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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

Istanbul, Turkey
10-20 July 2016

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

SUMMARY

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

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/40COM/documents

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENT

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings
- Lack of maintenance for 40 years
- Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials
- Damage caused by the wind

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5014

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 2007-2015)
Total amount approved: USD 135,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
October 2004: ICOMOS evaluation mission; May 2007: World Heritage Centre site visit; April 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Extremely fragile nature of the industrial buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, in addition to stucco and lightweight construction
- Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property

- Corrosion of metal cladding and dismantlement of some of the structural elements
- A few buildings such as the Leaching House are liable to structural collapse if no support is given
- Damage caused by earthquakes and the wind

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

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1178/documents.

The State Party reports that, thanks to the World Heritage "Post Earthquake 2014 Emergency Assistance for Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works", new priority interventions were designed and adapted following the 2014 earthquake. A registry of general damages to the constructive systems and materiality of 36 structures has been completed. Transfer of knowledge of traditional construction techniques to architecture students of the University of Valparaiso was incorporated in this project and two emergency interventions will be undertaken in 2016.

The definition of the buffer zone and the regulatory measures to ensure its adequate protection is ongoing and once concluded, a submission will be made in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party is committed to continue the implementation of the corrective measures that will contribute to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). The National Monuments Council will appoint a professional to support this process and additional collaboration has been made available from the National Centre for Conservation and Restoration.

The report includes an assessment of the progress made in the 2014-2015 period in the implementation of the corrective measures. This includes:

- Restoration and consolidation works,
- Studies on the building materials (metal, pampino concrete and wood),
- Security and surveillance measures,
- Implementation of the Management Plan and the Heritage Interpretation Plan,
- Definition and provision of human and financial resources,
- Visitor and interpretation planning,
- Restoration of the *Pulperia* as an "Interpretation centre for the Salpeter Era".

Among the activities to be carried out in 2016 are:

- Museography of the interpretation centre at the *Pulperia*,
- Documentation Centre in the Santiago Humberstone Salpeter Work,
- Preparation of an Integral Conservation Plan,
- Construction of the Humberstone sewage system.

Finally, the State Party indicates that the President of the Republic of Chile submitted the legal texts for the creation of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage to the National Congress.

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

It should be recalled that the State Party had to respond to major damages caused by a severe earthquake in 2014. In spite of this, the State Party is committed to implement the corrective measures according to the timeframe established at the 37th session of the Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013).

The information on the progress in the creation of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage is noted with interest.

It should also be noted that important progress has been made in the implementation of the corrective measures, thanks to the allocation of dedicated staff and resources, sound planning and the collaboration of institutions at all levels of government. The participation of the University of Valparaiso is of particular interest to transfer knowledge about management and conservation to architecture students.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for its commitment to implement the corrective measures in a timely manner and encourage the State Party to continue these efforts in order to advance in the achievement of the DSOCR, as adopted by the Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013).

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Commends the State Party for its committment to the full and timely implementation of the corrective measures and for the progress made in a period in which the State Party also had to respond to severe damages caused by the earthquake of 2014;*

4. *Acknowledges that the allocation of dedicated staff and resources, efficient planning and coordination among national and local institutions are key factors in the successful implementation of the corrective measures, and particularly welcomes the participation of the University of Valparaiso as a means to transmit knowledge of traditional construction techniques and materials of the property to the young generation of architecture students;*

5. *Encourages the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures with the aim to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) within the established framework;*

6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

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

- Fragile state of the property and accelerated degradation by environmental factors, lack of maintenance and limited conservation planning
- Erosion
- Lack of established boundaries and buffer zone
- Absence of a conservation and management plan
- Encroachments and urban pressure
- Tourism pressure (particularly at Portobelo)

- Insufficient legislation for the preservation of built heritage and regulations combining the two components of the property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4763

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-1993)
Total amount approved: USD 76,800
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
November 2001: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

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

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

Current conservation issues
On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/135/documents/ and which provides progress on a number of issues.

The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the past decisions, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures adopted by Decision **36 COM 7B.102**. It states that due to various circumstances, the State Party was unable to implement the corrective measures within the established timeframe 2012-2015 and that it is now committed to implement the corrective measures in the timeframe 2016-2019.

The State Party ensures that while the management of the property is entrusted to the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo, the National Institute for Culture (INAC) remains the responsible national institution and that it will closely monitor the implementation of the corrective measures.

As for the factors affecting the property that substantiated the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the report states that following the ICOMOS Advisory mission in 2014, a number of measures were implemented such as the preparation of an Emergency Plan, the adoption of the law that allocates State funding to the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo and the delimitation of the property components.

The report also presents a detailed strategy, programme and timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures organized around four groups, as follows:

I) Emergency Plan: budget allocation and implementation of urgent consolidation works as defined in Emergency Plan of 2014;
II) National Laws and policies: identification of buffer zone at Portobelo and legal definition of boundaries of World Heritage property components and their buffer zones;
III) Management Plans/Master Plans: update of the management plan of 2013 for the period 2018-2022; annual plans for the consolidation and conservation programmes;
IV) Operational and Participatory Management System: reactivation of the National Commission of World Heritage; approval of the territorial and urban development plans; inter-institutional arrangements for their implementation.

The timeframe is established for a three-year period as follows:

- Preliminary stage (January 2016 – June 2016)
- Phase I (September 2016 – September 2017)
- Phase II (September 2017 – September 2018)
- Phase III (September 2018 – June 2019).

Finally, the report includes a very detailed report on the activities implemented by the Patronato in 2015 and those programmed for 2016.

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

The previous Committee Decision **39 COM 7A.46** expressed very serious concern about the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. While it remains regrettable that the timeframe 2012-2015 established by the Committee was not respected, it is now encouraging to note the well-structured strategy, programme and work plan that is submitted for the period 2016-2019.

The State Party report confirms in clear terms the commitment of the national authorities and institutions for cultural heritage and the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo to implement this programme.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee appreciate the State Party's efforts and urge it to ensure the necessary budgetary, personnel and institutional provisions for the timely implementation of the corrective measures 2016-2019. It is also recommended that the Committee make a clear statement that, on the basis of the state of conservation reports the State Party will submit during the coming years, it will strictly monitor if the planned goals and activities are achieved and if sufficient progress is made in the achievement of the DSOCR.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.46**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *While regretting that the set of corrective measures adopted at the time of inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger was not implemented within the timeframe 2012-2015, appreciates the State Party's renewed committment to take all necesary measures for the propery;*

4. *Welcomes the strategy, programme and timeframe that are now submitted by the State Party that will ensure the implementation of the corrective measures in the period 2016-2019 with the aim of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) in 2019;*

5. *Urges the State Party to take all the necessary legal, institutional, managerial and financial measures to ensure the full implementation of the corrective measures and to inform the Committee in its annual reports on the progress made;*

6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

7. ***Decides to retain the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4647

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-1998)
Total amount approved: USD 118,700
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/366/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices

- Illegal occupation of the property
- Unregulated farming activities
- Rising water table levels
- Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities)

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

Current conservation issues

On 16 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report; a summary of which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/336/documents. The report answers to the matters raised in Decision **39 COM 7A.47** and to the corrective measures as follows:

- The Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement for the execution of the project "Improvement and Expansion of Public Tourism Services at the Chan Chan site Museum" was revised by the Ministry of Culture in 2015 and thus submitted to the National COPESCO Plan for its approval;
- Two activities have been scheduled for 2016: the study for the analysis of natural and anthropic threats in the framework of the elaboration of the Integral Risk Management Plan (first half of 2016) and the updating of the Archaeological Intervention Manual (included in the annual schedule of activities of the property).

Regarding the implementation of the corrective measures:

- The updated version of the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the property is at its final stage of revision by the Ministry of Culture;
- The draft regulations of Law 28261 are in the process of being submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister for evaluation by the Vice-Ministerial Coordinating Commission;
- Archaeological research, conservation and maintenance activities were carried out in 2015 under the Public Investment Project approach;
- Since 2014, many activities have been and continue to be implemented in the framework of El Niño Southern Oscillation Prevention Programme (ENSO);
- An Earthen Architecture Laboratory, established in 2015 for the study of construction technologies and materials, has developed several meteorological monitoring programmes to be evaluated in the first half of 2016;
- A unified system has been developed for all topographic works developed during research and conservation projects at the Archaeological Complex;
- The improvement of the visitors centre of the Nik-An walled complex, the renovation of the architecture and urbanism room and the upgrading and implementation of the Museological and Museographic Script have been developed as part of 2015 Institutional Operating Plan;
- The law and regulations in force at the property are strictly applied;
- Surveillance operations are continuously maintained. The Title Clearance - Land Registration Bureau of the Ministry of Culture has started the delimitation process of the archaeological sites located within the Buffer Zone of the property;
- By Ministerial Resolution 135-2015-MC, Executing Unit 009-La Libertad was created to further strengthen the management of the property, in particular interinstitutional cooperation and financial revenues at the property.

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

The report gives a detailed account of the important progress achieved by the State Party on the implementation of most of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012). It is important to note that most of them have achieved the expected results and have administrative, financial and management resources that guarantee their long-term implementation.

