural monument since 1 June 1986 and the archaeological remains (Civitas) as an underground monument since 3 September 1990. The Westwork and the former abbey are in the possession of the St Stephanus and Vitus parish of Höxter, the former monastery complex is owned by Viktor, Duke of Ratibor and Prince of Corvey. Restoration and renovation works on the buildings as well as archaeological measures are carried out by the owners in close co-operation with the church and responsible government authorities. Changes and building measures on monuments and in areas of archaeological remains are subject to authorization according to paragraph 9 DSchG NW. Building activities in the buffer zone and within the visual perspectives are governed by land development plans, building development plans, and statutes concerned with renovation and preservation.

Due to the numerous actors involved and to the vicinity of the property to the borders of Lower Saxony, the effective protection and management of the property and of its setting and panoramic views from and towards Corvey requires close co-operation amongst all owners and between the public authorities of North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony. Co-ordination of the different planning levels in force should also be sought and these should include specific measures for the safeguarding of the territorial landmark character of Corvey.

Particular care should also be paid when planning the introduction or upgrading of infrastructure within the wider setting of the property.

A steady budget, a time-scale and an operational department within the management authority are necessary for the adequate long-term management of the property, and such a department should also address the programmes for the presentation of Corvey to the public.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Approving formally and implementing the management plan and its operational master plan with a budget and an implementation timescale,
  - b) Implementing the planned comprehensive conditions assessment and monitoring of the Westwork,
  - c) Developing an overall risk management plan for the property, including also risk preparedness against floods, explosions and other types of accidents, considering the proximity of the railway,
  - d) Continuing further systematic research and non-destructive archaeological investigation both for conservation and research purposes,
  - e) Expanding the presentation of the “Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey” in the museum and outside the church with regard to the Carolingian era,
  - f) Reinforcing the monitoring system with regard to the identification of indicators related to the objectives identified in the management plan,
  - g) Finalise the study for protecting the panoramic views from and towards Corvey, approve and enforce related protective measures as soon as possible and before any decision concerning wind farm location is finalized;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Caves of Maresha and Bet Guvrin in the Judean Lowlands as a Microcosm of the Land of the Caves, Israel**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The presence in the Judean Lowlands of thick and homogeneous chalk sub-strata enabled numerous caves to be excavated and managed by Man. The property includes a very complete selection of chambers and man-made subterranean networks, of different forms and for different activities. They are situated underneath the ancient twin cities of Maresha and Bet Guvrin, and in the surrounding areas, constituting a “city under a city”. They bear witness to a succession of historic periods of excavation and use, over a period of 2,000 years. Initially the excavations were quarries, but they were

later converted for various agricultural and local craft industry purposes, including oil presses, columbaria, stables, underground cisterns and channels, baths, tombs and places of worship, and hiding places during troubled times, etc. With their density, diversified activities, use over two millennia and the quality of their state of preservation, the complexes attain an Outstanding Universal Value.

**Criterion (v):** The underground archaeological site of Maresha–Bet Guvrin is an eminent example of traditional use of chalk subsurface strata, with the development of man-made caves and networks conducive to multiple economic, social and symbolic purposes, from the Iron Age to the Crusades.

### **Integrity**

The integrity of the property is expressed in the first place by the diversity of the excavations and their arrangements, intended for a variety of economic, social, funerary and symbolic purposes. It is also expressed by the exceptional density of the subterranean structures which are found beneath the ancient twin cities of Maresha and Bet Guvrin. The integrity of the property also concerns its relations with the outside and the preservation of a landscape of ancient ruins in a well-preserved environment of Mediterranean vegetation.

### **Authenticity**

The underground structures of Maresha–Bet Guvrin are authentic. They have been well-preserved, firstly because of the quality of their architectural design at the time of their excavation, then by their maintenance over a long period of use, and finally by a prolonged period of abandonment, filling up naturally over time, which has contributed to their preservation. This authenticity is however relatively fragile, with the risk of infiltrations of water leading to possible collapse of the vaults. It will furthermore be necessary to pursue a policy of low-key restoration, avoiding possible over-interpretation with reconstruction, and ensuring that the necessary technical consolidations are carried out in a way which respects the authenticity perceived by the visitor.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The management system of the Maresha-Bet Guvrin National Archaeological Park has been in place now for many years and functions efficiently. It is supervised by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) and benefits from the Authority's system of protection, which also covers most of the buffer zone. The regulations concerning this zone are completed by a National Forestry Plan and directives on the limitation of size and height of possible surrounding constructions. The conservation of cultural elements is guaranteed by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), and benefits from specialist assistance for highly technical issues such as the monitoring of the rocks forming the walls and vaults of the threatened caves. The tourism development project is based on a long-standing tradition and is well managed.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Paying particular attention to the conservation of the authenticity with regard to the ongoing and projected restoration and development work; the exterior reconstructions must be minimal,
  - b) Submitting the 'Villas Hill' development project, if confirmed, to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
  - c) Reinforcing the monitoring system for the physical parameters (temperature and humidity) within the man-made caves and the monitoring of the rocks and land in places where they are tending to deteriorate.

## **Decision: 38 COM 8B.35**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Van Nellefabriek, Netherlands**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

Designed and built in the 1920s, the Van Nellefabriek demonstrates an extremely accomplished industrial architecture. It comprises a complex of buildings consisting of several factories aligned along the perspective of a large internal roadway, and close to several means of transport (canals, roads, railway lines). Supported on an internal structure of reinforced concrete, the facades of the main buildings consist essentially of steel and glass, making large-scale use of the curtain wall principle. Via a common purpose agreed between the entrepreneur and the project architects and engineers, the Van Nellefabriek embodies an ideal factory, open to the outside world, whose interior working spaces are progressive, and in which daylight is used to provide pleasant working conditions. It embodies the accomplished realisation of a new kind of factory that has become a symbol of the modernist and functionalist culture of the inter-war period. Lastly it bears witness to the long port-related economic tradition of the Netherlands, in the processing of imported food products (coffee, tea and tobacco) and their marketing in Europe.

**Criterion (ii):** The Van Nellefabriek brings together and makes use of technical and architectural ideas originating from various parts of Europe and North America in the early 20th century. It is exceptionally successful both in terms of its industrial setup and its degree of architectural and aesthetic accomplishment. It represents an exemplary contribution by the Netherlands to the Modernism of the inter-war years, and has since its construction become an emblematic example and an influential reference throughout the world.

**Criterion (iv):** In the context of industrial architecture in the first half of the 20th century, the Van Nellefabriek is an outstanding illustration of the values of relationships with the environment, the rational organisation of production flows, and dispatch via the nearby communication network, maximum admission of daylight to the internal spaces via the widespread use of a glass curtain wall with metal frames, and open interior spaces. It expresses the values of clarity, fluidity and the opening up of industry to the outside world.

### **Integrity**

Throughout a long industrial history devoted to the same activity of industrial processing and packaging of food products, the various factories and their functional relationships with the logistical spaces (warehousing, dispatching, transport) have remained unchanged. The ensemble of buildings was preserved when the premises underwent an economic conversion in the late 1990s. The conditions of integrity in terms of composition (location and organisation of territory, functional relationships, panoramic views, etc.), and in architectural terms in its various aspects, have been met.



### **Authenticity**

The restructuring and restoration of the property undertaken for economic reasons from 2000 to 2006 was carried out on a property which had been generally well maintained, and had never undergone reconstruction or conversion after its original construction at the end of the 1920s. The works have been carried out with great care, as part of a model project. The property's authenticity has thus been appropriately preserved in each of its aspects, and this is clearly perceptible both to the visitors and to the new business users of the Van Nellefabriek.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The Van Nellefabriek enjoys the highest level of state protection as it has been a listed national monument since 1985. A large buffer zone has been established to ensure good visual expression of the property in an open environment. The overall protection of the whole ensemble will be guaranteed by the new Municipal urban development plan, whose drawing up is nearing completion, and by the inclusion of environmental preservation measures in the urban development plans for the five zones of its urban environment.

The property is managed by its current owner and operator, the private group Van Nelle Design Factory. The management of the conservation of the property's architectural, urban and environmental values is based on the cooperation between the heritage departments of the City of Rotterdam and the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands. They jointly drew up the property's management plan (January 2013) and their cooperation has been made permanent in the form of a Joint Management Committee which has been enlarged to include new experts. The property's prime purpose is to accommodate economic activities in industrial, commercial and service fields. It is already open for visits, but this is seemingly not a major objective; frequency of visits could however increase over the coming years, giving rise to a need for specific facilities, which in turn must not be allowed to adversely affect the property's integrity and authenticity.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Confirming the completion and promulgation of the new Municipal urban development plan for the property and the whole of its buffer zone; it is also necessary to pay attention to the height regulations for the other zones in the vicinity of the property and its buffer zone, so as to conserve visual integrity,
  - b) Confirming the effective setting up of the Management Committee for the property in its definitive enlarged form, and its practical functioning,
  - c) Confirming that there is no threat to the property from the transport of hazardous materials in the vicinity,
  - d) Submitting all proposals for a project for the construction of a visitor reception centre at the entrance to the property to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2015**, a report to the World Heritage Committee setting out the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations mentioned above, which will be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.36**

The nomination of the **Cultural Landscape of Valle Salado de Añana, Spain**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Bursa and Cumalıkızık: the Birth of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Located on the slopes of Uludağ Mountain (Olympus Mountain of the Bithynians) in the north-western part of Turkey, Bursa and Cumalıkızık represent a unique planning methodology for the fast creation of a capital city and Sultans' seat, out of a Byzantine fortress.

In the process of the Ottomans' becoming an Empire, Bursa became the first city, the first capital which was defined by kulliyes and villages, in the context of waqf system (public charity foundation system) shaped according to early Ottoman architectural traditions.

While the Ottoman Bursa was being founded, the most important focal points of Bursa, mostly on hills, were identified and the five sultan (Orhan Ghazi, Murad I, Yildirim Bayezid, Celebi Mehmed, Murad II) kulliyes consisting of public buildings such as mosques, madrasahs, hamams, public kitchens and tombs were constructed in these areas. These kulliyes each being a center with social, cultural, religious and educational functions, also determined the boundaries of the city. Houses were constructed according to the location of the kulliyes, and within the course of time these kulliyes were surrounded by neighbourhoods. In the context of the waqf system, the aim of Cumalıkızık as a waqf village, meaning that it permanently belonged to an institution (a kulliyeh), was to provide income for Orhan Ghazi Kulliyeh, as stated in historical documents.

The relationship of the five sultan kulliyes, one of which constitutes the core of the city's commercial centre, and Cumalıkızık which is the best preserved waqf village in Bursa, represent a unique city planning methodology. This methodology (system) developed during the foundation of the first Ottoman capital in early 14th century to the middle of the 15th century, was later used to expand existing cities.

**Criterion (i):** Bursa was created and managed by the first Ottoman sultans, through an innovative and ingenious system, combining an unprecedented "town planning" process. Using the semi-religious brotherhood organizations called Ahi to run commercial life, and thus economy, making the best use of the public charity foundation system, the Waqf, thus society and management, together with the Kulliyes (nuclei providing all public services as infrastructure built prior to the creation of neighbourhoods) and villages, was an ingenious method for the fast establishment of a vivid, sustainable new capital of one of the most important empires of the world.

Almost all early 14th century attributes, components of the Kulliyes and of the Khans and Bazaar Area still exist, most of them still serving the same, original functions. The city has grown around them, and they are still the centres of their neighbourhoods.

**Criterion (ii):** Bursa has been created as a new town, for non-urban population, to become a capital city. To create the town, centers with social, religious and commercial functions were built, fully reflecting the values of the society and the values it accepted from its neighbours, during long years of migration from central Asia to the West. Bursa was created by a religious Moslem society, carrying the values of Islam to the West, into the still existing Christian Byzantine Empire and into Europe. The best and obvious presentation of these ideas is through mosques, medreses (public religious schools) and public baths built in Bursa in the 14th and 15th centuries, in each neighbourhood centre (kulliye).

Architectural traditions are partly local creation (like the inverted T plan mosques), but they bear Byzantine, Seljuk, Arab, Persian and other influences. These are represented by building technology, decorations, mausolea construction, technical features (water installations, bathing), typology of buildings (khans, bazaars, bedesten) and others.

**Criterion (iv):** Bursa-Cumalikizik illustrate together, through individual buildings (khans, bedesten, mosques, medreses, tombs, hamams, and houses) and ensembles (kulliyes and village) a significant stage in human history, by being the first capital and seat of the Ottoman Sultans, rulers of an Empire, covering Western Asia from Anatolia to Yemen, parts of Europe and North Africa, for hundreds of years. This history has left its important traces in the architecture and culture of all of these countries until our time.

While individual architectural components in Bursa can be considered as outstanding examples of architectural type, this criterion is met through the ensembles, created by these components.

**Criterion (vi):** The first Ottoman Sultans and their society were in the 14th century the leaders of the Moslem world, facing the declining historic centre of the big Eastern Christian society. Bursa, being their first capital, symbolizes more than any other place, the introduction of Moslem ideas, philosophy, architecture, literature, Eastern non-tangible traditions (not necessarily religious) to Europe and to the West.

Creation of all state institutions in Bursa, meant the creation of the Nation, the State and later the Empire.

### **Integrity**

The attributes embodying outstanding universal value are mostly present within the legally protected sites. The waqf system brought about a unique relation between kulliyes, commercial centre (Khans Area) and villages which constituted the urban layout of the city. All the components parts of the property have maintained their tangible and intangible values.

Buildings in the Khans Area, which developed around Emir Khan (a part of the Orhan Ghazi Kulliye) in the historical commercial axis, still preserve the integrity of their forms and materials, and also their original commercial functions at present. However, Piriç Han and Kapan Han were partially harmed due to the construction of Hamidiye Street and Saray Street, respectively, during construction activities in the 19th century.

Kulliyes, which are the most important component of the urbanization model applied consciously by the Ottomans, still exist at present, together with the neighbourhoods developed around them as a natural result of their public functions starting from the day of their establishment.

Furthermore, Cumalıkızık village, with unique examples of civil architecture and its villagers who have attended to these buildings, has sustained its rural life.

### **Authenticity**

The Khans Area that incorporates the first kulliye in its core carries the tradesmen culture of the Ottoman era to date. In the meantime, it enables us to experience the Ottoman commercial district spatially, enriched with traditional rituals such as first sale of the day, bargaining, master-apprentice relations, and neighbourliness among tradesmen. The commercial axis of the Khans Area has been shaped based on the caravan route of the Ottoman era. According to the Suphi Bey map of Bursa (1862), which illustrated the oldest attainable urban texture, the majority of the mentioned buildings remain at present. The Khans in the area are two-storied, have square or rectangular plans with courtyards surrounded by units, and maintain their existence with these forms and plan properties. Such courtyard plan types have been effective for khans to sustain their commercial functions at present. As a result of the dynamic commercial life in the bazaars and markets, the Khans Area has always been the centre of the city. Reflecting the importance of this area as the centre of the city, the first Town Hall in Turkey was built in the 19th century on the land, where the madrasah and public kitchen of the Orhan Kulliye was once located. This building still keeps its municipal function.

Kulliyes are still focal points meeting the social, cultural and religious needs of the inhabitants, parallel with their original public functions, and reflect the Ottoman characteristics of Bursa.

What is more, the village of Cumalıkızık is still the same in terms of its residential pattern, agricultural fields and general setting. Cumalıkızık, which is one of the best preserved early Ottoman waqf villages, has maintained its authenticity, traditional life style and original land uses.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

All the component parts are protected under the provisions of the Law for the Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage (the Act Numbered 2863). This is the main law related with preservation in Turkey. The buildings which were originally waqf property in core areas, are under the responsibility of the Regional Directorate of Foundations at present. All projects and applications to be conducted related to waqf property must be submitted to the Regional Directorate of Foundations for permission. In addition, 1/1000 scaled preservation plans are in place for all areas located within core areas. Projects and applications related with such buildings must obtain approval from Bursa Cultural Assets Regional Conservation Board.

Protecting, preserving and utilizing the historical pattern effectively as a whole with its tangible and intangible values, and at the same time meeting the needs of change can only be possible by creating public awareness, in which all relevant and authorized people, institutions and bodies participate. With this purpose, Bursa and Cumalıkızık Management Plan was prepared benefiting from the knowledge and experience of all stakeholders in the sites.

The management plan was prepared by Bursa Site Management Unit, which is an affiliate of Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, in accordance with the Supplement-2 of the Act Numbered 2863 (Regulation on Site Management). The Management Plan was approved by the Coordination and Supervision Board in a process strengthened with the contributions of the Advisory Board.

Approved Management Plan plays an important role in directing the potential of the city in the right direction.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to augmenting the monitoring indicators to allow for judgment of changes in state of conservation and requests the State Party to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2015.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Pergamon and its Multi-Layered Cultural Landscape, Turkey**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Pergamon was founded in the 3rd century B.C. Its location in the Aegean Region, the heart of the Antique World, and at the crossroads between Europe and the Middle East destined it to be an important cultural, scientific and political centre.

Pergamon and its multi-layered cultural landscape exhibit outstanding evidence of civilizations such as the Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman.

The Hellenistic Attalid Dynasty created Pergamon as its capital and set the scene for the city on the top of the Kale Hill. The Hellenistic capital is a supreme example of the adaptation of architecture to nature. High steep sloping terrain and the Bakırçay Plain were integrated into the urban plan. This exceptional composition of well-balanced magnificence and monumental landscape was created by a series of masterpieces of the Hellenistic Period. These include the steepest theatre of the ancient world, the longest stoas, an incredible three-terraced Gymnasium, the Great Altar of Pergamon, the tumuli and supreme pressured water pipelines, the city walls, and the Kybele Sanctuary, which was perfectly planned to have a view in line with Kale Hill. As the capital of the Attalid Dynasty, Pergamon was the protector of cities in the Hellenistic Period. It had political and artistic power during the antiquity and built up a very intense relationship with its contemporary civilisations. The rivalry between three Hellenistic dynasties caused the Attalid Dynasty to create the most famous Sculpture school as well as the antique world's best library in Pergamon.

Becoming one of the most important provinces of Rome in Asia, Pergamon became a metropolis during the Roman Period. The Romans maintained the already existing structures of the Hellenistic Period structures while adding new functions as a cultural and imperial cult centre of the empire. Consequently, during the Roman Period, many important structures were built, including the extensive remains of the Asklepiion Sanctuary, a well-known healing centre whose sacred spring still flows; the Roman Theatre; and one of the biggest Roman amphitheatres; a great aqueduct; and a perfectly preserved Trajan Temple. Also included is the world's biggest Serapeum.

During the Byzantine Period due to the relocation of the trade roads and political centres from Aegean Region to northwest Anatolia, especially to İstanbul, Pergamon experienced a new transformation from being a major Hellenistic and Roman centre into a middle-sized town. Pergamon now has particular potential as a multi-layered

cultural landscape preserving and presenting this transformation. During the Byzantine Period, Pergamon also continued its cultural-religious importance as home to one of the Seven Churches of Revelation.

After the arrival of the Ottomans, Pergamon experienced one more cultural adjustment. This was especially evident on the Bakırçay Plain. The Ottomans provided the city with all necessary urban structures, such as mosques, baths, bridges, khans, bedestens (covered bazaars), arastas (Ottoman markets) and water systems which spread especially on Roman and Byzantine layers.

The superimposition of all these different periods and cultures through continuous inhabitation in Pergamon, finds its reflection in its urban form and architecture as continuities, formations, transformations and losses due the material existence and use of space of different eras and cultures. The physical remains belonging to different periods of the historical continuity, sometimes side by side, sometimes on top of each other, form the complex urban form of Pergamon today as a 'multi-layered town'. Hence, the physical, social and cultural traces of all the layers constituting the town's continual history from Pergamon in Antiquity to today's Bergama co-exist within the contemporary urban form of the town. Respectively, Pergamon becomes not only a witness of its own continual settlement history, but also an outstanding evidence of the historical, physical and cultural depth of the region and geography it belongs to.

Material evidences of historical continuity and multi-layeredness are evident in the urban structure, open areas and buildings in Pergamon. Red Hall, which was originally built by Romans as a sanctuary of Egyptian Gods, is one of the many material evidences of historical continuity and multi-layeredness. The Serapeum, once dedicated to Serapis, then later used as a St. John Church and one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. It subsequently became an Ottoman Mosque as well as the host of the Jewish Synagogue in its court. Thus, from Roman Period onwards, it has been continuously serving for religious use for different cultures till today.

These examples can be increased a lot, as there are many traces and remains of continuous settlement in Pergamon. All of these contribute to the outstanding value Bergama as a multi-layered town, with each stratified context becoming the material evidence of how the physical space is sustained, converted and re-created by changing societies and cultures through time in this region of Anatolia.

The cultural landscape of Pergamon is characterized by the visual incorporation of the rural with the urban. From the 3rd century BC onwards, the city was encircled by a ring of grave mounds of various sizes, which demonstrated Pergamon's claim to the plain of Bakırçay as well as preparing visitors for the architectural spectacle of Pergamon. In addition to grave mounds, there were sanctuaries, such as Kybele Sanctuary at Kapıkaya, sited on prominent hills and mountain peaks in the area surrounding the city to mark the landscape as Pergamene territory. Therefore, Pergamon is "an illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal", thus emphasizing it as a "multi-layered cultural landscape".

Pergamon is a testimony to the unique and integrated aesthetic achievement of the civilizations. It endured the Hellenistic and the Roman, the Byzantium and the Ottoman; moved from Paganism to Christianity Judaism and Islam, all the while preserving its previous cultural features as well as the landscape of its historical surroundings.

**Criterion (i):** From the early settlement onwards, the way of handling urban form and architecture in an integrity with topography and nature in Pergamon, is a representation

of human creative genius. In architectural and urban history, by most of the recognized scholars, the planning of Pergamon as the capital of Hellenistic Kingdom is referred as a distinctive and sophisticated case, that later have been effectual in the planning of many other sites. Among such scholars, Spiro Kostof, mentions Pergamon as “an articulate overall system of urban design” formed by sets of manmade terraces making “monumental design inherent in the natural contours” and providing “integrated series of visual and kinetic experiences”. Therefore, the overall urban plan of the Hellenistic settlement at Kale Hill, without doubt, represents a masterpiece of human creative genius.

Besides the overall plan of Pergamon, different buildings belonging to different periods in Bergama are also referred as masterpieces by archaeologists, architects and art and architectural historians. The Hellenistic Theatre integrated with the steeply topography of Kale Hill, the temples and sanctuaries, the Great Altar (although does not exist in situ today), gymnasiums, stoas, baths, palaces, library, agoras, the tumuli reflecting the human articulation of nature and expression of power over territory and landscape and the high pressured water pipe-line system can be mentioned among the architectural and engineering masterpieces of Hellenistic Period Pergamon. Serapis Temple and Sanctuary, Roman Theatre, Amphitheatre, Aqueducts, Asclepion, bridges and infrastructure are among the well-known architectural and engineering masterpieces of Roman Period. Besides all these, there exists many important monumental buildings such as mosques, minarets, khans, bedesten and hammams, which are referred as noteworthy representatives of Karesi Principality and Ottoman Periods in Bergama.

**Criterion (ii):** The abovementioned urban, architectural and engineering masterpieces of Pergamon reflect the major developments in architecture, technology, monumental arts and urban and landscape planning. They not only reflect the developments, but also most of them are emphasized as high spots of the development process in architecture, technology, monumental arts as well as urban and landscape planning.

In this regard, the urban and landscape planning of Pergamon in Hellenistic Period is considered as a climax in planning. Besides, it is also regarded as a notable outcome of a synthesis nourished from the cumulative background of Anatolia. Similarly, Kybele Sanctuary at Kapıkaya, with local Anatolian roots, represents the continual use, synthesis of cultures and interchange of human values through time. Also the use of Egyptian gods within the Roman Empire in Asia Minor is good evidence for the interchange of human values, as is the relocation of the Kybele meteorite to Rome, facilitated by the Attalids.

In fact, as a multi-layered city inhabited continuously from early ages onwards, the urban form and architecture in Pergamon is the result of material existence and use of space of different eras and cultures as well as the interchange of human values through time.

**Criterion (iii):** ‘Pergamon and its Multi-layered Cultural Landscape’ bears unique and exceptional testimony to Hellenistic urban and landscape planning. Besides all the architectural masterpieces mentioned above such as Aslepion, Serapis Temple and Sanctuary, Kybele Sanctuary at Kapıkaya and Tumuli are exceptional testimonies representing their period, culture and civilization.

**Criterion (iv):** Pergamon, with its urban and landscape planning and architectural masterpieces emphasized extensively in architectural and urban history, is a significant and distinctive illustrator of Hellenistic Period. Besides, the abovementioned architectural masterpieces such as Serapis Temple and Sanctuary, Asclepion, water

supply system and amphitheatre are also architectural masterpieces illustrating Roman Period in Anatolia as a significant stage in history.