In this regard, the site museum renovation is considered as an important initiative undertaken by the State Party, and in this instance an Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement for the execution of the project has been submitted to the National COPESCO Plan in 2015.

The engagement to update the Archaeological Intervention Manual and the Integral Risk Prevention Plan in the course of 2016, as requested by the Committee at its last session, is also noted. Their submission to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies is expected as soon as they become available for review.

The numerous research, conservation and maintenance activities implemented at the property are also noted with appreciation, particularly those developed in the framework of the ENSO. Likewise, the significant efforts invested by the local, regional and national authorities, as well as the international and interinstitutional cooperation agreements signed in order to jointly implement these activities are welcomed.

The establishment of an Earthen Architecture Laboratory is welcomed. It is expected that the results of these studies initiated will contribute to the better monitoring, evaluation and adaptation of the conservation works in place at the property.

Moreover, the reinforcement of the management structure for the property through the creation of Executing Unit 009 is welcomed, in particular as it will enable the enhancement of the interinstitutional cooperation between the Special Chan Chan Archaeological Complex Project (PECACH) and the Decentralized Directorate of Culture of La Libertad.

However, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalize the approval of the draft regulation of Law 28261 and the Master Plan in order to properly address pressing matters at the property. Likewise, the finalization of the delimitation process of the buffer zone of the property and the elaboration of its regulatory measures becomes an urgent issue to be solved.

The finalization of these processes should be feasible in a one to two-year period. If the draft regulation of Law 28261, the Master Plan and the definition of the buffer zone with its respective regulatory measures, are approved the World Heritage Committee would then be in the position to assess if the Desired state of conservation of this property has been reached and its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger can be considered.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Commends the State Party for the implementation of most of the corrective measures towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts for their implementation;*

4. *Notes with appreciation the significant efforts invested by the local, regional and national authorities, as well as the international and interinstitutional agreement for the implementation of research, conservation and maintenance activities for the conservation of the property, in particular in the framework of the El Niño Southern Oscillation Prevention Programme (ENSO);*

5. *Welcomes the establishment of an Earthen Architecture Laboratory, the development of studies of construction technologies and materials, and meteorological research, as well as the creation of Executing Unit 009 to reinforce the management of the property and the interinstitutional cooperation between the Special Chan Chan Archaeological*

Complex Project (PECACH) and the Decentralized Directorate of Culture of La Libertad;

6. *Notes the subsmission of the Interinstitutional Cooperation agreement for the renovation of the site museum and also encourages the State Party to finalize its approval and start its implementation;*

7. *Acknowledges the commitment expressed by the State Party to develop the updating of the Archaeological Intervention Manual and the Integral Risk Prevention Plan as requested by Decision **39 COM 7A.47** and requests the State Party to submit them to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

8. *Also notes the progress achieved in the definition of the delimitation process of the property's buffer zone and urges the State Party to finalize this process and elaborate its regulatory measures in collaboration with all concerned stakeholders;*

9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize the approval process of:*

   a) *the updated version of the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the property as soon as possible, taking into account the views of all stakeholders, an electronic copy and three printed copies of which should be provided to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies,*

   b) *Law 28261, to ensure that the property is adequately protected from illegal occupation and seek for supplementary solutions to this issue;*

10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

11. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

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

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

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5965;
Updated in 2015: see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6263

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/assistance/

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

Previous monitoring missions
September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to assessment of the state of conservation; April 2005, May 2008 and February 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions.

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents/ and responds to each of the matters raised by the Committee in Decision **39 COM 7A.48**, as well as to the set of revised corrective measures approved in Decision **38 COM 7A.23**.

The report includes the information requested on the clarification of boundaries for both components of the property submitted within the framework of the Retrospective inventory exercise. It also includes a detailed map with a preliminary proposal for the extension of the buffer zone for the component of Coro.

It further provides detailed information on the methodology applied in planning and conservation of monumental structures, detailed documentation on the state of conservation of each of the individual buildings, as well as on the completion and planning of conservation and restoration intervention.

The Technical Team of the Office of Strategic Projects and Design for Heritage Areas of Coro and its Port of La Vela and its Protection Areas (OPEDAP) has designed, implemented and evaluated all work in the heritage areas through inspection, advice, support, supervision and monitoring of works, with effective support exercised by Community Councils.

Effective cooperation has been established between the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPC), the Management Authority (OPEDAP) and other Ministries, State authorities and institutions, and social councils that intervene in and support the preservation of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

The State Party further reports on the strategy for the transmission of traditional know-how and the great number of training and workshop activities that have been implemented. Two social enterprises have been established that incorporate artisans, trainees and the IPC.

New ordinances have been issued by the Municipalities that have responsibility for the two components of the property that regulate the use, functions and conservation techniques of buildings. These will also be instrumental in addressing the matter of abandoned properties.

As for the drainage system, a Master Plan has been completed and a diagnosis of the present situation has been commissioned.

The State Party furthermore provides a number of elements that are under preparation and that will be included in the future Management Plan. This includes the management structure, inter-institutional arrangements, legal provisions, risk preparedness, social participation, public use and traffic management, among others.

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

Upon the request of the State Party, an ICOMOS Advisory mission took place in October 2015 to assess the state of conservation of the property, with particular attention to concrete progress and actions to implement the revised corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014). The mission report (available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/658/documents) gives valuable insight into the actual situation in the property and concludes that the State Party has made remarkable progress as to complying with the 11 corrective measures, but has not yet achieved all of the results specified in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It also concludes that the main threats to the property are still the lack of a suitable drainage system and of a Management Plan including a Disasters Risk Plan. The mission report also provided recommendations to the State Party on how to prepare its report to the Committee.

The substantive report of the State Party is welcomed. It demonstrates in clear terms its commitment at all levels of government, as well as the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures. On the basis of the ICOMOS Advisory mission report, very important progress can be reported in the following areas:

- Spatial analysis, inventory and assessment of the state of conservation of all structures in the World Heritage areas of Coro and La Vela;
- The clarifications on the property boundaries submitted are satisfactory and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session for approval (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/8D);
- The preliminary proposal for the extension of the buffer zone of the component Coro to be submitted officially as a Minor Boundary Modification;
- The conservation plan and analysis are based on detailed inventories and implemented with significant government funding. Involvement and participation of private owners is explicitly sought and promoted;
- Traditional know-how is transmitted through extensive training programmes and workshops as well as the creation of two social enterprises of which the artisans have ownership and that ensure long-term transmission of knowledge;
- Legal and regulatory instruments at different levels provide a coherent framework and an analysis could be undertaken to establish if additional instruments are necessary. The conservation strategy is articulated with the regional planning instruments;
- The management structure is clearly articulated among local, state and national government levels and ensures social participation;
- Traffic management includes the closure of streets for vehicular traffic, both in Coro and La Vela;
- Funding for the management and conservation is mainly allocated from the central government through the State of Falcon.

It can be concluded that the elaboration of an effective drainage system as well as of the Management Plan are the main outstanding corrective measures that the State Party should be urged to implement as soon as possible. Considering the many elements that are already available, this should be feasible within a one to two-year period. Once the Management Plan and drainage system are completed and found appropriate, the World Heritage Committee would then be in the position to assess if the

DSOCR for this property has been reached, and if its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger can be considered.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Appreciates the initiative of the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory mission, welcomes the progress reported in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** and expresses its appreciation for the steady progress in the conservation and restoration of both public and private property, as well as the extensive programme for the promotion and transmission of traditional know-how;*

4. *Also appreciates the efforts made by the State Party in the completion of the boundary clarification requested in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory process;*

5. *Takes note of the preliminary proposal submitted for the extension of the buffer zone of the component Coro and requests the State Party to formally submit this proposal, as a Minor Boundary Modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the* Operational Guidelines*;*

6. *Considers that the two main outstanding matters that should be addressed to complete the set of corrective measures are the preparation of the Management Plan and the implementation of effective drainage systems, and also requests the State Party to continue the implementation of all corrective measures and, in particular, to take the necessary measures to prepare the Management Plan and effective drainage systems;*

7. *Also considers that once these corrective measures are effectively implemented, an assessment could then be made to check whether the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is achieved;*

8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

9. ***Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

AFRICA

6. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4351

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2010)
Total amount approved: USD 111,292
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: 2011-2012: USD 68,365 from the Japanese FIT for an Expert Appraisal Mission; 2013-2016: USD 650,000 from the Japanese FIT for the project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions
April 2010, August 2011, November 2011, and August 2013: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
Destruction by fire of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga

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

Current conservation issues

On 8 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents and addresses the requests of the Committee as follows:

- A new, more realistic project timeline for the completion of the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga has been developed, which gives ample time for all work to be carried out. It is now estimated to be completed by December 2017. To date, the steel structure and application of fireproof paint have been completed. The 24 traditional ceiling rings were installed, but unfortunately, needed to be removed on the advice of the project architect, as they did not conform to traditional Ganda architecture. A new team of craftspeople was mobilized and work was reinitiated to make these important elements of the building;
- As requested by the World Heritage Committee in its last Decision, all developments at the property have been halted pending the completion of the master plan and its submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- A site plan (map) has been produced showing existing buildings on the property, including new constructions (a new kitchen, toilets, etc.);
- The plans for the widening of the Masiro Road have not yet been completed. Nevertheless, any widening of the road would take place on the side away from the property. This has been guaranteed by the construction of the perimeter wall around the property;
- A new management structure has been developed, reflecting the addition of the Buganda Tourism and Heritage Board as site manager, and the presence of the National Technical Committee and the Reconstruction Committee. A new Buganda Minister of Culture has been appointed, who is aware of the importance of the intangible heritage aspects of the property and is working to improve management with this in mind;
- A proposal for risk mitigation, and in particular, fire management has been developed and is incorporated into the management plan. Work on the fire-fighting system has been halted in accordance with the Committee's request, until the Master Plan is complete and the equipment purchased.