As important as all these, Bergama is an outstanding historic urban landscape illustrating significant stages of human existence in the geography it belongs to. In Bergama it is possible to visualize how these significant phases of human history have been materialized as a human settlement and how influential they have been in continually shaping and re-shaping an urban and cultural landscape.

**Criterion (vi):** Pergamon is associated with important people, schools, ideas and traditions concerning art, architecture, planning, religion and science. Pergamon sculpture school contributing the production of 'Pergamon style' and the school of urban planning in Hellenistic Period are worth mentioning in this sense. Kybele Cult represents a continual tradition and belief in Anatolia. In addition, the continual religious use of the Temple of Serapis -which was first constructed as a temple during the Roman Period, converted and used as a church during late Roman and Byzantine Periods, while one of its rotunda was used as a synagogue, which then continued to be used as a mosque beginning from 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards- can be shown as another outstanding example of the continuity in beliefs and traditions and their tangible association with place. The physician, surgeon and philosopher Galen, who was trained in Pergamon and whose works were disseminated from Pergamon, should also be considered in that sense. Last but not least, the tradition of production of Parchment specific to Pergamon should also be mentioned.

### **Integrity**

In a case like Pergamon having continual inhabitation from very early ages onwards resulting in multi-layeredness regarding urban form and architecture of successive periods and cultures, integrity should be assessed from multiple perspectives.

Continual inhabitation generates the continual use of space, which inevitably embraces new formations, transformations and even eradications, besides the continuities. In this case, changes become integral part of the whole process and integrity is redefined for the same property differently in different periods.

In this respect, for Component 1: Pergamon, the multi-layered city, integrity should be assessed from multiple perspectives. First of all, the Hellenistic settlement at the Kale Hill as well as Asclepion are the sites those haven't been inhabited after Antiquity. Those sites together with the architectural remains they embrace, are archaeological sites having integrity in themselves. The Amphitheatre and Roman Theatre essentially retain their integrity as buried archaeology as they are not excavated sites.

The Serapis Temple has been continuously used as a place for different religions throughout continual history. The building regained a new meaning and a new integrity in each period of its continual use. Similar kind of integrity is relevant for the whole urban tissue within the Component 1: Pergamon, the multi-layered city. The over ground tissue is composed of religious, commercial and residential buildings of mainly Ottoman Period which have then been subject to new formations and transformations during the Republican Period, each time regaining another integrity with its context. Besides, the tissue and its built-up and open components also have integrity with the remains of the Roman town underground.

Component 2: Kybele Sanctuary at Kapıkaya conserves its integrity in itself within its natural context.



The integrity of the Components 3-9: The Tumuli, presents a different state. Some of the Tumuli such as Yığma Tepe Tumulus (Component 4), Tavşan Tepe Tumulus (Component 6), X Tepe Tumulus (Component 7) retain their integrity as buried archaeology, while others sustains their integrity by demonstrating their visual and spatial connection with the acropolis. Also when the tumuli are considered as the articulation and domination of nature as well as the reflection of power in the natural territory of Pergamon in Antiquity, they altogether possess an integrity.

### **Authenticity**

Different Components of 'Pergamon and its Multi-layered Cultural Landscape' meet the conditions of authenticity through different attributes. The Hellenistic settlement at the Kale Hill as well as Asclepion; the Amphitheatre and Roman theatre with their natural context have authenticity in form and design, materials and substance, location and setting and even spirit and feeling.

The authenticity of the Serapis Temple and sanctuary is expressed through form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions, spirit and feeling, incorporating also all the changes due to its continual use.

The authenticity of the urban tissue, is composed of religious, commercial and residential buildings of mainly Ottoman Period, should be considered with the changes occurring in time as its fundamental property. In this respect, the urban tissue today reflects an authenticity in accordance with its main character as multi-layeredness expressed through form and design, materials and substance, use and function, traditions and techniques.

The authenticity of Component 2 Kybele Sanctuary at Kapıkaya is also expressed through form and design, materials and substance, traditions, techniques, location and setting as well as spirit and feeling.

When the tumuli are considered as the articulation and domination of nature as well as the reflection of power in the natural territory of Pergamon in Antiquity, they altogether possess an authenticity in meaning and design of the cultural landscape.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The entire first degree archaeological sites within the WH nominated property including Kale Hill, the aqueducts, the Asclepion, the Musalla Mezarlık Roman Pleasure district, the Serapeum, the tumuli and Kybele rock-cut Sanctuary, and the urban sites are under protection of National Preservation Law, no.2863. All monuments, whoever the owner is, within the urban sites are also protected by National Preservation Law no.2863. These urban sites mostly form the Ottoman neighbourhoods and trading areas and most have second or third degree archaeological site statute. Any and all kinds of conservation, preservation or construction works related to the monuments, within the archaeological and/or urban site, are subject to approval from the Regional Conservation Council-2.

Bergama Municipality prepared an Urban Conservation Plan in 2012 to preserve the urban site in a unified way with its neighbourhood. Street facades and traditional structuring details including techniques, materials used and lay-out setting were all taken into account.

Management of the nominated property is co-ordinated by Bergama Municipality World Heritage Management Office, which was established at the end of the 2011, and by the "Advisory Body" and "Coordination and Supervision Body" which are responsible for approving and implementing the management plan and in which state and local

administrative institutions, universities, NGOs and representative of muhktars have a seat, were established and accordingly a site management was appointed. Apart from the present preservation and conservation system the World Heritage Management Office and the relevant bodies have started to prepare a management plan, which will be the main guide for co-operation and comprehensive monitoring of the entire World Heritage Nominated Property that is planned to finish in the beginning of 2016.

4. Also takes note of:
  - a) the extension of the buffer zone of component part 1 having included all the tumuli and their visual connections to the acropolis,
  - b) the buffer zone of component part 2 to comply with the natural protection zone beyond the Selinos river to the south and west,
  - c) that the State Party has put in effect integrated protection measures at the highest level;
5. Further takes note of the visual impact assessment to foresee possible indications of constructions within the boundaries of the property and buffer zone to ensure visual integrity between the tumuli and the acropolis;
6. Requests the State Party to complete the Management Plan expeditiously and submit a progress report by **1 December 2015** for review by ICOMOS;
7. Also recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Improving the monitoring system by specifying which organisation is responsible for monitoring each indicator and include seismic monitoring,
  - b) Restricting vehicle access to the acropolis except emergency services;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point, United States of America**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point is a publicly-owned and managed archaeological park in the parish of West Carroll, State of Louisiana, United States of America. The site is located on the eastern edge of an elevated landform, Maçon Ridge, in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Today the ridge, which is about 7-9m higher than the adjacent lowlands to the east, overlooks and is abutted on its eastern side by the Bayou Maçon.

The site consists of an integrated complex of earthen monuments, in the main constructed 3,700-3,100 years ago in the Late Archaic period. The complex includes large mounds and associated borrow/quarry areas, six semi-elliptical earthen ridges with an outer diameter of 1.14 km and a large flat plaza bordered by the ridges. Mound A, one of the largest constructed earthen mounds in North America, dominates the site. Collection and archaeological excavations have documented the rich material culture associated with this complex.

The Poverty Point complex is recognised internationally as an important site not just because of its scale, the integration of the earthworks and the extent to which the complex is intact, but crucially because it was built by hunter-fisher-gatherers.

The elevated natural topography of the site above the Holocene alluvial lowlands provided a secure place for human settlement in an area otherwise prone to flooding, and influenced the layout of the complex and the placing of the earthworks: it helps to make it clear why the site was selected as the location of the monumental complex.

All the singular elements that make up the complex as they survive in shape and substance - the mounds, the system of ridges and swales, the aisles, the plaza with the posthole circles, the causeway, the bisector ridge, the dock and the borrow areas - as well as their spatial organisation in relation to the topography, illustrate the refined use of natural features and topography to create a designed monumental landscape.

The extensive earth rearrangements beneath the above-ground structures attest to the extensive earthmoving to combat soil erosion and to achieve the required design. The archaeological deposits concealed below ground represent a repository of potential further information on the property and its builders.

The meandering Bayou Maçon, with its riverine vegetation, and the boggy and wooded areas, provide a sense of the natural environment at the time Poverty Point was constructed.

**Criterion (iii):** Poverty Point Monumental Earthworks bear exceptional testimony to a vanished cultural tradition, the Poverty Point culture, centred in the Lower Mississippi Valley during the Late Archaic period, 4,000-2,500 years ago. This site, which dates to 3,700-3,100 BP, is an outstanding example of landscape design and monumental earthwork construction by a population of hunter-fisher-gatherers. The mound complex is a singular achievement in earthen construction in North America: it was not surpassed for at least 2,000 years (and only then by people supported by a farming economy). The particular layout of the complex is unique to this site. The natural setting of this inland settlement was an important factor in the site's establishment and longevity. The location provided easy access to the Mississippi River valley and the hardwood forests along its margins. Although rich in edible resources, the setting lacked stone, a critical raw material for tools and other objects. Thus, an extensive trade network for rocks and minerals from hundreds of kilometres away played a key role in the Poverty Point phenomenon.

### **Integrity**

The property is well preserved; repair and maintenance works are carried out regularly, especially to counteract soil erosion. The current boundaries of the property correspond to those of the Poverty Point State Historic Site: they include most of the elements that make up this monumental complex and the visual and functional relationship between them. However, elements that possibly relate to the cultural and contextual setting of this complex and which act as functional support to Poverty Point occur beyond the boundaries of the property. It is therefore of utmost importance that an area with

formalised regulatory mechanisms be defined and enforced to ensure the protection and connection of the property with its historic-cultural setting. Highway 577 crosses the property from north to south: it interferes with the enjoyment of the complex and presents a danger to visitors. Viable solutions to divert its route to outside the property should be investigated as soon as possible.

### **Authenticity**

Physical and intangible attributes of the nominated property as they have survived down the millennia, coupled with the extensive information obtained from the archaeological research conducted on the site and with the rich and largely undisturbed buried deposits, bear exceptional and credible witness to the Outstanding Universal Value of the Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point and to the complex socio-cultural pattern of the societies that built the complex. The agricultural landscape of the close and wider setting surrounding the property largely contributes to its understanding and enjoyment and it is therefore of utmost importance that this character be retained in the future.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

Poverty Point Monumental Earthworks has been owned and managed by the State of Louisiana as a state historic site open to the public since 1972. The management structure has been established under the federal and state legal framework in force, further strengthened by a Station Archaeologist program which ensures that research results be included in the scope of the management. Management efforts should also focus on the need for the protection and proper management of Poverty Point's historic-cultural setting and for the retention of its agricultural character. Crucial for the support of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is the definition of an area surrounding the nominated property and including the immediate setting of the nominated property, important views and other areas or attributes that are functionally important as a support to the property and its protection, and the establishment of a formalised framework of regulatory mechanisms for the protection and management of the property, that acts like a buffer zone.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Continuing its policy of land acquisition in parallel with scientific investigations with a view to establishing favourable conditions to enlarge the limits of the property in case research results would suggest doing so,
  - b) Continuing to implement and assess best management practices that have been successful in minimizing the impact of Highway 577 on the visitor experience at the site,
  - c) Continuing to build capacity and expertise within the management system to profit from the existing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) approach;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## **Extensions of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.40**

The proposed extension of the **Renaissance Monumental Ensembles of Úbeda and Baeza** to include **Jaén Cathedral, Spain**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

## Properties deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The vineyard landscapes of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato in Piedmont consist of a selection of five distinct winegrowing areas and a castle, whose names evoke profound and ancient expertise in the relationship between man and his environment. They reflect a slowly developed association between a diverse range of soils, grape varieties that are often native, and suitable winemaking processes. They offer panoramas of carefully cultivated hillsides, following ancient land divisions punctuated with buildings that lend structure to the visual space: hilltop villages, castles, Romanesque churches, farms, ciabots, cellars and storehouses for cellaring and for the commercial distribution of the wine in the small towns and larger towns on the margins of the vineyards. The serial property is outstanding for its harmony, and the balance between the aesthetic qualities of its landscapes, the architectural and historical diversity of the built elements associated with the wine production activities and an authentic and ancient art of winemaking.

**Criterion (iii):** The cultural landscapes of the Piedmont vineyards provide outstanding living testimony to winegrowing and winemaking traditions that stem from a long history, and that have been continuously improved and adapted up to the present day. They bear witness to an extremely comprehensive social, rural and urban realm, and to sustainable economic structures. They include a multitude of harmonious built elements that bear witness to its history and its professional practices.

**Criterion (v):** The vineyards of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato constitute an outstanding example of man's interaction with his natural environment. Following a long and slow evolution of winegrowing expertise, the best possible adaptation of grape varieties to land with specific soil and climatic components has been carried out, which in itself is related to winemaking expertise, thereby becoming an international benchmark. The winegrowing landscape also expresses great aesthetic qualities, making it into an archetype of European vineyards.

#### **Integrity**

The integrity of the serial property is satisfactory, as it contains all the elements required for full expression of its values. Considered as a whole, its five components fully express the cultural, residential, architectural, environmental and productive complexity of this winegrowing and winemaking region. It bears witness to an ensemble of centuries-old traditions that have gradually been built up. The integrity of the nominated serial property is fully justified, and all the technical and social processes associated with grape production and winemaking, with a high degree of expertise, are properly illustrated.

#### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the landscape elements and the many cultural elements of the serial property has been justified. The use of the soils, the built structures and the social organisation of all the stages of the winemaking process, from tending and harvesting the grapes to vinification, are an expression of continuity of ancient practices and expertise to form authentic ensembles in each component of the serial property. The Piedmont vineyard landscape is undoubtedly one of the most harmonious and most consistent with the ideal of a “scenic” rural and vineyard landscape, accentuated by the gently rolling hills that provide many vistas and panoramas with subtle nuances.

#### **Protection and Management requirements**

The property is protected under the Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code (Decree n°42 of 22 January 2004), under the responsibility of the Cultural Heritage Ministry and its regional agencies. It defines the responsibilities of the public regional and local authorities and the application procedures. The municipalities regulate and control permits for building and alterations. They do so with reference to municipal regulatory plans and urban development plans. The protection of the buffer zones has been confirmed by the Provincial Act of 30 September 2013.

The Management Association groups together the municipalities covered by the serial property and buffer zones, under the authority of the Region for the purpose of coordinating the conservation measures. This results in the implementation of precisely defined programmes, gathered together in the Management Plan. The Agreement Act embodies the commitment of each municipality and each administration to apply the protection measures and the sector conservation plans, and to actively participate in the management and enhancement of the property.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:
  - a) Improving the representation of the municipalities and of socio-professional bodies within the Association,
  - b) Strengthening the financial and staff resources of the Association,
  - c) Paying greater attention to the social values that make an important contribution to the management and conservation of the property: winegrowers, companies and workers, winegrowing and winemaking trade organisations, the transmission of expertise and know-how, popular traditions, etc.,
  - d) Ensuring better coordination between the projects in the Management Plan put forward by different municipalities and consolidate them financially,
  - e) Reorganising the conservation monitoring indicators, and make them more coherent with regard to the different component parts of the property.

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.42**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.43**;
3. Considers that the integrity and authenticity of the site have been affected by recent construction and restoration activities and these conditions cannot be met with regard to criterion (iii) as the testimony of the civilization of the Volga Bulgars or the Golden

Horde, and, thus, also considers that this nomination could now be justified only in relation to criteria (ii) and (vi);

4. Inscribes the **Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex, Russian Federation**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(vi)**;
5. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The historical and archaeological site of Bolgar lies on the shores of the Volga River south of its confluence with the River Kama. It contains evidence of the medieval city of Bolgar, an early settlement of the civilization of Volga Bulgars, which existed between the 7th and the 15th centuries. Bolgar was also the first capital of the Golden Horde in the 13th century and remained an important trade centre in the time of the Kazan Khanate. The site preserves its spatial context with its historic moat and walls as well as its religious and civil structures, including a former mosque, a minaret and several mausoleums, bath houses, remains of a Khan's palace and shrine.

Bolgar represents the historical cultural exchanges and transformations of Eurasia over several centuries, which played a pivotal role in the formation of civilizations, customs and cultural traditions. The Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex provides remarkable evidence of historic continuity and cultural diversity, the mutual influences of cultural traditions in particular at the time of the Volga Bulgars, the Golden Horde, the Kazan Khanate and the Russian state. Also, Bolgar was always located at the crossroads of trade, and economic, cultural and political communications and illustrates the interaction of nomadic and urban cultures. The historical and archaeological complex of Bolgar is a symbolic reminder of the acceptance of Islam by the Volga-Bulgars in 922 AD and, to Tatar Muslims, remains sacred and a pilgrimage destination.

**Criterion (ii):** The historical and archaeological complex of Bolgar illustrates the exchange and re-integration of several subsequent cultural traditions and rulers and reflects these in influences on architecture, city-planning and landscape design. The property illustrates the cultural exchanges of Turkic, Finno-Ugric, Slavic and other traditions. Evidence of exchanges in architectural styles includes wooden constructions which emerged in the forest-rich region, the steppe component of Turkic language tribes, oriental influences connected with the adoption of Islam and European-Russian styles which dominated after it became part of the Russian state.

**Criterion (vi):** Bolgar remains a regional reference point for Tatar Muslims and likely other Muslim groups of the wider region in Eurasia. It carries associated religious and spiritual values which are illustrated predominantly during the annual pilgrimage season. Bolgar provides evidence of an early and northernmost Muslim enclave established in connection with the official acceptance of Islam by the Volga Bulgars as the state religion in 922 AD, which had a lasting impact on the cultural and architectural development of the wider geographical region.

#### **Integrity**

The historical and archaeological complex of Bolgar contains the complete area of layers of historic occupation by various consecutive civilizations on the upper plateau of the site and the outer ramparts of the city. It also integrates early parts of a Volga Bolgar settlement located in the northern lower level of the site and on the closest Volga island. The potential of large sectors of archaeological resources remains unknown so that the site retains strong potential for archaeological research.

The integrity of the property has suffered adverse effects from development over the past 3 centuries and the State Party has committed to improving the situation by removing a tent village set up for pilgrims during the annual pilgrimage season from the centre of the property. Although it appears that the construction of new infrastructure on the site has reached its completion, more sensitive planning is needed in the case of any future interventions or visitor interpretation and prior Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) are absolutely necessary before any interventions can be approved by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies.

### **Authenticity**

The number of architectural and other interventions on site is substantial and has affected the authenticity of the overall complex and, in one instance, reduced the archaeological evidence providing testimony to the Volga Bolgar civilization. These also include past conservation activities at the property which included reconstructions and partial rebuilding works. In other places, restoration measures conducted were extensive, sometimes without clear justification and have reduced authenticity in material, substance, craftsmanship and setting.

On the other hand, the property's ramparts and moat remain fully authentic, as well as the large-scale archaeological areas yet to be researched and surveyed. In addition, the religious reference function of Bolgar to Tatar Muslims retains a high level of authenticity, in particular with regard to the location, spirit and feeling which have not been affected by the recent addition of religious structures, built in support of the religious values. Tatar Muslims continue to venerate Bolgar as the origin of Islam in this region, and conduct annual pilgrimages to the historical and archaeological complex.

### **Management and protection requirements**

The monuments and archaeological remains within the property, including the so-called "Cathedral Mosque", Black Chamber, North and East Mausoleums, the Khan's Shrine, the Smaller Minaret and the Church of the Dormition, are registered as cultural heritage of national significance under the Federal Law on Properties of Cultural Heritage (Monuments of History and Culture) of Peoples of the Russian Federation (2002). In addition, the complete Bolgar State Historical and Architectural Cultural Preserve was placed on the List of Properties of Historic Importance based on the Edict of the President of the Russian Federation on the Confirmation of the Federal (all-Russia) Historical and Cultural Heritage List (1995). In 2013, the State Party adjusted the General Plan and Scheme of Bolgar Territorial Planning, which now stipulates that any significant changes in the buffer zone must get the permission of federal, regional and municipal executive bodies. It seems further understood that developments on site are only to be permitted in exceptional circumstances after approval from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies.

The Bolgar Historical and Archaeological Complex has its own management authority (site administration), which employs several academic heritage specialists in their respective fields. The administration is divided into four key sections dedicated to exhibitions and presentation, museum collections, research and public outreach as well as maintenance and security. The site administration reports via the Head Office for Conservation, Use, Promotion and Public Protection of Cultural Heritage to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan. The funding available to the administration is generous and should preferably be utilized for non-intrusive research and adequate conservation and consolidation measures, rather than the creation of constructions which might not respect the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property.

At the time of submission of the revised nomination dossier for this property, primary directions for a management plan were established and a number of focus areas have



been identified including the coordination and administration of the property, as well as the continued study, conservation and management of archaeological sites and materials. These directions indicated that future research would focus on important questions about the site's development and peculiarities of its formation and be based on non-destructive methods including technologies and methods used in natural sciences, aerial mapping and processing of space satellite information. The management plan needs to be finalized and be kept up-to-date to ensure the best possible management practices for the property.

6. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Finalizing the Management Plan including strategies for implementation of the strategic objectives and directions as well as activity schedules and quality assessment schemes,
  - b) Developing a monitoring system with precise indicators to observe and document the state of conservation of the property,
  - c) Formally confirming its commitment to move the pilgrimage village outside of the site boundaries, as assured during the Advisory Mission in 2013 and presenting a plan and timeframe for the relocation,
  - d) Creating a comprehensive site archive and store, which collects all data and reports and as far as possible all archaeological finds, in a centralized facility in the vicinity of the site,
  - e) Reducing some of the conservation works already undertaken, in particular surface treatments of historic materials in the vicinity of restored additions, which prevent distinguishing between historic and added materials,
  - f) Refraining from developing new projects or visitor infrastructure on the site, except following the explicit approval of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2015**, a report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

## LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

### New Nominations

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru**, with exception of the following site components: Tambillitos (AR-TAM-19/CS-2011), Quimsa Cruz – Ilata (BO-DV-04/CS-2011), Jimbura - Puente Roto (EC-JP-27/C-2011), Oñacapa - Loma de Paila (La Zarza) (EC-OL-24/CS-2011), Nagsiche – Panzaleo (EC-NP-10/CS-2011), Pachamama – Llaico (EC-PL-15/C-2011), Vilcanota – La Raya (PE-CD-05/C-2011), Colquejahuá – Pacaje (PE-CD-07/C-2011), Walla – Kintama (PE-OL- 20/C-2011), Toroyoq – Kutacoca (PE-VCH-

25/ CS-2011), Ipas Grande (PE-XP-28/C-2011), and Quebrada Escalera (PE-XP- 29/C-2011), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System is an extensive Inca communication, trade and defence network of roads and associated structures covering over 30,000 kilometres. Constructed by the Incas over several centuries, the network reached its maximum expansion in the 15th century, when it spread across the length and breadth of the Andes. The network is based on four main routes, which originate from the central square of Cusco, the capital of the Tawantinsuyu. These main routes are connected to several other road networks of lower hierarchy which created linkages and cross-connections. 273 component sites in 137 segments encompassing 697.450 kilometres of the Inca trail highlight the Qhapaq Ñan's architectural and engineering achievement along with its associated infrastructure for trade, storage and accommodation as well as sites of religious significance. The road network was the outcome of a political project implemented by the Incas linking towns and centres of production and worship together under an economic, social and cultural programme in the service of the State.

The Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System is an extraordinary road network through one of the world's most extreme geographical terrains used over several centuries by caravans, traveller, messengers, armies and whole population groups amounting up to 40,000 people. It was the lifeline of the Tawantinsuyu, linking towns and centres of production and worship over long distances. Towns, villages and rural areas were thus integrated into a single road grid. Several local communities who remain traditional guardians and custodians of Qhapaq Ñan segments continue to safeguard associated intangible cultural traditions including languages.

The Qhapaq Ñan by its sheer scale and quality of the road, is a unique achievement of engineering skills in most varied geographical terrains, linking snow-capped mountain ranges of the Andes, at an altitude of more than 6,000 metres high, to the coast, running through hot rainforests, fertile valleys and absolute deserts. It demonstrates mastery in engineering technology used to resolved myriad problems posed by the Andes variable landscape by means of variable road construction technologies, bridges, stairs, ditches and cobblestone pavings.

**Criterion (ii):** The Qhapaq Ñan exhibits important processes of interchange of goods, communication and cultural traditions within a cultural area of the world which created a vast empire of up to 4,200km in extension at its height in the 15th century. It is based on the integration of prior Andean ancestral knowledge and the specifics of Andean communities and cultures forming a state organizational system that enabled the exchange of social, political and economic values for imperial policy. Several roadside structures provide lasting evidence of valuable resources and goods traded along the network, such as precious metals, muyu (spondylus shell), foodstuffs, military supplies, feathers, wood, coca and textiles transported from the areas where they were collected, produced or manufactured, to Inca centres of various types and to the capital itself. Several communities, who remain custodians of components of this vast Inca communication network, are living reminders of the exchange of cultural values and language.