The State Party further reports that the Bujjabukua, one of the most authentic architectural elements at the property is in need of urgent conservation due to deterioration and deformation. Plans are being developed to carry out this work once the pressure from the work to reconstruct the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga subsides.

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

The State Party has halted developments at the property pending the completion of the Master Plan (MP), requested since 2012. This is to ensure that conservation work respects Ganda architectural principles, materials, and building traditions, and to ensure a harmonized aesthetic at the property, and that development proposals, such as the provision of a reservoir and a fire-fighting system, alterations to the entrance, implementation of a visitor route or development of tourism facilities, are all undertaken in an integrated way within an agreed framework. The development of the MP is also part of the corrective measures to be undertaken to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger (DSOCR). It is urgent for this MP to be completed in order that work can be resumed. It is recommended that the Committee express concern that no details have been provided as to when this Plan will be prepared or completed.

All the buildings have not been included to the site plan submitted (e.g. the solar panels and electricity station under construction during the 2015 mission), which needs to be amended as it should be part of the overall MP.

Ahead of the MP, the expansion of Masiro Road will take place on the side opposite the property. Although this is considered positive in principle, the site managers should continue monitoring the situation to ensure that the bark cloth trees, which line the property, but are actually located outside

the new constructed perimeter walls, are protected. Maintenance of the perimeter wall and its reed covering will remain an important issue. Detailed plans of the road are needed.

The revised timeline for the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga with completion at the end of 2017 is considered adequate. However, this timeframe is not related to the MP and cannot begin until the MP has been approved and is in place.

The episode with the rings, installed and then removed, illustrates the need to ensure closer communications and consultations between the architect, the traditional craftspeople, the representatives of the Buganda Kingdom, and the community, in order to respect the traditional practices and intangible cultural heritage of the Kingdom. The successful careful monitoring, in this case, is well noted.

The halting of all work, including conservation on the Bujjabukua, gives cause for concern given its importance and state of deterioration.

The work on the firefighting system was halted to ensure that the equipment fits into the overall concept for the property. It needs to be designed and installed contemporaneously with the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, as recommended by the 2012 mission. For this reason, the Advisory Bodies should review as soon as possible the proposed firefighting system. The Japan Funds-in-Trust project (JFIT), which foresaw the purchase of this equipment, has expired (prior to completion) and an extension request was submitted to the donor and is currently being reviewed.

The Disaster Risk Management Plan is still a skeleton and needs to be more detailed, with specific actions and clearly defined roles and responsibilities before, during, and after a fire, as well as other possible hazards. It should be developed in line with the guidelines provided in the UNESCO Resource Manual "Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage".

Regarding the new management structure, progress has been made. As for other properties with a complex traditional management structure, there is need to ensure opportunities for open and clear communications among all stakeholders, including the traditional custodians, the representatives of Buganda Kingdom, the Government (including the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO), the Tourism and Heritage Board, the tour guides and others working on the property. Efforts should be made within the new management structure to ensure that all concerns related to conservation and social issues are dealt with in a positive manner.

It is also important to recognize that the Buganda Tourism and Management Board must prioritize the conservation of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the intangible heritage, over tourism related activities. A careful balance must be made between meeting the needs of the traditional custodians and an improved visitor experience. A planned cultural village, which would take away some of the existing farmland within the property, could have an adverse impact on the OUV, and must be reviewed as part of the overall MP.

A Tour Guiding Manual for Kasubi Tombs was produced as part of the JFIT project and distributed locally to all tour guides (http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1452/). The production of this manual is a positive development, and work is ongoing to develop guidelines for Ganda thatching, both part of the DSOCR.

In conclusion, the need for the MP to be completed is of the utmost importance as it is this that will unlock progress with the conservation of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, and Bujjabukua, with the firefighting equipment project and with visitor management and road development projects on the property as all of these need to be taken forward in a coordinated way.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Notes that the State Party has halted all developments at the property pending the completion of the Master Plan;*

4. *Notes with concern that no progress has been reported with the development of the Master Plan that was requested in 2012, as part of the corrective measures, in order to ensure that conservation of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, and other buildings, and development proposals such as for fire-fighting, visitor management and the widening of the road, are all undertaken in an integrated way within an agreed framework;*

5. *Urges the State Party to progress with the development of this Master Plan and ensure that it encompasses:*

    a) *Ways to support Ganda architectural principles, materials, and building traditions alive, and the harmonized aesthetic of the property, and an integrated plan for development proposals, such as the provision of a reservoir and a fire-fighting system, alterations to the entrance, implementation of a visitor route or development of tourism facilities such as restaurants, and the widening of the road,*

    b) *A detailed site plan of the property that contains all the structures on the property, as it is now and a plan to show what is envisaged as development proposals;*

6. *Also notes the revised timeline and planning for the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga and considers that these need to be integrated into the Master Plan;*

7. *Requests the State Party to provide a draft Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to allow urgently needed work to recommence on the property;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with details of the proposed plans for the firefighting equipment proposed for the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

9. *Further notes the revised management structure and the ongoing work management plan, including focusing on the disaster risk management plan and tourism management;*

10. *Further requests the State Party to:*

    a) *Ensure that work on the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga maintains the highest standards of quality under the supervision of the project architect,*

    b) *Complete the management plan for the property, and integrate a much more detailed disaster risk management plan (for fire and other potential hazards) and a tourism management plan which emphasizes the protection of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), for review by the Advisory Bodies,*

    c) *Develop adequate mechanisms for communication and exchange amongst all of the stakeholders of the property to ensure that all concerns related to both conservation and social issues are dealt with in a positive manner,*

    d) *Provide details of the proposed widening of the Masiro Road to show that it does not encroach on the property or the bark cloth trees that line the edge of the property,*

    e) *Prepare detailed plans for the conservation of the Bujjabukua given its deteriorating state of conservation, so that work can begin once the Master Plan is in place; some of the thatch that is already prepared but sitting unused might be used for this important work;*

11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

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

ARAB STATES

9. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table;
- The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property;
- A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1279

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2014)
Total amount approved: USD 7,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Rise of the water table
- Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment (works completed)
- Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.)
- Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party of Egypt submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/90/documents/, providing the following information:

- The groundwater project at the property has stopped owing to problems with the pumping equipment. However, there has been a public bid invited for maintaining and lowering groundwater and it is expected that works will commence in 2016;
- Other protective programmes, fencing of the archaeological area, site excavations, and conservation works have ceased because of the lack of financial resources;
- There have been no significant initiatives directed at reversing damage to the property; significant deterioration has occurred to the historic buildings in the baptistery, pilgrims court and the north bathroom;
- The Alexandria Governorate created a permanent committee for the Antiquities in Alexandria which is responsible for the property and will participate in conserving the property in cooperation with the Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mina Monastery. This committee has identified urgent, secondary and long-term solutions for the archaeological site, including short-term monitoring, analysis and management of groundwater, long-term changes to prevent the groundwater problem and the development of a master plan for the property;
- Encroachments by local communities have been removed from the site and the buffer zone;
- The Ministry of Antiquities is endeavouring to shift the focus away from individual monuments and buildings towards a comprehensive approach for the conservation of all the elements that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is intended that a complete management system will be in place in 2017, following stakeholder consultation and integrated site documentation;
- The Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mena Monastery administration have co- operatively prepared a proposal project for restoration and rehabilitation of the property;
- Digital mapping has been updated following the re-drawing of the property boundaries and preparation has commenced for site documentation using 3D Laser scanning in cooperation with the Egyptian National Authority for Remote Sensing and space sciences;
- A visitor centre project is in preparation, in cooperation with the Monastery administration and Alexandria Governorate.

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

The report from the State Party indicates that despite the establishment of the permanent Committee for the Antiquities in Alexandria, and efforts by the Ministry of Antiquities, there has been no significant implementation of the corrective measures and actions to safeguard and conserve the OUV of the property due to the lack of financial resources.

The State Party has not provided information or updated the status of a number of matters previously raised by the World Heritage Committee, including:

- The process for development of the Management Plan, in consultation with concerned stakeholders, that would address the threats in a comprehensive and integrated manner, including research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders, staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, and access; the State Party announces that it is only due to start in 2017;
- The preparation of a conservation plan, defining short, medium, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc.), which includes a condition surveys to identify priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains and the elaboration of a project proposal thereon;
- Discussions with local communities to 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 property and its buffer zone;

- Impact on structures caused by earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- Details of all ongoing or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica and the reburial strategy. The State Party has not yet submitted a revised version of the draft retrospective Statement of OUV following the comments by ICOMOS transmitted in October 2014 by the World Heritage Centre.