**Criterion (iii):** The Qhapaq Ñan is an exceptional and unique testimony to the Inca civilization based on the values and principles of reciprocity, redistribution and duality constructed in a singular system of organization called Tawantinsuyu. The road network was the life giving support to the Inca Empire integrated into the Andean landscape. As

a testimony to the Inca Empire, it illustrates thousands of years of cultural evolution and was an omnipresent symbol of the Empire's strength and extension throughout the Andes. This testimony influences the communities along the Qhapaq Ñan until today, in particular with relation to the social fabric of local communities and the cultural philosophies that give meaning to relationships among people and between people and the land. Most importantly, life is still defined by links among close kin and an ethic of mutual support.

**Criterion (iv):** The Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System is an outstanding example of a type of technological ensemble which despite the most difficult geographical conditions created a continuous and functioning communication and trade system with exceptional technological and engineering skills in rural and remote settings. Several elements illustrate characteristic typologies in terms of walls, roads, steps, roadside ditches, sewage pipes, drains, etc., with construction methods unique to the Qhapaq Ñan while varying according to location and regional context. Many of these elements were standardized by the Inca State, which allowed for the control of equal conditions along the road network.

**Criterion (vi):** The Qhapaq Ñan played an essential role in the organization of space and society in a wide geographical area along the Andes, where the roads were used as a means to share cultural values with outstanding intangible significance. The Qhapaq Ñan continues today to provide communities with a sense of identity and to enable their cultural practices, cultural expressions and traditional skills to continue to be transmitted from generation to generation. Members of these communities base their own existence on an Andean cosmovision, which is unique in the World. This cosmovision applies to all aspects of everyday life. Today, Qhapaq Ñan is directly associated with the intangible values shared by the communities in the Andean World, such as traditional trade, ritual practices, and the use of ancient technology, among others, which are living traditions and beliefs essential to the cultural identity of the communities concerned. The Andean Road System continues to serve its original functions of integration, communication, exchange and flow of goods and knowledge, and - despite the current modern trade and social changes - keeps its pertinence and importance throughout the centuries and its role as a cultural reference which contributes to reinforcing the identity within the Andean world.

### **Integrity**

The series of sites inscribed as the best representation of the Qhapaq Ñan is exhaustive enough and illustrates the variety of typological, functional and communicative elements, which allow for a full understanding of its historic and contemporary role. The number of segments is adequate to communicate the key features of the heritage route, despite the fact that these are fragmented in individual site components, which represent the best preserved segments of the previously continuous road network.

For a number of site components the condition of integrity remains vulnerable and it is recommended that the States Parties develop criteria to define minimum intactness in relation to the different technological and architectural categories identified and the different geographical regions and levels of remoteness. According to these criteria, the condition of integrity should be monitored in the future to ensure that intactness can be guaranteed in the long term and that the site components remain free from threats which may reduce the condition of integrity.

To ensure that the distinct relations between different sites in terms of continuity despite their fragmentation can be well understood by future visitors, it is recommended that appropriate maps or a GIS system be developed which illustrates the functional and

social relations between the different site components and highlights their role in the overall Qhapaq Ñan network.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the Qhapaq Ñan component sites is very high in that the characteristic features retain their form and design and the variety of specific well-preserved types of architectural and engineering achievements facilitate communication of the overall form and design of the network. The materials used are mainly stone and earth, with stone type varying from region to region, and repair and maintenance measures where necessary are undertaken in traditional techniques and material. These are predominantly driven by the local populations, who remain knowledgeable in traditional road management techniques and who are the key partners in maintaining the roadbed and associated features.

At sites which have been of specific archaeological or cultural interest professional stabilization and restoration techniques have been applied and implemented with great respect to the original materials and substance. On the road sections, local management systems govern decision-making processes, often with a large degree of community involvement and these have retained highest degrees of authenticity as reuse of the historic materials remains more efficient than the introduction of new materials.

The setting and visual surroundings of most of Qhapaq Ñan's components is very good and in many cases pristine. For several summit ceremonial sites, settings include horizon ranges of 360 degrees for many kilometres in all directions. The Qhapaq Ñan also passes through very beautiful landscapes, the beauty of which depends on fragile view sheds associated which need to be monitored to ensure that any modern developments in the landscape have as minimal visual impact as possible.

Several sites are difficult to access and their remoteness has over centuries preserved them in a very good condition. A majority of Qhapaq Ñan components is located in rural settings which fortunately left them free of noticeable modern intrusions. Associated intangible values and management practices remain very strong, especially in the most remote sections of the road network and contribute to the safeguarding of authentic management mechanisms. The information sources of spirit and feeling as well as atmosphere are very relevant as many of the communities have strong associations to the Qhapaq Ñan and continue to remain guardians of some of the ceremonial structures.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

As a transnational serial property the Qhapaq Ñan covers the jurisdiction of six countries at national and local levels, including, in one instance, regulations of seven regional authorities. A number of international joint declarations and Statements of Commitment have been signed by the participating States Parties between 2010 and 2012 which highlight their agreement to protect the segments of the Qhapaq Ñan at the highest possible level. The protection put in place in light of these agreements follow the respective national heritage legislations and provide protection at the highest national level to all property components.

The States Parties have designed two overarching management frameworks, one for the candidature phase of the nomination and a second that will become operational once the inscription is achieved. The preparation phase was guided by a Paris-based international Coordination Committee while the overarching management framework following World Heritage inscription is guided by regional networks among the participating States Parties. The State Party of Peru committed to support the establishment of a technical coordination secretariat where information will be gathered and communicated to the

experts in all Qhapaq Ñan states and where frequent meetings among the technical experts will be organized.

Within the national contexts management systems have been developed in cooperation with the local communities and include concerns of perpetuation of the living traditions associated with the Qhapaq Ñan. The majority of these are traditional management systems which have been in existence for centuries and have developed from the local community levels to more formalized agreements with the concerned governmental authorities. The importance of preserving the actual road trace in areas that are being cultivated by the communities should be highlighted as part of the management agreements.

Several local communities explicitly expressed their interest in tourism activities which they intend to be managed and driven at the community level. Limited presentation and interpretation facilities are at present available along the Qhapaq Ñan and local communities sharing their experiences and stories with visitors are a key basis of interpretation.

Some territories of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System are seismically active areas and especially the architectural structures seem to be endangered by earthquakes. Adequate risk protection schemes need to be developed to ensure safety of humans as well as cultural resources in the event of natural disasters.

An overall policy framework for the Qhapaq Ñan was created with the Management Strategy document undersigned at high level by the six States Parties on 29 November 2012. In addition to this multinational agreement management plans are intended to be developed at a regional level for each individual section of the road network. The management strategy framework illustrates the initial implementation of key management aspects, in particular the social and participation strategies intended to enable local communities to develop owner- and guardianship of the Qhapaq Ñan and its serial components. Further management and conservation plan components remain under development and should integrate adequate risk preparedness and disaster management as well as visitor management strategies.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:

- a) Finalizing the establishment of the international technical cooperation secretariat to ensure effective communication as well as the functionality of the overarching management framework in the future,
- b) Establishing a monitoring system including specific indicators for monitoring exercises to ensure the regular documentation of the state of conservation of this extensive and often remote serial property; in this context in particular develop criteria to define minimum intactness in relation to the different technological and architectural categories identified and the different geographical regions and levels of remoteness to allow for adequate monitoring of the condition of integrity to ensure that intactness can be guaranteed in the long term,
- c) Finalizing Management and Conservation Plans, including risk preparedness and disaster management strategies in earthquake prone regions, for each of the segments and submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre,
- d) Submitting adequate maps illustrating the functional relations between different site components to complete the documentation of the Qhapaq Ñan to allow for better future management and monitoring under the World Heritage system, and consider making such maps available to visitors for better understanding of the role of individual site components in the overall heritage route,

- e) Extending the buffer zone of Angualasto (AR-ANC-13/CS-2011) to include the nearby hills and the road structures,
  - f) Establishing a shared buffer zone of the archaeological sites of Molle (PE-XP-38/S-2011) and Huaycán de Cieneguilla (PE-XP-39/S-2011) to preserve the shared landscape features in the wider surroundings,
  - g) Formalizing the buffer zone currently discussed and agreed upon with the community at segment Pancca-Buena Vista-Chuquibambilla (PE-CD-06/CS-2011),
  - h) Connecting the separate segments of Cerro Jircancho – Cerro Torre (PE-HH-52/CS-2011) and Maraycalla – Inca Misana (PE-HH-53/CS-2011), which already share a common buffer zone by extending the property boundaries which are currently defined by management considerations to become one longer segment combining both smaller sections currently designated,
  - i) Reviewing the general concept of buffer zone designation as parallel strips alongside of road segments towards more dynamic buffer zone designations which take into account the features and view sheds of the surrounding landscape,
  - j) Conducting, in the meantime, comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) according to the ICOMOS Guidance provided for cultural World Heritage properties, for any significant development which would be visible from a property component, regardless of whether the development location is formally designated as a buffer zone to preserve the important landscape features around the Qhapaq Ñan road segments,
  - k) Identifying the attributes of each of the Qhapaq Ñan road segments that sustain the inclusion of criterion (vi) and the implications in terms of management of the property;
5. Requests the States Parties to submit, by **1 December 2015**, a report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in the implementation of the abovementioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;
6. Encourages the States Parties to call upon ICOMOS to provide detailed recommendations in relation to conservation and management of specific component parts.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Precolumbian chiefdom settlements with stone spheres of the Diquís, Costa Rica**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

The serial nomination of four archaeological sites (Finca 6, Batambal, El Silencio and Grijalba-2) located in the Diquís Delta in southern Costa Rica illustrates a collection of unique stone spheres located in chiefdom settlement structures of the Precolumbian period. The four sites represent different settlement structures of chiefdom societies (500-1500 CE) containing artificial mounds, paved areas and burial sites. Special objects of wonder and admiration are the distinctive Diquís stone spheres, which are rare in their perfection of large-sized (up to 2.57m diameter) spherical structures but are also distinct for their number and location in their original positions within residential areas.

**Criterion (iii):** The Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís illustrate the physical evidence of the complex political, social and productive structures of the Precolumbian hierarchical societies. The chiefdoms which inhabited the Diquís Delta created hierarchical settlements expressing the division of different levels of power centres, presented by the different serial components. Likewise, the exceptional stone spheres, which continue to leave researchers speculating about the method and tools of their production, represent an exceptional testimony to the artistic traditions and craft capabilities of these Precolumbian societies.

### **Integrity**

The four property components contribute specific elements which allow for the understanding of the chiefdom settlement structures. Finca 6 is the only site retaining stone spheres in linear arrangements, Batambal is the only chiefdom settlement visible from a far distance, El Silencio contains the largest single stone sphere ever found, and Grijalba-2 site is unique for its use of limestone and its distinctive characteristics as a subordinate centre, as opposed to the Finca 6 site, which was likely a principal centre. All four sites show to differing degrees signs of the negative impact of past agricultural development and looting of archaeological sites. However, the material which remains preserved in situ is significant enough to express the different aspects of Outstanding Universal Value.

Batambal site is located in close proximity to dwellings and might be negatively impacted by future urban development. In addition, two large development projects, the Diquís Hydroelectric Dam and the Southern International Airport, are currently being discussed. The State Party has committed to undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) for both projects and given assurances that it will give full consideration and priority to preventing impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value, if either of the projects are to be implemented.

### **Authenticity**

Previous excavations were limited to test sections and most excavation pits have been reburied following the completion of archaeological recording. As a result, the authenticity of the property with regard to design, material, substance, location and workmanship is satisfactory. A challenge for retaining authenticity of setting is the lack of knowledge of the extent of forest clearance during Precolumbian times, which increases the difficulties in judging sight relations between different structures and landscape elements that contribute to the site's original setting.

Finca 6 site also contains a collection of stone spheres confiscated following previous looting, the original locations of which mostly remain unknown. To distinguish those stone spheres which are in their authentic locations from those which have been relocated, it would need to be indicated more clearly that these spheres are no longer presented in their original position.

### **Protection and Management requirements**

The four components are protected as archaeological sites of public interest according to Law No 6703 on National Archaeological Heritage. This constitutes the highest possible protection for an archaeological site at national level. In addition, the stone sphere settlements proposed in this nomination received legal protection in addition to the highest national level through Presidential Decree 36825-C, which highlights their intended future status as World Heritage Sites.

The legislation attributes exclusive legal authority over the archaeological sites to the State, represented by the National Archaeological Commission and the National Museum. The legal protection of the four component sites is exemplary and complete. To ensure equally high legal protection of the buffer zones, their integration in the new Regulatory Plan for Osa County needs to be finalized.