The digital map of the property and its buffer zone submitted by the State Party has not been done in conformity with Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The proposed shift in focus from monuments and significant buildings to a more-holistic approach that takes into consideration all the attributes of the property, which contribute to the preservation of its OUV is welcomed. However, in accordance with the corrective measures adopted by the Committee, this approach needs to be presented in the comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans.

The State Party report shows that the issue of the rising water table in the property has not yet been addressed. The saturation of the lower archaeological layers by water from the surrounding reclamation/irrigation project was the main reason the property was put in the Danger List in 2001 and tackling it remains a key corrective measure. The initial response was de-watering by means of pumps. The 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission acknowledged that the methodology of electrical pumping was unsustainable in the long term and proposed that the underlying causes needed to be addressed through a project to modify the irrigation methodology to one using a “drip” method.

It remains extremely urgent to undertake analysis of ways to address the underlying causes of the rising water table, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation. In the framework of the overall Conservation Plan, adequate expertise should be identified and recruited to carry out studies to elaborate a project to tackle the cause of the rising water table, and to define the appropriate mitigation measures for the archaeological remains once the water table has been lowered and stabilized.

Although the newly-established permanent committee has identified urgent, secondary and long-term solutions for the archaeological site, and the Ministry of Antiquities with the Abu Mena Monastery administration prepared a proposal project for restoration and rehabilitation, it is crucial to first complete all necessary analyses and studies, prior to engaging in any physical works.

Given the above, it is considered that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has not been met and the required corrective measures have yet to be implemented.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.1** and **39 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*

3. *Notes that encroachments by local communities have been removed from the property and buffer zone;*

4. *Expresses its great concern regarding the state of conservation of the property and the implementation level of the recommended corrective measures;*

5. *Takes note that the State Party will start the elaboration of a comprehensive and integrated Management Plan for the property in 2017;*

6. *Urges the State Party to resume the implementation of the corrective measures, to protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, with particular attention to the following issues:*

a) *Prepare a conservation plan for the property, which includes a condition survey and the identification of priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,*

b) *Initiate consultations with stakeholders including local communities to 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 property and its buffer zone;*

7. *Also urges the State Party, and in particular its Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation, to undertake an analysis of ways to address the underlying causes of the rising water table and elaborate a project to address those causes as well as mitigation measures for the archaeological remains once the water table has been lowered and stabilized;*

8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in providing adequate expertise thereon, and suggests that the State Party might consider inviting a technical Advisory mission to the property, to be paid for by the State Party, to provide advice on appropriate irrigation and water management technologies;*

9. *Also requests the State Party to submit a revised modification of the boundaries of both the property and buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the* Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*

10. *Further 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, the reburial strategy, and visitor centre project, as well as initiatives arising from the project for restoration and rehabilitation of the property prepared by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mena Monastery administration, for review prior to implementation, such details to include Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA);*

11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by* ***1 February 2017****, 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 41st session in 2017;*

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
- Armed conflict.

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)
Total amount approved: USD 50,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1,5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project; June 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Flooding
- Management activities
- Managements systems/management plan
- Water infrastructure
- Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project
- Fragile mud brick structures
- Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents/.

The State Party reports that it has almost no information on the situation at the site, the latter being still occupied by extremist armed groups.

Other sources report that the extremist armed groups were responsible for deliberate destructions in the property on 2 and 9 June 2015. They also report that they destroyed and looted several sites around the property as well, between 23 December 2015 and 5 January 2016, to create military positions.

The protection and preservation works have been stopped due to the conflict situation. The destruction process continues in the sites controlled by the extremist armed groups.

The State Party calls on the activation of the 1954 Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. It also presents the halt of looting as an immediate priority and highlights the need for international support by providing funding, training, equipment and maintenance. Finally, the State Party asks the World Heritage Committee to send assessment missions to the site, as soon as the situation permits.

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

Additional sources report that the site is probably not used as a military base by the extremist armed groups anymore. However, the lack of information about the situation at the site, for the second consecutive year, is of extreme concern. Carrying out an emergency rapid assessment at the property should be a priority for the responsible authorities as soon as the security situation permits.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the impossibility to access it;*

4. *Expresses its great concern about the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;*

5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

6. ***Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

11. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)
Total amount approved: USD 3,500
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted (for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1,5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions
N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites (issue resolved)
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/.

The State Party does not provide updated information on the situation at the site which is still occupied by extremist armed groups. Nor is any information available from other sources.

The protection and preservation works have been stopped due to the conflict situation. The destruction process continues in the sites controlled by extremist armed groups.

The State Party calls on the activation of the 1954 Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. It also presents the halt of looting as an immediate priority and highlights the need for international support by providing funding, training, equipment and maintenance. Finally, the State Party asks the World Heritage Committee to send assessment missions to the site as soon as the situation permits.

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

The absence of information about the situation at the site is of very high concern. Carrying out an emergency rapid assessment at the property should be a priority for the responsible authorities, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Office for Iraq, as soon as the security situation permits.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the impossibility to access it;*

4. *Expresses its great concern about the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;*

5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

6. ***Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

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

Corrective measures identified
Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: 100,000 USD from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File.
Total amount granted for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq:
- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1,5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)

Previous monitoring missions
June 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Management systems/ management plan

- War
- Weathering and lack of maintenance affecting the fragile structures
- State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/

Current conservation issues

On 17 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/.

The State Party reports that recent events have affected the city due to military operations in Salah Ad Din Governorate. The most damaged components of the property are the Great Mosque, Abu Dalaf mosque and the dome of Salibia.

The protection and preservation works have been stopped due to the conflict situation. The destruction process continues in the sites controlled by extremist armed groups.

The State Party calls on the activation of the 1954 Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict. It also presents the halt of looting as an immediate priority and highlights the need for international support by providing funding, training, equipment and maintenance. Finally, the State Party asks the World Heritage Committee to send assessment missions to the site as soon as the situation permits.

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

The State Party did not report on the two main issues pointed out by the World Heritage Committee in its last Decision (**39 COM 7A.26**): the measures to ensure that no ostentatious religious signs are displayed at the property and the implementation of the measures recommended in the technical note elaborated in view of addressing the graffiti issue. Nor did it provide details about the damage to the Great Mosque, Abu Dalaf mosque and the dome of Salibia.

With the deterioration of the security situation in Salah Ad Din Governorate, due to military operations, the site appears to be inaccessible to the responsible Iraqi authorities. However, according to additional sources, the threats seem rather contained at present.

As for the other World Heritage Sites of Iraq for which no information about the situation at the site is available, it is crucial that an emergency rapid assessment at the property be carried out by the responsible authorities, as soon as the security conditions permit, in close coordination with the UNESCO Office for Iraq.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the impossibility to acces it;*

4. *Expresses its great concern about the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;*

5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

6. ***Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (subject to the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late request for an Advisory mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Potential construction of a separation fence (wall)
- Abandonment of terraces and afforestation
- Impact of socio-cultural and geo-political transformations

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

Corrective measures identified
Adopted; see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6245

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 1 (from 2016-2016)
Total amount approved: USD 30,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1492/documents/, providing information on the corrective measures undertaken to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and other key corrective measures, which were adopted by the World Heritage Committee (Decision **39 COM 7A.29**), as follows:

- The construction of the Wall by the Israeli Government has been frozen by the Israeli Court of Justice on January 2015. However, a binding decision stipulating that no Wall shall be constructed in the property or its immediate setting has not been adopted yet;
- A Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) is being prepared addressing management and conservation policies as well as factors such as sewage and water network, and will include a timeframe to implement the corrective measures of DSOCR;
- The illegal construction of settlements that negatively affect the property is reported as a consequence of geopolitical and socio-cultural factors threatening the integrity of the property and limiting or preventing the maintenance of agricultural practices by the farmers;
- A list of envisaged, initiated or completed local-community funded projects and initiatives has been provided. Projects completed in 2015 include rehabilitation of stretches of dry stone walls, agricultural terraces, water channels, pools and springs, historic buildings and roads, as well as the water network in Battir. Ongoing works concern the rehabilitation of the school, the open garden and shops. Battir 2020, a promotional initiative to foster culture and tourism development, has been initiated, whilst other projects are pending, in the absence of funds (water supply and sanitation, sewage network, waste water treatment plant, rehabilitation of road surfaces, irrigation system);
- The UNESCO Ramallah office proposed and submitted, within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2014-2016 (UNDAF), an integrated project for the Bethlehem Western Villages (including Battir), addressing environmental protection, agriculture and livelihood support, heritage preservation, landscape planning and community empowerment. It involves UNESCO, FAO, and UN-Habitat. The project is pending awaiting feedback from potential donors.

Following the submission of the report, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the new constructions presented in its report are minor, and expressed its awareness of the need to halt such practices.

To prepare the CMP in accordance with the DSOCR, the State Party submitted in November 2015 an International Assistance Request, which was approved and whose implementation is due to start mid-2016.

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

The report shows the efforts of the State Party to manage the threats and begin to address the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and the DSOCR. The report describes actions undertaken by the national and local authorities and community with regard to conservation actions and awareness-raising initiatives.