The management of the four site components is overseen and coordinated by the National Museums of Costa Rica. This institution is supported by an Advisory Council for this specific task. The State Party submitted a Management Plan in February 2014, which outlines the vision and strategic objectives for site management for a period of up to 6 years. It is envisaged to complete necessary conservation activities at all four component sites and provide visitor interpretation and presentation as well as facilitate future accessibility to the three sites not yet open to the public, Batambal, Grijalba-2 and El Silencio.

It seems essential for the success of the management plan implementation that the financial and human resources required for the administration and management of all four site components will be available to the National Museums of Costa Rica, to allow for site managers and guardians to be present on site. For the future protection and conservation of the Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís it also seems essential that Heritage Impact Assessments are undertaken for any proposed developments which might have the potential to negatively impact the property.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:

- a) Conducting detailed Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA's) in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Cultural Heritage for the Diquís Hydroelectric Dam and the Southern International Airport, to identify their potential negative impacts on the property; and submitting all proposals for development projects to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
- b) Reaching a consensual agreement with the property owner of El Silencio to ensure the site's long-term protection,
- c) Completing the development of risk preparedness and disaster management plans including protective measures and emergency plans for Finca 6 during major flood events and completing the formal integration of the revised buffer zones in the Regulatory Plan for Osa County,
- d) Ascertaining the required financial and personnel resources outlined in the management plan, including providing for a guardian or site manager for each of the properties to ensure their long-term protection and also assist visitors to the site; ICOMOS considers that further public involvement may have the potential to attract volunteers who may contribute to expanded security and visitor services,
- e) Involving the local teams in the process of monitoring and provide training to facilitate both monitoring and documentation tasks,



- f) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to provide more precise information on methods of data collection;
5. Commends the State Party for its preservation policy not to initiate new excavations or visitor promotion before the current conservation necessities are addressed and recommends to continue this exemplary approach in the future;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

**Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of the three properties inscribed at the 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) and not adopted by the World Heritage Committee**

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8B,
2. Adopts the following Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013):
  - Iran (Islamic Republic of): Golestan Palace
  - Lesotho, South Africa: Maloti-Drakensberg Park
  - Portugal: University of Coimbra – Alta and Sofia.

**Examination of minor boundary modifications of natural, mixed and cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List**

**NATURAL PROPERTIES**

**LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN**

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Refers the minor boundary modification of **Darien National Park, Panama**, back to the State Party, to allow it to:
  - a) provide a large scale map indicating the precise boundaries of the new additions to the property, and their relationship to the existing boundary of the property;
  - b) provide a specific and concise statement on the key values in each of the new areas proposed for addition to the property, and how they will be managed,

- together with details of the management plan for the property on its revised boundary;
- c) confirm the necessary legal decrees referred to in the proposal, to enable protection of the property, have been formally approved;
  - d) confirm, and provide supporting information, on the necessary consultation with indigenous and local peoples in support of the proposed addition of the new areas to the property.
3. Encourages the State Party of Panama, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to consider further options to strengthen the protection and management of the property, taking account of the IUCN evaluation of the minor boundary modification, and in consultation with the State Party of Colombia on matters related to transboundary confirmation with the adjacent World Heritage Property of Los Katíos National Park.

## MIXED PROPERTIES

### ASIA / PACIFIC

#### Decision: 38 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7B.41**, **34 COM 7B.38**, **36 COM 8B.45** and **37 COM 8B.44**;
3. Does not approve the proposed minor modification of the boundaries of the **Tasmanian Wilderness, Australia**;
4. Requests to the State Party to:
  - a) Undertake further study and consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in order to provide more detailed information on the cultural value of the property and how these relate to the Outstanding Universal value,
  - b) Provide detailed information on the legal provisions for the protection of cultural heritage in the extended property,
  - c) Provide detailed information on the management arrangements for cultural heritage and in particular for the control of access to archaeological sites and sites of cultural significance.

## CULTURAL PROPERTIES

### AFRICA

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Notes the confirmation by the State Party that mining activity is legally prohibited in protected areas, including in World Heritage properties;
3. Approves the proposed buffer zone of **Mapungubwe Cultural Landscape, South Africa**;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Environmental Management Framework for the proposed buffer zone as soon as it has been finalised including land uses and approved regulatory tools;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information about the 'off-setting' in relation to the Vele Colliery, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee.

### ARAB STATES

#### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary and to the buffer zone of **Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun, Bahrain**;
3. Recommends that the State Party provide to the World Heritage Centre:
  - a) A copy of the amended Heritage Law, Decree 11 of 1995, which was planned for promulgation in the second quarter of 2014,
  - b) An indication of when the current draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been created between the Ministry of Culture and the owners of the properties located within the area designated for the extension of the World Heritage property will be concluded and the final copy once it has been concluded,
  - c) Land use and Zoning regulations which are subcategories of the Physical Planning Legislation of 1994 once they are finalized at their forthcoming revision in late 2014.

## EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to reinforce the management of interventions in the buffer zone of its World Heritage properties through a new executive order;
3. Recognizes that, considering this new executive order, a general re-evaluation of the buffer zones is necessary;
4. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone for the **Plantin-Moretus House-Workshops-Museum Complex, Belgium**, and invites the State Party in collaboration with the Advisory Body to work out a new proposal for a relevant and feasible buffer zone for the property, taking into account the provisions of the new executive order, to be discussed by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

### **Decision: 38 COM 8B.51**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of **Archaeological Areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Provide further explanation of the rationale chosen for the proposed new boundaries of the Herculaneum component, based on a study of the known extent and topography of the ancient city,
  - b) Explain in detail the management implications of expanding the Herculaneum component, not only with regard to the measures for preventive archaeology but also to the management arrangements and regulations that should be set up for the parts of the contemporary city of Ercolano that would fall within the boundaries of the inscribed property,
  - c) Reconsider the proposal for inclusion of the villas in Boscoreale and Stabiae according to the present ICOMOS recommendations and on the basis of the original justification for inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;
3. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone for **Archaeological Areas of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Further explain the rationale for the delineation of the boundaries of the buffer zone, in particular with regard to the protection of the visual links of the inscribed property with Mount Vesuvius,

- b) Provide further detailed information on how the different levels of protection in force within the area work in practice to protect the inscribed property and the buffer zone,
- c) Describe in detail what are the management arrangements for the buffer zone, with regard to urban development in the area and specifically as to how the views from and towards Mount Vesuvius and the inscribed property are protected.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the **Historic Centre of Florence, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Explain in detail the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, also through graphical and photographic documentation, and its relation to the results of the preparatory study,
  - b) Clarify and illustrate through cartographic and visual documentation the relevant views, vistas and belvederes worthy of protection, including those from inside the inscribed property towards the outside hillsides,
  - c) Explain in detail how the protection and management systems function in practice,
  - d) Clarify how and by when the management system/plan submitted in 2006 will be amended so as to include the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the buffer zone to effectively act as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,
  - e) Adopt and approve the urban regulations concerning the respecting of belvederes and views in any future planning and building decision.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.53**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zones for the **Megalithic Temples of Malta, Malta**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Provide a textual description and detailed justification for the precise lines of the buffer zones of the component sites of the serial property,
  - b) Provide information on the management arrangements in place for the buffer zones,
  - c) Strengthen the site-specific development limitation (particularly height limitation) measures within the buffer zones and provide information on the outcomes of the review of the Local Plans;

3. Encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed of any development projects within the vicinity of the property in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.54**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed buffer zone for the **Historic Centre of Warsaw, Poland**;
3. Recommends that as a matter of urgency the whole area of the proposed buffer zone should be covered with spatial development plans aimed at ensuring no adverse impact of new development on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property;
4. Also recommends that the following requirements should be incorporated in all development plans covering the proposed buffer zone:
  - a) The height of new buildings (or additional volumes at or on existing buildings) should be limited. Scale, materials, techniques and colours should be defined;
  - b) For existing buildings that are to be renovated, permitted materials, techniques and colours should be defined;
  - c) For existing and new buildings, possible measures for energy-saving and energy-production on the building should be defined, and respectively limited;
  - d) For new and renovated buildings the type of use should be defined;
  - e) Views to and from the World Heritage property should be carefully studied and significant views should be left open;
  - f) The fact that the area of a development plan is part of the buffer zone should be mentioned in the prescriptions of each plan, and its delimitation shown in the plan;
  - g) Within the buffer zone, the position of the historic preservation officer should be strengthened;
  - h) Already existing development plans should be modified to fulfil the above-mentioned requirements.
5. Requests that the State Party submit, by **1 February 2016**, a report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. **Refers** the examination of the proposed minor modification to the buffer zone of **Kizhi Pogost, Russian Federation**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Submit a complete set of maps, either cadastral or topographical, that also identify the additional 590 ha of proposed extension to the buffer zone and which are presented at a scale which is appropriate to the size in hectares of the property and sufficient to show clearly the detail of the current boundaries and the proposed changes;
  - b) Explain the reasons for the inclusion of the plots of land on Bolshoy Klimenetskiy Island in the buffer zone, in relation to its protective function for the inscribed property;
  - c) Clarify and explain in detail through which legal and planning regulatory measures the proposed extended buffer zone will guarantee the effective protection of the property and how these would prevent deforestation and other possibly harmful activities;
  - d) Amend the above mentioned WHP Protected Zone Kizhi Pogost as approved by the Order of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation n. 1268 – 29 December 2011 in order to make it correspond to the proposed extended buffer zone;
  - e) Elaborate measures to ensure the protection of the visual qualities of the landscape setting of the property and the views that can be enjoyed from and towards it;
  - f) Ensure that the perimeter of the newly proposed boundaries of the buffer zone be incorporated into the 2013 Management Plan.

**Decision: 38 COM 8B.56**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. **Approves** the proposed buffer zone for **Burgos Cathedral, Spain**;
3. **Recommends** that the State Party provide to the World Heritage Centre copies of the revised General Urban Development Plan and the Special Plan for the Historic Centre once they are completed and approved.

**8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

**Decision: 38 COM 8C.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC-14/38.COM/7B, WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add and WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add.Corr) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC-14/38.COM/8B and WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add),

2. Decides to **inscribe** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
- Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Decision **38 COM 8B.4**)
  - Plurinational State of Bolivia, City of Potosi (Decision **38 COM 7B.38**)
  - United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve (Decision **38 COM 7B.95**)

**Decision: 38 COM 8C.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-14/38.COM/7A and WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add),
2. Decides to **retain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
- Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Decision **38 COM 7A.14**)
  - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Decision **38 COM 7A.15**)
  - Belize, Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Decision **38 COM 7A.31**)
  - Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.34**)
  - Chile, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Decision **38 COM 7A.21**)
  - Colombia, Los Katíos National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.32**)
  - Côte d'Ivoire, Comoé National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.35**)
  - Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Decision **38 COM 7A.36**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.37**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.38**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Garamba National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.39**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Salonga National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.40**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Decision **38 COM 7A.41**)
  - Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **38 COM 7A.1**)
  - Ethiopia, Simien National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.43**)
  - Georgia, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Decision **38 COM 7A.16**)
  - Georgia, Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Decision **38 COM 7A.17**)



- Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Decision **38 COM 7A.33**)
- Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Decision **38 COM 7A.28**)
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Decision **38 COM 7A.2**)
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City (Decision **38 COM 7A.3**)
- Jerusalem, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (Decision **38 COM 7A.4**)
- Madagascar, Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Decision **38 COM 7A.44**)
- Mali, Timbuktu (Decision **38 COM 7A.24**)
- Mali, Tomb of Askia (Decision **38 COM 7A.25**)
- Niger, Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Decision **38 COM 7A.45**)
- Palestine, Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Decision **38 COM 7A.5**)
- Panama, Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Decision **38 COM 7A.20**)
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Decision **38 COM 7A.22**)
- Senegal, Niokolo-Koba National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.46**)
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Decision **38 COM 7A.18**)
- Solomon Islands, East Rennell (Decision **38 COM 7B.29**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Damascus (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Site of Palmyra (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Aleppo (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Decision **38 COM 7A.12**)
- Uganda, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Decision **38 COM 7A.26**)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (Decision **38 COM 7A.19**)
- United States of America, Everglades National Park (Decision **38 COM 7A.30**)
- Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **38 COM 7A.23**)
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid (Decision **38 COM 7A.13**)

**Decision: 38 COM 8C.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-14/38.COM/7A and WHC-14/38.COM/7A.Add),

2. Decides to **remove** the following property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
  - United Republic of Tanzania, Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (Decision **38 COM 7A.27**)

## **8D. CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND AREAS BY STATES PARTIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8D**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8D,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8D**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the delimitations of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;
4. Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will not be able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed are unclear;
5. Takes note of the clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the States Parties in response to the Retrospective Inventory, as presented in the annexes of Document WHC-14/38.COM/8D:

#### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

- China: Mogao Caves; Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor; Lushan National Park; Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area; Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic and Historic Interest Area;
- Japan: Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities);
- Thailand: Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries;

#### EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA:

- Canada: Miguasha National Park; Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks;
- Canada / United States of America: Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek;
- France: Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley;
- Germany: Speyer Cathedral; Roman Monuments, Cathedral of St. Peter and Church of Our Lady in Trier; Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch;
- Russian Federation: Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments;

- Spain: Route of Santiago de Compostela;
  - United States of America: Redwood National and State Parks; Mammoth Cave National Park; Statue of Liberty; Yosemite National Park; Taos Pueblo;
- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN:
- Argentina: Iguazu National Park;
  - Argentina / Brazil: Jesuit Missions of the Guarani: San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Senora de Loreto, Santa Maria Mayor, Ruins of San Miguel das Missoes;
  - Brazil: Historic Town of Ouro Preto; Serra da Capivara National Park; Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda; Historic Centre of Salvador de Bahia;
  - Colombia: San Augustín Archeological Park; National Archeological Park of Tierradentro; Los Katíos National Park;
  - Costa Rica / Panama : Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park ;
  - Guatemala: Archaeological Park and Ruins of Quirigua;
  - Mexico: Historic Monuments Zone of Querétaro; Earliest 16th-Century Monasteries on the Slopes of Popocatepetl; Hospicio Cabañas, Guadalajara; Historic Centre of Mexico City and Xochimilco;
  - Uruguay: Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento.
6. Requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible and by **1 December 2014** at the latest.

## **8E. ADOPTION OF RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE**

### **Decision: 38 COM 8E**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/8E,
2. Congratulates the States Parties for the excellent work accomplished in the elaboration of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in their territories;
3. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC-14/38.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:
  - ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:
    - China: Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area;

- Japan: Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu; Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara; Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama; The Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome);
- Sri Lanka: Sinharaja Forest;
- Vietnam: Hoi An Ancient Town; Complex of Hué Monuments;
- EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA:
- Albania: Butrint;
- Armenia: Monastery of Geghard and the Upper Azat Valley;
- Austria: Semmering Railway; Wachau Cultural Landscape;
- Azerbaijan: Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower;
- Belarus / Estonia / Finland / Latvia / Lithuania / Moldova / Norway / Russian Federation / Sweden / Ukraine: Struve Geodetic Arc;
- Belgium: Major Town Houses of the Architect Victor Horta (Brussels); Neolithic Flint Mines at Spiennes (Mons); Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai; Plantin-Moretus House-Workshops-Museum Complex;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar;
- Cyprus: Paphos;
- Denmark: Ilulissat Icefjord;
- Finland: Bronze Age Burial Site of Sammallahdenmäki; Fortress of Suomenlinna; Old Rauma; Petäjävesi Old Church; Verla Groundwood and Board Mill;
- Georgia: Historical Monuments of Mtskheta; Upper Svaneti;
- Germany / Poland: Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski;
- Germany: Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch; Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau; Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl; Collegiate Church, Castle and Old Town of Quedlinburg; Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz; Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg; Monastic Island of Reichenau; Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin; Pilgrimage Church of Wies; St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church at Hildesheim; Völklingen Ironworks; Wartburg Castle; Würzburg Residence with the Court Gardens and Residence Square; Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex in Essen;
- Holy See / Italy: Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura;
- Holy See: Vatican City;
- Iceland: Þingvellir National Park;
- Italy: Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico), Padua; Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta; Historic Centre of Florence; Historic Centre of Naples;
- Lithuania / Russian Federation: Curonian Spit;
- Lithuania: Kernavė Archaeological Site (Cultural Reserve of Kernavė);
- Malta: City of Valletta; Hal Saflieni Hypogeum; Megalithic Temples of Malta;
- Mongolia / Russian Federation: Uvs Nuur Basin;
- Montenegro: Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor;

- Netherlands: Historic Area of Willemstad, Inner City and Harbour, Curaçao;
  - Norway: Vegaøyen -- The Vega Archipelago; West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord;
  - Poland: Centennial Hall in Wrocław; Historic Centre of Warsaw;
  - Portugal: Historic Centre of Évora; Landscape of the Pico Island Vineyard Culture; Monastery of Alcobaça; Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém in Lisbon;
  - Russian Federation: Church of the Ascension, Kolomenskoye; Historical Centre of the City of Yaroslavl; Kizhi Pogost;
  - Slovakia: Bardejov Town Conservation Reserve; Vlkolínec;
  - Slovenia: Škocjan Caves;
  - Spain: Archaeological Ensemble of Mérida; Burgos Cathedral; Historic Centre of Cordoba; Monastery and Site of the Escorial, Madrid; Monuments of Oviedo and the Kingdom of the Asturias; Mudéjar Architecture of Aragon; Old City of Salamanca; Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches; Old Town of Cáceres; Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct; Poblet Monastery; Route of Santiago de Compostela; Royal Monastery of Santa María de Guadalupe; San Cristóbal de La Laguna; Santiago de Compostela (Old Town); Works of Antoni Gaudí;
  - Turkey: Archaeological Site of Troy; City of Safranbolu; Hattusha: the Hittite Capital; Xanthos-Letoon;
  - Ukraine: Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra;
  - United Kingdom: Gough and Inaccessible Islands; Henderson Island; Historic Town of St George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda;
  - United States of America: Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site; Chaco Culture; Independence Hall; Mesa Verde National Park; Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville; Statue of Liberty;
- LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEANS:
- Argentina: Ischigualasto / Talampaya Natural Parks; Los Glaciares; Península Valdés;
  - Belize: Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System;
  - Bolivia: City of Potosí;
  - Brazil: Brasília; Historic Centre of Salvador de Bahia; Historic Centre of São Luís; Historic Centre of the Town of Diamantina; Historic Centre of the Town of Goiás; Historic Centre of the Town of Olinda; Historic Town of Ouro Preto; Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Congonhas;
  - Colombia: Los Katíos National Park;
  - Costa Rica / Panama: Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park;
  - Cuba: Archaeological Landscape of the First Coffee Plantations in the South-East of Cuba; San Pedro de la Roca Castle, Santiago de Cuba; Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos; Viñales Valley;
  - Dominican Republic: Colonial City of Santo Domingo;

- Guatemala: Tikal National Park;
  - Panama: Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection; Fortifications on the Caribbean Side, Portobelo and San Lorenzo;
  - Suriname: Central Suriname Nature Reserve; Historic Inner City of Paramaribo;
4. Decides that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in Danger will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies in priority;
  5. Further decides that, considering the high number of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value to be examined, the order in which they will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies will follow the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, namely:
    - World Heritage properties in the Arab States;
    - World Heritage properties in Africa;
    - World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific;
    - World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean;
    - World Heritage properties in Europe and North America;
  6. Takes note that the World Heritage Centre is in the process of harmonising all sub-headings in the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and, as appropriate, reflects name changes of World Heritage properties throughout the text of the Statements as requested by the Committee at its 37th session, and requests the World Heritage Centre to also update the size of the property and/or its buffer zone, as appropriate, following subsequent Decisions of the World Heritage Committee concerning Minor Boundary Modifications.
  7. Requests the States Parties to provide support to the World Heritage Centre for translation of the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value into English or French respectively, and finally requests the Centre to upload the two language versions on its website.

## 9A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE UPSTREAM PROCESSES

### **Decision: 38 COM 9A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/9A,
2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 13.III** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), Decision **35 COM 12C** at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), Decision **36 COM 12C** at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and Decision **37 COM 9** at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);
3. Welcomes all the actions undertaken to improve the processes and practices prior to consideration by the World Heritage Committee of a nomination (the ‘Upstream Processes’) and commends the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for the pilot projects in which progress was made;

4. Acknowledges that outside of the referenced pilot projects, in order to be effective, the upstream support should ideally intervene at an early stage, more precisely at the moment of the revision of States Parties Tentative Lists;
5. Also commends the State Party of Namibia for the inscription on the World Heritage List of the Namib Sand Sea at the 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), Saudi Arabia for the submission of the nomination on the Rock Drawings in the region of Hail, and Uruguay for the submission of the Cultural and Industrial Landscape of Fray Bentos;
6. Urges the States Parties concerned that have not yet done so, to fully collaborate providing technical and financial support to implement the required actions to make progress with the pilot projects and encourages them to seek assistance from the World Heritage Centre to identify opportunities to secure resources to progress the project, if necessary;
7. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the States Parties concerned in the implementation of their pilot projects which were not able to identify adequate resources;
8. Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress in implementing the pilot projects for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to draft a proposal in view of including the Upstream Process in the *Operational Guidelines* and to specify their implementation modalities, in the light of the outcomes of the Director General's meeting "World Heritage Convention: Thinking ahead", for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session, in 2015.

## **9B. REFLECTIONS ON PROCESSES FOR MIXED NOMINATION**

### **Decision: 38 COM 9B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/9B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.19** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the detailed report made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on mixed sites and related evaluation processes;
4. Acknowledges from that report that the review of the decision processes for mixed nominations reveals that in most cases these appear to be more complex than those sites nominated for only cultural or natural values and might require more time at the preparatory stage of the nomination;
5. Further acknowledges the complexities for the Advisory Bodies evaluating in relation to the completeness check of nominations, the re-nomination under new criteria of already inscribed sites to become mixed properties and preparation of draft decisions;

6. Takes note of the project undertaken by the Advisory Bodies on evaluation procedures of mixed nominations, to be completed by 2015, and requests them to prepare, for State Party comment, a discussion document including options for changes to the criteria and to the Advisory Body evaluation process for mixed nominations;
7. Encourages the States Parties to fully consider the potential and constraints of nominating mixed sites at the earliest stages, and to seek early and proactive advice from the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for such nominations, in compliance with Paragraph 122 of the *Operational Guidelines* and urges States Parties to take full advantage of the Upstream Process to avoid significant problems during the nomination process;
8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and ICOMOS to prepare an updated joint report on this matter, including options for changes to the criteria and to the Advisory Body evaluation process for mixed nominations, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

## **9C. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY AND THE PACT INITIATIVE: FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION 19 GA 9**

### **Decision: 38 COM 9C**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/9C,
2. Recalling Resolution **19 GA 9**, particularly paragraphs 5, 6 and 12 adopted by the 19th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the *Convention* in 2013,
3. Also recalling the principle that submission of nominations to the World Heritage List is an exclusive prerogative of the States Parties, in conformity with the *World Heritage Convention*,
4. Reiterates the necessity to progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the independent evaluation by UNESCO's External Auditor on the implementation of the Global Strategy, as requested by Resolution **17 GA 9** and reiterated by the above mentioned Resolution **19 GA 9**;
5. Strongly encourages the States Parties, with the exception of those that have no sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, to refrain on a voluntary basis from submitting new nominations during their mandate, taking into consideration the External Auditor recommendation 12 and in accordance with pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, and within the context of the Global Strategy;
6. Decides to establish an ad-hoc Working Group that will meet during its 39th session in 2015 to discuss the External Auditor Recommendation 20;
7. Also decides to report on the outcomes of the discussions on recommendations 12 and 20 to the 20th session of the General Assembly to be held in 2015.



## 10A. FINAL REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR NORTH AMERICA AND PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA REGION

### **Decision: 38 COM 10A.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 10B**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the preparation of the Periodic Report for North America by the World Heritage Focal Points from North America, illustrating the close cooperation between the two States Parties of Canada and the United States of America;
4. Takes note of the Periodic Report for North America and the activities undertaken as a follow-up of the First Cycle, including the work undertaken in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and the preparation of the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and encourages the States Parties to continue this important work;
5. Decides that the significant modifications to boundaries and changes to criteria (re-nominations) requested by the States Parties of Canada and the United States of America as a follow-up to the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise will not fall within the limit of two nominations per State Party per year imposed by Paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*, while they will still fall within the overall limit of forty-five complete nominations per year. This decision shall apply for the **1 February 2015** and **1 February 2016** deadlines for the sub-region of North America, after which time the normal limit established in Paragraph 61 will be resumed;
6. Also encourages the States Parties to prepare an Action Plan to address the main conclusions, issues and opportunities identified in the Periodic Report for North America and present it to the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015.