It is acknowledged that addressing the management and conservation of the property requires a holistic approach that also tackles socio-economic factors. The CMP needs to involve the relevant bodies and stakeholders that can guarantee its proper implementation and effectiveness, and shall include legal and regulatory protection, so far not in place, for the property and its buffer zone, so as to

lay down a complete array of measures to safeguard the OUV of the property and its attributes. The effectiveness of the CMP will be strengthened by adequately integrating within it, the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session. A timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures is of utmost importance to achieve the DSOCR but so far has not been submitted.

The elaboration of the CMP is expected to integrate infrastructure and economic revitalisation improvements. The six projects mentioned include one for Bethlehem Western Villages that could trigger mechanisms of economic revitalisation and one for the revival of agricultural practices, but of these only one has funding from the World Bank and is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Development.

It is crucial that measures are now taken to put in place a robust management system as soon as possible with adequate staff who can take forward responsibility for driving forward the development and adoption of the management plan and the projects needed to allow sustainable management of the property – regardless of whether external funding is achieved.

Meanwhile until the CMP is agreed, all projects for new constructions should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to their implementation, in order to ensure that they do not have negative impacts on the OUV of the property.

The Committee might wish to express its disappointment that two years after inscription, no clear timetable for implementing the corrective measures has been submitted by the State Party, as was requested at the time of inscription.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Takes notes of the actions undertaken by the State Party to initiate the implementation of the corrective measures adopted to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*

4. *Expresses its disappointment that a timeframe for implementing the agreed corrective measures has not been submitted as requested, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and submit a timeframe for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures by **1 February 2017**, for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

5. *Notes progress with the process to elaborate the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), with funding through International Assistance, and recommends that the corrective measures are adequately integrated into the CMP under elaboration;*

6. *Urges the State Party to put in place, as soon as possible, a robust management system for the property and its buffer zone, for taking forward the defined infrastructure and other projects needed to support traditional agricultural systems with or without external funding and, until the CMP is established and operational, to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review;*

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

8. ***Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic need to be read in conjunction with Item 22.

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late technical rapid assessment mission)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iv)

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

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

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

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- General need for interior and exterior conservation work on the monuments
- Inappropriate rehabilitation of Bagrati Cathedral and lack of completeness of significant boundary review to remove Bagrati Cathedral from the property
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities (issue resolved)
- Lack of co-ordinated management system (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues
On 1 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/ and which addresses the progress made in the implementation of the Committee's Decision **39 COM 7A.39**, including on the progress in a number of measures implemented concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property:

- Completion of the Management Plan for Gelati Monastery, including the Tourism Development Program and Visitor Management Program, as well as preparation of the Gelati Monastery Conservation Master Plan to provide guidelines for implementing and planning rehabilitation and

conservation of the property's component. The Management Plan is the result of the intensive inter-disciplinary work and close collaboration with different stakeholders at local, national and international level. Furthermore, a 5-year Action Plan for the archaeologically sensitive areas in Gelati Monastery complex has also been prepared. In 2015, several conservation/rehabilitation projects in Gelati Monastery were implemented in close consultation with ICOMOS and with the financial support of the World Bank. Works on the reinforcement of the base of the drum of the dome of the Gelati Monastery, elaborated in accordance with the recommendations of the joint 2015 ICOMOS/World Bank Advisory mission started in 2015 and are expected to be completed in 2016 through the Imereti regional Development Project;

- Development of a draft Code on Cultural Heritage (CCH): Gaps identification in the current Georgian legislation, as well as analysis of the international agreements and Conventions in the field of cultural heritage have been implemented. The CCH will incorporate the special chapter dedicated to the protection and management of the World Heritage in Georgia. This Chapter will also serve as a basis for the official approval of the Management Plan for Gelati Monastery and for its effective implementation with the involvement of all the stakeholders;
- The launch, in close collaboration with ICCROM, of the long-term project on establishment of the training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia. Based on the Georgia/ICCROM Memorandum of Understanding (dated 21 May 2015), the project aims at establishing a multidisciplinary platform for the development of professional opportunities through improvement of the existing system and policies in the field of conservation and management of cultural heritage in Georgia, with the special focus on World Heritage.

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

The State Party responded to most of the issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in its previous Decisions, and supplied information about the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property. It has also addressed the issues raised in Decision **39 COM 8B.35** when the significant boundary modification request to remove Bagrati Cathedral was referred back to the State Party to allow them to clarify management procedures and responsibilities, to provide details as to how a higher level of commitment might be put in place by the major stakeholders to ensure adequate protection and management of the property; to submit the revised draft Management Plan for review; to provide a timetable for when physical and visual protection for the buffer zone will be formalized and when clear guidelines and guidance for management and any development within the buffer zone will be put in place.

In particular, it should be noted that the State Party has made progress with regard to the Management Plan for Gelati Monastery, which was finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 July 2015. ICOMOS has undertaken a technical review and considers the plan is pragmatic and is based on a very sensible and meaningful analysis of the current situation in the property. ICOMOS in its review has raised some minor queries regarding the buffer zone and its uses and has also made recommendations on tourism management in relation to developing employment opportunities, as ensuring the socio-economic sustainability, as this is identified as one of the key challenges of the Management Plan.

The competences and responsibilities between public authorities and the Church (on higher and local levels) are well defined regarding the preservation and protection of the site.

It is also noted that progress has been made with regard to the development of a draft Code on Cultural Heritage, as well as the establishment of the training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia.

Although the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party contains responses to the Committee's Decision **39 COM 8B.35** regarding the boundary modification of the property, it should be noted that the State Party has not re-submitted the significant boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 159 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee, following its referral by the Committee.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.40** and **39 COM 8B.35**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures concerning the Gelati Monastery, one of the components of the property;*

4. *Notes the information provided by the State Party* inter alia *in response to Decision **39 COM 8B.95**, regarding the significant boundary modification of the property, and in particular:*

   a) *The clarified Management procedures and responsibilities of the various agencies and organisations involved,*

   b) *The details on putting measures in place by the major stakeholders, including the development of the draft of the Code on Cultural Heritage, to ensure adequate protection and management of the property,*

   c) *The Revised draft Management Plan, submitted, and subsequently reviewed by ICOMOS,*

   d) *The legally adopted extended buffer zone of Gelati Monastery,*

   e) *The secured adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings,*

   f) *The developed system of documentation for conservation and restoration work,*

   g) *Details on the construction of the visitor centre outside the Gelati Monastery linked to a visitor management strategy, which started in 2015 in conformity with the June 2013 ICOMOS review recommendations;*

5. *Urges the State Party to formally resubmit the significant boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2017**, in conformity with Paragraph 159 of the* Operational Guidelines*, for examination at its 41st session in 2017;*

6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 Febuary 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

7. ***Decides to retain Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Lack of a management mechanism
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted using unacceptable methods

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4103

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 4 (from 1997-2010)
Total amount approved: USD 96,160
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/assistance/

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

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

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/, providing updated information on the implementation of the corrective measures, as well as details on conservation efforts and archaeological excavations at the property as follows:

- Progress has been reported on the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP), expected to be finalized by 2016. Further work on the Master Plan is required following the recommendations made by the National Agency for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NACHPG) and the World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions in November 2015 and February 2016. Until the official adoption of the ULUMP, the August 2015 adopted Decree on the Enactment of Special Regime of Urban Development Regulation in the Cultural Heritage Zone of Mtskheta imposes a strong moratorium on new constructions;
- The Draft Code on Cultural Heritage is in its finalization stage and expected to be submitted to the Georgian Parliament for approval in the first quarter of 2016;
- A special chapter on protection and management of World Heritage in Georgia is included in the Draft Code on Cultural Heritage and will serve as a basis for the official approval of the Management Plan. The Draft Code was prepared in the framework of the EU-funded Twinning programme. No further progress was reported by the State Party;
- The new Archaeological Museum project is one of the activities to be implemented under the third Regional Development Project (RDP III) by the Government of Georgia with World Bank funding. The new museum should allow for the proper conservation and presentation of the archaeological collection of the former Mtskheta museum, which is currently in storage. The new museum will reuse the former cinema, built during the Soviet period, designed as a cultural building with two functions, a showcase for the archaeological site and a cinema theatre. This project was submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre in June 2015 and submitted to ICOMOS for a technical review as per Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. ICOMOS' main recommendations were to further define the museographic functional programme and to respect the modern heritage values of the former cinema building.

The State Party reports that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NACHPG and ICCROM in December 2015 concerning the creation of a training platform in the field of cultural heritage in Georgia.

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

It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the important work and commitment by the State Party to ensure that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) forms the core of the development of the ULUMP. Although the ULUMP has yet to be finalized and adopted, the State Party has advanced its contents and taken measures through the Decree on Urban Development to provide further protection to the property. This Decree halts building activities in the sensitive areas along the banks of the river, particularly those on the side of the Jvari monastery.

The signature in October 2015 of the Georgia/UNESCO agreement project *Cultural heritage advisory service to the NACHP to be implemented under the Third Regional Development Project (RDP III)* should also be acknowledged. This project mainly focuses on technical and upstream assistance, including assisting the elaboration of the Mtskheta ULUMP.

The guiding principles and primary goals of the ULUMP are strongly supported. However, as highlighted by the November 2015 World Heritage Centre technical assistance mission and the ICOMOS technical review, there is a need to strengthen the strategic spatial planning vision for the whole of the City of Mtskheta and revise the methodology used to establish the ULUMP and refer to international standards as recommended by the technical mission.

In terms of governance and decision-making, the technical mission recommended that the governance issue at the local level needs to be addressed in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision making.

Capacity building should be provided to the local government. The local authorities with the support of the national authorities should also be encouraged to develop a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for setting up a stakeholder committee for the ULUMP and encourage the creation of a technical working committee to ensure that a shared and integrated approach is used for the ULUMP. In addition, it is recommended that the urban dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the latter, using if necessary the approach carried by the *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (2011).

With respect to the administrative borders of the self-governing city of Mtskheta, the mission noted that the existing municipal borders are inadequate for correct planning and management of the World

Heritage property, as the Jvari church, one of the components of the property, which is included in the national park, lies beyond the Mtskheta town borders. Furthermore, the property remains without an adequate buffer zone encompassing the landscape surrounding the heritage components. Therefore the Committee's request for a minor boundary modification of the unified buffer zone of the property remains crucial and needs to be addressed by the authorities in conjunction with the further development of the ULUMP.

The 2015 technical assistance mission recommended, in line with the ICOMOS technical review, that the museum project should respect the archaeological site, meet the requirements of the museum collection currently in storage and preserve the architectural integrity of the modern building. The State Party has decided to undertake a specific urban landscape study concerning the integration of the museum project within the surrounding urban context and in connexion with all components of the World Heritage property.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to take into consideration the recommendations provided by the World Heritage Centre technical assistance mission and by ICOMOS and that it retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Acknowledges the important work and commitment by the State Party to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) forms the core of the development of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP);*

4. *Notes the measures taken by the authorities through the Decree on Urban Development to provide further protection to the property while the ULUMP has yet to be completed;*

5. *Recommends that the State Party take into consideration the recommendations provided by the 2015 and 2016 World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions and by ICOMOS, notably to:*

    a) *Strengthen the strategic spatial planning vision and ensure that the urban dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the latter, using if necessary the approach carried by the* Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape *(2011),*

    b) *Revise the methodology of the ULUMP,*

    c) *Address the governance issue at the local level in order to ensure adequate planning, efficient management and decision making,*

    d) *Develop a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools,*

    e) *Review the administrative borders especially in relation to the Jvari site,*

    f) *Review the new museum project in order to ensure that the integrity of the archaeological site is preserved, that the project meets the museological standards and technical requirements for the artefacts collection currently in storage, and that the architectural integrity of the modern building is preserved,*

g) Ensure the proper linkage of the museum project design to the surrounding public spaces and urban setting;

6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a unified buffer zone, to encompass the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, to provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre, prior to any further works on the ULUMP;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the propery and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

8. ***Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

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

Criteria (ii) (iii) (iv)

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

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

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

Long-term corrective measures:

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

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

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

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

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

Current conservation issues

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

At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Committee decided to adjourn the debate on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **39 COM 7A.42**). The state of conservation report presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session is available on the World Heritage Centre's website at the following page: http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2015/whc15-39com-7A-en.pdf. The present report includes updated information.

On 29 January 2016, the Permanent Delegation of Serbia to UNESCO submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/724/documents/. The report provides the following information:

- At the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, damages to the lead roofs have been observed. Works to replace lead plates were undertaken in 2015 and have been planned by the National Institute

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

for Protection of Cultural Monuments to continue in 2016. The works shall be done with materials and techniques identical to the existing;

- To enhance the site presentation, a system of audio guides was installed at the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery, and is also planned for the three other components of the property. Moreover, information boards on the World Heritage status of the property have been installed;
- At the Gračanica Monastery, the need for conservation work of the frescoes has been identified. The overall project of frescoes protection began in 2012, has stopped in 2015 but is expected to be continued in 2016;
- At the Dečani Monastery, a former economic building located on the external side against the monastery fence wall is foreseen to be converted into a teahouse for visitors, without changes to the building's size and exterior design.

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

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.30*

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.54, 31 COM 7A.28, 32 COM 7A.27, 33 COM 7A.27, 34 COM 7A.28, 35 COM 7A.31, 36 COM 7A.32, 37 COM 7A.34, 38 COM 7A.18 and 39 COM 7A.42** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,*

3. *Acknowledges the information provided in the state of conservation reports of 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and the results of the missions of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, to the property;*

4. *Reiterates its request, in cooperation with UNESCO, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements, to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the monuments and the buffer zones, adequately delineated boundaries and the timely implementation of the Management Plan;*

5. *Also reiterates its requests, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation defined for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*

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

6. *Requests the submission, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

7. ***Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to continue applying the Reinforced monitoring mechanism until the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in2017.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
In progress

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

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

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Governance: Lack of overall management of new developments
- High impact research/monitoring activities: Lack of analysis and description of the townscape characteristics relevant to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and important views related to the property and its buffer zone
- Legal framework: Lack of clearly established maximum heights for new developments, for the backdrops of the World Heritage areas as well as along the waterfront
- Social/cultural uses of heritage: Society's valuing of heritage, lack of awareness of developers, building professionals and the wider public about the World Heritage property, its Outstanding Universal Value and requirements under the World Heritage Convention

- Buildings and development: Commercial development, housing, interpretative and visitor facilities
- Lack of adequate Management system/management plan

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/, which addresses issues raised by the World Heritage Committee in relation to the Liverpool Waters development project and confirms the commitment of all authorities involved and the developer of the project to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to put in place measures to address the concerns raised by the Committee. The report summarizes the progress made in revising the Management Plan, and the Local Plan to update the necessary policies for the protection of the OUV.

The report notes the need to clarify some of the issues raised by the 24-25 February 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission (report available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1150/documents/) to ensure that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) will be developed in line with the mission's findings and the World Heritage Committee's requests, regarding integrating the development vision in the management system.

The State Party proposes to develop the DSCOR in conjunction with the review of the Site Management, the revision of the Supplementary Planning Document and the approval of the Local Plan. Those documents will be submitted in 2017 for approval by the State Party by 2018. Public consultation will start in 2016. The DSCOR will include the measures identified in 2015, including detailed neighbourhood master plans and "reserved matters" applications. The State Party considers that focusing on the planning process will be more effective than setting out a revised vision of the Liverpool Waters that would be susceptible to change before the expiry of the existing permission in 2042.

Furthermore, the report states that a moratorium is in place for the Liverpool Central Docks, but suggests that the Committee has misunderstood the agreement reached during the Advisory mission that there should be a moratorium on developments in the Central Docks neighbourhood only and not the whole of the World Heritage property. Therefore, planning decisions have continued to be taken for temporary "meanwhile uses" and schemes to repair and reuse historic buildings. The report provided assurance that decisions taken did no harm to the OUV.

The report also summarizes the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property through the repair and reuse of a number of historic buildings previously at risk, and the efforts in promoting wider understanding of the property. It finally describes international cooperation within the URBACT network led by Naples to share best practices.

Analysis and Conclusion by World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in 2016

The report submitted by the State Party confirms that the serious concern expressed by the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme on the OUV is recognized by all the authorities and stakeholders.

Though there is progress, to date the City Council has not yet completed the comprehensive measures to eliminate the threats to the OUV. In particular, the issue of the mid- and high-rise buildings has yet to be addressed at the Liverpool Waters development project, or on various other development projects within the property. The gap between the obligations of the State Party in safeguarding the OUV and the Liverpool City Council in addressing appropriate planning mechanisms integrating the protection of the OUV is still to be resolved. At the current stage of the planning process, this can only be settled with pro-active negotiations among the three principal stakeholders (Liverpool City Council, the developer and English Heritage).

The State Party should be commended for the moratorium it has established in the Central Docks, although this does not cover the whole of the central area. It is, furthermore, noted that the State Party is making efforts to set up strong planning control mechanisms and to seek consistency and an approach linking the strategic development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides clear legal guidelines to protect the OUV of the property. This approach should include attention to urban form, syntax, and views, and define a three-dimensional programmatic envelope indicating

minimum and maximum heights, which in turn will help developers design their projects accordingly. *The Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (2011) could be useful in developing this approach.

The moratorium within the Central Docks should be maintained until the DSOCR, including corrective measures, has been adopted by the Committee. Furthermore, work within the rest of the property and the buffer zone that may affect the OUV should be strictly limited to repair, reuse and maintenance, in addition to small scale projects, until such adoption.

It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party that the DSOCR is a framework document which defines the state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened and can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Corrective Measures are the necessary steps to be taken to reach the DSOCR and may contain measures to improve planning processes. The DSOCR should be used to guide the implementation of the agreed corrective measures.

Therefore, the submission of the final draft of the DSOCR by the State Party should come prior to the finalization and approval of the necessary planning tools and regulatory framework, as these should be part of the corrective measures (the 2018 timeline for the approval of the Local Plan and revised Management plan should then be part of the agreed implementation plan for the corrective measures). The DSOCR should be based on the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies' note from April 2013 and on the State Party's reply of April 2014, and should indicate the measures as stated in Decision **39 COM 7A.43**. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalize the DSOCR by 1 December 2016, as requested in **39 COM 7A.43**.