### **Decision: 38 COM 10A.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 10B**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Also recalling that the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America takes place on a two-year basis (Group A: North America, Western, Nordic and Baltic Europe sub-regions for the first year 2012-2013; and Group B: Mediterranean, Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe for the second year 2013-2014),
4. Takes note of the activities that took place in the framework of the implementation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Group A and B;

5. Thanks the Italian and the Azerbaijani authorities for having hosted Periodic Reporting meetings since the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee;
6. Commends the World Heritage Centre for its efforts to make the Periodic Reporting data available as soon as possible to the Focal Points and site managers through the provision of the Periodic Reporting national data sets and the publication of the Short Summary Reports and encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue this work for Group B, in agreement with the relevant States Parties;
7. Notes with appreciation the support of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation in the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting;
8. Reiterates its gratitude to the States Parties for their financial contributions to the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America, and also encourages support in the future;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit to the World Heritage Committee an overall Periodic Report and Action Plan for Europe at its 39th session in 2015.

## **10B. PROGRESS REPORT ON PERIODIC REPORTING IN ALL OTHER REGIONS**

### **Decision: 38 COM 10B.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling decisions **36 COM 10A** and **37 COM 10 C.1**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;
4. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Government of Australia to the organization of a sub-regional workshop in the Pacific for the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;
5. Also notes with appreciation the contribution of the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to the implementation of integrated capacity building activities for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting; and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China) for its initiative in promoting regional cooperation on World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific;
6. Encourages the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region, established as part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to support capacity building and training activities for natural World Heritage in the region;
7. Calls upon Asia-Pacific States Parties to actively implement the Regional Action Plans and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the implementation of

follow-up activities while working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plans for Asia and the Pacific region at its 39th session in 2015.

### **Decision: 38 COM 10B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10A**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), and Decision **37 COM 10C.2** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom-Penh, 2013),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region;
4. Notes with appreciation the financial contribution of the Governments of Norway, Flanders (Belgium), Spain, South Africa and the Netherlands, as well as UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme and the MAVA Foundation to activities carried-out in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa Region and its Regional Capacity Building Programme;
5. Calls upon State Parties to financially and technically support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Africa Region through follow-up activities with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund;
6. Reiterates its request to State Parties to submit their national plans and budgets to the World Heritage Committee as indicated in the Expected Result 1 of the Action Plan for 2012-2017, and in accordance with the Management and Conservation Plans of the properties, in order to protect their Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012-2017;
9. Also requests the State Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to pay special attention to the management of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to armed conflict;
10. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region at its 39th session in 2015.

### **Decision: 38 COM 10B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 10C.3**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States and encourages them to continue their efforts in the implementation of its recommendations;
4. Commends the States Parties of the Arab Region for their commitment and thanks all focal points for their effective participation and involvement;
5. Notes with satisfaction the increased number of focal points designated for issues related to natural heritage and reiterates its request to those States Parties that have not yet done so yet to designate a focal point for nature;
6. Also encourages the States Parties to follow the recommendation of the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee (June 2011), in her letter to the Arab States regarding the establishment of national entities for World Heritage;
7. Further encourages the States Parties to continue in the implementation of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in order to enhance the conservation of urban ensembles inscribed on the World Heritage List;
8. Also notes with appreciation the commitment and important financial contribution of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, to projects aiming at developing the implementation of the *Convention* in the Arab States and invites the Arab States to reinforce their cooperation with the ARC-WH;
9. Reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest.

### **Decision: 38 COM 10B.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-14/38.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **37COM 10A** adopted at the 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Congratulates the States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean Region for their efforts to continue follow-up actions to the exercise of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean, and adopts the 2014-2024 regional Action Plan;

4. Notes with appreciation the support of the Government of Brazil and the National Institute for Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) in organizing the regional meeting “Towards defining an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean”, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Office in Brasilia, the Advisory Bodies and the category 2 centres of the Region;
5. Encourages States Parties and all other World Heritage partners and stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean to cooperate actively to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan, which reflects regional priorities to include, but not limited to, education and public awareness, disaster risk management, integrated heritage management, and sustainable tourism in World Heritage properties;
6. Calls upon the States Parties from the Region to support the implementation of the 2014-2024 Action Plan and also encourages them to provide technical and financial resources at national level for its implementation;
7. Further encourages States Parties to continue working, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and the Region’s category 2 centres, to develop sub-regional action plans, based on the Action Plan and taking into consideration and building upon the achievements of the previous plan with a focus on the specific needs of each sub-region;
8. Acknowledges the progress made by the States Parties of Mexico and Brazil in effectively establishing the UNESCO category 2 centre for the World Heritage in Zacatecas, Mexico, as well as the UNESCO Lucio Costa category 2 centre of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and strongly encourages them to continue their efforts in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, States Parties and Advisory Bodies to initiate a capacity-building programme for the management and conservation of World Heritage in the region;
9. Also calls upon States Parties from other regions to support the efforts of the Latin American and the Caribbean Region in implementing the Action Plan, in the spirit of the international cooperation promoted by the *World Heritage Convention*;
10. Reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2015** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2014** at the latest;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to provide information on the progress made in the implementation of the regional Action Plan and sub-regional action plans at its 40th session in 2016.

## **11. EXAMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS**

### **Decision: 38 COM 11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/11,
2. Notes with concern the already low level of the International Assistance budget;

3. Thanks the States Parties of Italy, India, Finland and the Republic of Korea for their generous contribution which made possible the approval of several International Assistance requests since 2010;
4. Strongly appeals to all States Parties to contribute to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund for International Assistance.

## 12. PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR 2012-2013, THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND THE STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2014-2015 BUDGET

### Decision: 38 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its decision **35 COM 12B** adopted at its 35th session to establish a Budget Working Group as a Standing Consultative Body of the Committee,
2. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/12,
3. Takes note of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2012-2013 and the situation of the reserves and contributions as at 31 December 2013;
4. Also takes note of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the first three months of the biennium 2014-2015 and the situation of the contributions as at 31 March 2014 which indicates a shortfall of about US\$ 3 million;
5. Approves the new presentation related to the consolidated table of allotments and expenditures for activities financed by the three sources of funding, as shown at the end of Annex II of Document WHC-14/38.COM/12;
6. Notes with concern the impact of the budget reduction of the UNESCO regular budget on programme activities, and appreciates the continuing efforts undertaken to manage and mitigate the challenges brought about by this situation;
7. Recalls with deep concern the current financial situation of the World Heritage Fund which has hampered its ability to provide for activities related to the *Convention*, including conservation and management of properties which are a top priority, as well as nominations, and recognizes the necessity to urgently achieve the sustainability of the Fund, which is required to underpin the *Convention* as a flagship of UNESCO;
8. Notes that the World Heritage Fund will not increase significantly in future due to the universality of the *Convention*, as well as the provisions of the *Convention* that determine the statutory funding of the World Heritage Fund, while at the same time the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List will continue to increase;
9. Considers that without additional contributions being made to the World Heritage Fund, financial resources will not be sufficient to provide for statutory processes, and also notes that there have already been significant cuts to key *Convention* processes and activities, such as International Assistance, implementation of the Periodic Reporting, development of thematic studies and capacity building;

10. Recalls that the payment of compulsory and voluntary assessed contributions is, as per the Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*, an obligation incumbent on States Parties having ratified the *Convention*;
11. Thanks the States Parties, that have already made their contributions and strongly calls upon the other States Parties, that have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary assessed contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the *Convention*, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible, bearing in mind the repercussions for non-payment which include the inability to access International Assistance;
12. Also recognizes that States Parties have an obligation to fulfil the objectives of the *Convention* and have a responsibility to provide sufficient funding for statutory processes and International Assistance;
13. Strongly encourages the States Parties to contribute to the sub-account for International Assistance and make voluntary contributions by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8** as follows:
  - Option 1: Increasing the standard percentage used in the calculation of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund from 1% to 2%,
  - Option 3.1: Increasing the contributions by a flat rate of US\$3,300 per property inscribed,
  - Option 3.2: Increasing the contributions by an additional 4% of the current assessed contribution per property inscribed,
  - Option 3.3: Increasing the contributions by an additional amount per property inscribed, according to a percentage increasing with the number of properties inscribed,
  - Option 3.4: Increasing the contributions by an additional amount per property inscribed, according to a percentage decreasing with the number of properties inscribed,
  - Option 4: Increasing the contributions on the basis of the number of tourists arrivals at World Heritage Sites,
  - Option 5: Contributing per activity;
14. Expresses its concern at the worsened staffing situation of the World Heritage Centre – as expressed in Decision **37 COM 15.I**, staffing is not sufficient to implement the statutory activities required by the *Convention* – and further notes that the World Heritage Centre is increasingly depending on staff hired for the implementation of extrabudgetary activities to implement statutory work, as well as unpaid overtime to ensure the Secretariat functions;
15. Also strongly encourages States Parties to contribute to the sub-account for “enhancing the human capacities of the World Heritage Centre”;
16. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report annually to the Committee on the amounts of supplementary voluntary contributions received as well as the contributors of such voluntary contributions;
17. Decides to approve the budget adjustment requested by ICOMOS in the amount of US\$ 126,908;

18. Also decides to approve the creation of a new budget line for Advisory Missions under the World Heritage Fund (2.0 “Advisory Missions” under “Action 2: Identification, management and promotion of World Heritage”) to be used to the benefit of States Parties falling within the category of Least developed countries, Low-income and Lower middle income countries;
19. Further decides to re-allocate an amount of US\$ 80,000 from the Reactive and Reinforced Monitoring Missions Budget to be reflected under the item Advisory Missions;
20. Recalling that the rules of the International Assistance mechanism allow funding to be granted for Advisory Missions or other relevant provision of advice, both for preparatory assistance and state of conservation matters, further encourages States Parties which would wish to use such services and fall within the category of Least developed countries, Low-income and Lower middle income countries, and which could not benefit from the Advisory Missions budget, to make use of the International Assistance mechanism, in compliance with the existing rules, procedure and format as set out in the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraphs 223-257);
21. Decides furthermore to request the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prepare a document and to submit it to the Committee for the examination of the role, nature and funding of Advisory Missions, within the framework of the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* at its 39th session in 2015;
22. Further recognizes the necessity to urgently achieve the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and calls on the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies to propose, in consultation with States Parties, to the Committee for consideration at its 39th session a comparative analysis of options for further efficiency and cost saving measures and resource mobilization that could contribute to the sustainability of the Fund;
23. Notes with appreciation the supplementary costs absorbed by the Qatari Authorities as host of the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in addition to those listed in the Statement of Requirements;
24. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the implementation of this Decision at its 39th session in 2015.

### **13. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Decision: 38 COM 13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B2, WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B3 and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B4.Rev;
2. Appreciative of the high level of expertise and work carried out by Advisory Bodies to meet World Heritage Committee’s expanding needs;
3. Realising that the growing number of nominations and inscriptions to the World Heritage List has increased not only the workload but also the financial burdens faced by Advisory Bodies;



4. Conscious of the ample need by a significant number of States Parties for technical assistance and support in the preparation of nominations as well as during the inscription process;
5. Taking into account the present state of the evaluation and consultation process between the Advisory Bodies and States Parties;
6. Taking also into account the factual errors in evaluations by the Advisory Bodies as was observed during the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014);
7. Underlines that a consistent application of the *Operational Guidelines* and the *Convention* is essential;
8. Calls upon the Advisory Bodies to consult and have a dialogue with all concerned States Parties during the course of the evaluation of nominations, in order to enhance overall transparency and to optimise future decision-making by the World Heritage Committee;
9. Also establishes an ad-hoc working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, at the invitation of Germany, that would meet inter-sessionally to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination and to formulate its recommendations thereon, and to report to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

#### **14. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 39TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2015)**

##### **Decision: 38 COM 14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its Decision **37 COM 17**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), which elected its Bureau whose mandate will be until the end of its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
2. Decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, its Bureau with the following composition:
  - a) **Professor Maria BÖHMER (Germany)** as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014) until the end of the 39th session of the Committee (2015),
  - b) **Senegal,**  
**India,**  
**Croatia,**  
**Jamaica and**  
**Qatar**

as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014) until the end of the 39th session of the Committee (2015),

- c) **Ms Naya Khairallah (Lebanon)** as the Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee whose mandates will begin at the end of the 38th session of the Committee (Doha, 2014) until the end of the 39th session of the Committee (2015);
3. Also decides that the Bureau of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (2016) will be elected at the end of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (2015) in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee;

## 15. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 39TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2015)

### Decision: 38 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/15,
2. Decides that its 39th session will take place in **Bonn, Germany**, from 28 June to 8 July 2015;
3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to consult with the incoming Chairperson regarding the Provisional Agenda and a detailed timetable;
4. Adopts the Provisional Agenda for the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2015 as contained in Document WHC-14/38.COM/15 and as amended.