In view of the above analysis, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.43**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Notes that all stakeholders recognize the serious concerns of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*

4. *Recalls the conclusions of the 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, in particular the need to reduce the urban density and height of the proposed development from the height maximums granted for the Liverpool Waters project, and also notes the need for a global approach, linking the strategic development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides clear legal guidelines to protect the OUV of the property, and in turn helps developers design their projects accordingly;*

5. *Although noting that the State Party proposes to develop the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the Liverpool Local Plan and Master Plan in tandem, and that they will not be approved before 2018, recalls however that the DSCOR is a tool and framework document which defines the state of conservation that a property must reach in order to demonstrate that it is no longer threatened by ascertained or potential serious and specific danger and to enable its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (the submission of the final draft of the DSOCR by the State Party and its approval by the Committee should come prior to the finalization and approval of the necessary planning tools and regulatory framework), and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the final draft of the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016**, for*

*review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as requested in Decision **39 COM 7A.43**, and to include the approval of the Local Plan and the revised Management plan as part of the agreed implementation plan for the corrective measures;*

6. *Further notes the confirmation from the State Party that a moratorium remains in place for the Liverpool Central Docks, but requests the State Party to ensure that only repair and reuse of historic buildings, maintenance works and small scale projects should receive permission within the rest of the property until the DSOCR is finalized and adopted;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to submit the draft Local Plan and Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before either document is considered for adoption by either Liverpool City Council or the State Party, and to submit the final Local Plan and Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**;*

8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2017**, a progress report on the elaboration of the Liverpool Local Plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, it being understood that no new detailed plans affecting the property will be approved by either Liverpool City Council or the State Party before the DSOCR is officially adopted by the Committee;*

9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

10. ***Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

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

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Illegal logging
- Illegal occupation
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure
- Reduced capacity of the State Party
- General deterioration of law and order and the security situation in the region

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4439

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6236

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2015)
Total amount approved: USD 223,628
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 80,000 (in addition to approximately USD 100,000 of in-kind technical assistance) under the management effectiveness assessment project “Enhancing our Heritage”.

Previous monitoring missions
2000: IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission; 2003, 2006 and 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Illegal settlements
- Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural encroachment

- Illegal logging
- Illegal commercial fishing
- Poaching
- Alien invasive species
- Management deficiencies
- Potential impacts from hydroelectric development projects Patuca I, II and III
- Lawlessness
- Lack of law enforcement
- Lack of clarity regarding land tenure and access to natural resources
- Deforestation

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/196/documents and provides the following information:

- The technical Ad Hoc Committee, established in 2011 in response to the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, continues to serve as a forum to facilitate inter-institutional exchange;
- Supported by International Assistance N° 2471, the State Party has analyzed the evolution of the boundaries and zonation of both the property and the homonymous biosphere reserve, in order to identify the steps needed to ensure the most appropriate configuration of the boundaries of the property. This analysis confirmed the current inadequacy of the boundaries and zonation of the World Heritage property as currently inscribed due to legal and land use changes over the last years. A significant boundary modification emerged as the most promising scenario; corresponding analysis, discussion, planning and socialization with all stakeholders are underway;
- Research on population trends of various felid species;
- Eviction of an illegal settlement from the northern part of the property in October 2015;
- Efforts to grant local usufruct rights in the buffer zone of the biosphere reserve are ongoing;
- Two indigenous Miskitu territorial councils were formalized (Bakinasta and the tripartite area of Batiasta, Bamiasta and Diunat); in June 2015 and February 2016 respectively, with several other Indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils in the cultural zone of the biosphere reserve expecting formalization in 2016; Dialogue on co-management with indigenous Miskitu and Pech is ongoing;
- Direct communication between the National Institute of Conservation and Forest Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife (ICF) and the national Honduran Institute for Electric Energy (ENEE) has been established to better understand and minimize impacts of the Patuca III (a.k.a. *Piedras Amarillas*) hydro power project ;
- Successful implementation of ongoing and new projects with German cooperation agencies GIZ and KfW, the European Union, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS);
- Creation of the Interagency task force against environmental crimes (PHTHIA).

Finally, the State Party notes the need to investigate and preserve the highly significant archeological site called *Ciudad Blanca* located within the biosphere reserve, both as regards overall management and the possible significant boundary modification.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Progress is noted in addressing some of the many challenges the property is facing. However, severe overarching security concerns in parts of the Honduran Mosquitia region where the property is located persist. The ongoing efforts to negotiate and grant access to land and natural resources in the form of usufruct rights and the creation of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils are welcomed,

and all care should be taken to ensure that such rights remain compatible with the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the conditions of integrity.

The renewed eviction of illegal settlers from the property continues to be a highly sensitive matter. Every effort should be made to actively prevent intrusions in the future prior to the establishment of informal settlements. While the diverse external funding sources and cooperation partners are positively noted, there is little indication of the desirable allocation of additional governmental resources.

The State Party report does not provide any information on the current status of the Patuca III hydropower project, although it mentions some activities to identify the area of influence of the project. The continued absence of a comprehensive assessment of the possible direct and indirect impacts of the project on the property, further complicated by the lack of clarity of the property boundaries, should be recalled. There continues to be a need for a better understanding of all impacts once the boundaries have been clarified as a basis for monitoring and mitigation.

The confirmation of a major archeological site called *Ciudad Blanca* is considered to be highly significant, and the conservation and management of this site will undoubtedly emerge as an integral management issue of the property. It will be of crucial importance to avoid possibly conflicting management objectives, in particular as regards improved access to the remote location and tourism development interests.

The project funded by International Assistance successfully addressed the lack of clarity in terms of the exact boundary configuration and zonation of the property caused mainly by the significant extension and re-zoning of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in 1997, which to date had not been considered through World Heritage processes. Given the scale of these changes, the IA project's conclusion that a significant boundary modification emerges as the most logical and promising way forward, as detailed in the technical documentation of the project report, should be supported. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee encourage the State Party to prepare as a matter of priority a proposal for such a significant boundary modification, carefully evaluating which areas within the larger Biosphere Reserve would need to be included in the new boundaries in order to preserve the OUV of the property in the best way and in order to facilitate the future work on addressing the challenges that led to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Given the ongoing multiple challenges, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Commends the State Party and governmental and non-governmental partners for further progress made in integrated monitoring and granting negotiated local access to land and natural resources, and encourages the State Party and partners to continue these efforts;*

4. *Expresses its concern that another eviction has been carried out and strongly urges the State Party to prevent new illegal settlements so as to avoid further evictions in the future;*

5. *Reiterates its concern that illegal activities continue to impact on the property and that no apparent progress has been made in terms of human, financial and logistical resources beyond the securing of external funding and cooperation;*

6. *Encourages the State Party to use the conclusions and recommendations of the discussions facilitated by International Assistance, as a foundation to develop a proposal for a significant boundary modification, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;*

7. *Also recalls its consideration that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) should be revised once the boundaries of the property have been clarified;*

8. *Recalls its request to the State Party to report on the possible impacts of the Patuca III project;*

9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

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)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2003-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Political and military crisis in Côte d'Ivoire from 2002 to 2010
- Poaching of wildlife and fires caused by poachers
- Over-grazing by large cattle herds
- Absence of effective management mechanism

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1050

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see pages http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4981

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 1988-2013)
Total amount approved: USD 97,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions
January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Conflict and political instability
- Lack of control of management control and of the accesses to the property
- Poaching
- Encroachment: human occupation and agricultural pressure
- Bush fires

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2016 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available on line at: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/227/documents/. The progress accomplished regarding a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions are dealt with below:

- No Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) has yet been undertaken for the two mining exploration projects located outside the property. If these projects progress beyond the prospection stage, the EIE procedure will be initiated, in conformity with the legislation in force;
- Important measures have been taken to combat illegal artisanal gold mining and associated poaching with regular surveillance patrols, prosecution of arrested individuals and awareness raising among the local communities. The abandonment of all illegal gold mining exploitation in and around the property is ongoing with 16 sites closed down in 2015. There was no evidence of gold mining installations inside the property in 2015, even although individuals searching for gold were arrested;
- The Directorate of the Park has 300 million FCFA available annually until 2018 for the management of the property. In the framework of the debt conversion project between Côte d'Ivoire and Germany, 5 million Euros have potentially been identified to implement other investments in the Park;
- The rehabilitation of infrastructure for an optimum surveillance of the property began in 2015, with support from village conservation associations;
- New data has been gathered on the state of conservation of large mammals. The results of elephant monitoring have enabled confirmation of the seasonal migration of elephants but also notes that a part of the population always remains in the Park. As regards the chimpanzees, a new group has been regularly localized east of the Comoé River. In 2015, an ecological monitoring strategy for the Park was prepared with support from the GIZ (German Society for International Cooperation) and implementation has begun.

Moreover, an evaluation of the management effectiveness of the property using the Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) evaluation toolkit was carried out by IUCN in February and April 2016, with World Heritage Centre funding.

The reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 39th session was postponed, following consultation between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to enable the State Party to gather additional data on the tendencies of wildlife populations in the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued efforts made by the State Party since the end of the political crisis in the effective establishment of services responsible for ecological monitoring, surveillance and associated measures are salutary. The existence of a management plan for the period 2015-2024 and an ecological monitoring strategy in the process of being implemented should also be noted. Furthermore, funding for the majority of the management functions for the coming five years at least, appears to be assured thanks, among others, to German cooperation through GIZ and the KfW. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consolidate the progressive establishment of a functional management body and provide the necessary resources to guarantee the implementation of the rehabilitation plan, begun in 2015.

However, it must be noted that the property suffers from important human occupation, in particular poaching and gold prospecting, mentioned in the State Party report. Furthermore, the efficient management of the property using the EoH evaluation toolkit carried out in February and April 2016 by IUCN in cooperation with the Directorate of Comoé National Park has also identified other pressures, notably uncontrolled bush fires, transhumance, fishing, agricultural encroachment, exploitation of non-timber forest products, gold mining and demographic pressure. In the light of these threats, the State Party has undertaken surveillance actions but they have not yet been able to control the threats affecting the integrity of the property and large and medium wildlife. In this respect, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to strengthen the logistical and human resources to control human pressure weighing on the integrity of the property and its mammalian population.

Moreover, an ecological monitoring system is available at the property and should be able to efficiently evaluate the level of human pressure. The inventories carried out by the State Party have also enabled the gathering of data concerning large mammals, notably the elephant, lion, buffalo and the chimpanzee. However, the State Party has not provided information concerning the statistical analysis of this data. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre all data analysis reports resulting from these inventories for examination by IUCN before the reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its 39th session takes place. It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to define, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Concerning the two mining projects outside the Park, it is recommended that the Committee warmly welcome the willingness of the State Party to prepare the EIEs for the two projects should they progress beyond the prospection stage, and that it requests the State Party to ensure that these EIEs include an evaluation of the potential impact of these projects on the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the IUCN Advisory Note on World Heritage: environmental evaluation.

In conclusion, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Warmly welcomes the continued progress achieved by the State Party, in particular the surveillance measures and awareness raising activities among the local communities, to counteract human pressure affecting the property;*

4. *Notes with concern continued gold prospecting and associated poaching, as well as other threats resulting from human pressure and requests the State Party to pursue its efforts to counteract these threats, to implement the corrective measures and continue the execution of the rehabilitation plan begun in 2015;*

5. *Also warmly welcomes the willingness of the State Party to prepare Environmental Impact Evaluations (EIEs) for the two mining projects outside the Park should they progress beyond the prospection stage, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that these EIEs include an evaluation of the potential impacts of these projects on the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the IUCN Advisory Note on World Heritage: environmental evaluation;*

6. *Notes with satisfaction the preparation and the implementation of an ecological monitoring strategy prepared with support from GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) as well as the inventories of large mammals that have been carried out, also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by IUCN, all reports concerning the analysis of data gathered during these inventories to enable confirmation of the re-establishment of large wildlife populations within the Park, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to define, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, the biological indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*

7. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as the above-mentioned reports are available, to examine the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

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 155bis)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (report of the State Party of Guinea on the state of conservation of the property not received)

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) need to be read in conjunction with Item 42.

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late mission)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Adverse refugee impact
- Irregular presence of armed militias and settlers at the property
- Increased poaching
- Deforestation

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
A draft has been developed during the 2009 Reactive Monitoring mission (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents), but the indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4081

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2000)
Total amount approved: USD 119,270
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 1,003,900 from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), and the Governments of Italy and Belgium and by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF)

Previous monitoring missions
1996-2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme;
December 2009: joint IUCN/World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Presence of armed groups, lack of security and political instability rendering a large part of the property inaccessible to the guards
- Attribution of mining permits inside the property
- Poaching by armed military groups
- Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park
- Illegal mining and deforestation

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/

Current conservation issues
On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/ and indicates a further improvement in the security situation, though insecurity remains in the Lulingu sector. The State Party reports the following updates:

- Evacuation of armed groups started in October 2015, which has allowed wildlife inventories to be resumed in Kasese and Nzovu East;
- Surveillance coverage area decreased to 34% of the property in 2015 (43% in 2014) due to the late release of funds, which delayed the implementation of the operational plan, and aerial surveys could not be conducted;
- Recruitment and training of 110 park guards is underway to help strengthen the surveillance mechanism;
- Surveillance posts and infrastructures for guards are planned to be built in 2016 with funding from the World Bank and KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau - German Development Bank);
- There are no current mining concessions overlapping with the property. Of the 34 recorded illegal mining quarries in the property, 20 have been closed and 14 are active. Efforts to evacuate these 14 mining sites will be undertaken;
- A “National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property” held in April 2015, identified four short-term priorities, and as a result, destructive activities linked to illegal farms in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the property are reported to have stabilized. Vegetation has started to recover in the land reclaimed in previous years and a number of arrests have been made;
- The socio-economic study is nearing completion to develop a zoning plan to propose a solution for the issue of villages located in the property;

- Inventories on large mammals were conducted by the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in four out of the seven sectors of the property in 2015 to determine the current state of conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The preliminary results for gorillas indicate a significant decrease in abundance in Nzovu East and West, a slow increase in Tshivanga, and a stabilisation in Kasese. Very few signs of elephants were found in the lowlands.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The further improvement of security conditions and the ongoing efforts to evacuate armed groups from formerly occupied sectors is welcomed. The killing of a park guard in an ambush on 31 March 2016 shows however that security remains fragile. The limitation of park surveillance coverage to one third of the property in 2015 due to delay in releasing funds is of concern, with even the better secured highland sector of Tshivanga recording a coverage of 56%. Further efforts are evidently needed to increase the patrol coverage, and it is hoped that the planned recruitment and training of additional guards will make this possible.

The progress achieved in conducting the inventory on large mammals is welcome as it directly relates to the state of conservation of the property's OUV. IUCN notes that in March 2016, a WCS/FFI/ICCN report on the status of Grauer's gorilla and eastern chimpanzee was released. This comprehensive report concludes that the population of Grauer's gorilla has fallen dramatically by 77% since 1996 (from 17,000 to 3,800 individuals), and that this species should be considered as Critically Endangered according to IUCN Red List of Threated Species criteria. In the lowland sectors of the property, formerly considered as the main stronghold of the species, the decline is estimated at 87%. Only the small population in the highland sector of the property, estimated at 180 animals is currently considered to be effectively protected. The report notes that if urgent action is not taken, Grauer's gorilla may be lost from much of its range in the next two to five years. Mining poses a particular threat to gorilla habitats, and bushmeat hunting especially around mining concessions is considered to be the most critical threat to both species. It is considered that closing and evacuating the remaining mines inside the property is of utmost importance, combined with an awareness raising campaign among local communities to stop the consumption and trade of bushmeat.

It is noted that no mining concessions are active within the property. However, recalling past reports by the State Party that several exploratory concessions had been given by the Mining Cadastre, it would be important to receive confirmation that these titles have been cancelled. The continued efforts to close illegal artisanal mines jointly by ICCN and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) are appreciated. However, in its report for the 39th session of the Committee, the State Party confirmed that only four mining sites remained active in the property, whilst the current report confirms 14 active sites, in spite of the closure of 20, implying levels of illegal mining are higher than previously reported.

The results of the "National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property" and the reported stabilisation of destructive activities linked to illegal farms in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the property are noted and the reported recovery of some vegetation is welcome. More details on the status of the corridor with maps showing which areas have been cleared of damaging use and encroachment, are regenerating and which areas are still encroached are considered important. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to accelerate the actions to address encroachment of and damage to the ecological corridor between the lowland and highland sectors, and to restore the vegetation of the property in order to retain its OUV, including the conditions of integrity.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures, establish a timeframe for their implementation and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as soon as the final results of the inventory are available.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Expresses its sincere condolences to the family of the guard killed during the execution of operations carried out for the protection of the property;*

4. *Welcomes the continued efforts by the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) with assistance from the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) in securing the property, strengthening surveillance and closing illegal mines but expresses its concern that surveillance coverage area decreased to 34% of the property in 2015 due to the late release of funds;*

5. *Expresses its utmost concern about the conclusions presented in the 2016 WCS/FFI/ICCN (Wildlife Conservation International/Fauna and Flora International/ICCN) report on the status of Grauer's gorilla and eastern chimpanzee, which demonstrate that population of Grauer's gorilla is estimated to have declined by 77% across its range and by 87% in the lowland sectors of the property, making it now critically endangered, and emphasizes the crucial importance of increasing efforts to protect Grauer's gorilla in the property to safeguard its continued survival;*

6. *Also notes with significant concern that mining and the associated bushmeat hunting are identified in the WCS/FFI/ICCN report as the most critical threat to Grauer's gorilla and eastern chimpanzee across their range, including in the property;*

7. *Strongly urges the State Party to close fully all remaining mines in the property as a matter of utmost priority and ensure that they are not re-occupied and to take stronger measures to stop the consumption and trade of bushmeat, and ensure a focus on stopping the illegal trade of great apes;*

8. *Takes note of the State Party's confirmation that no mining concessions are active within the property and requests the State Party to confirm that all exploratory mining concessions given by the Mining Cadastre have been cancelled;*

9. *Further notes that the "National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property" reportedly resulted in the stabilization of destructive activities linked to illegal farms in the ecological corridor between the lowland and highland sectors of the property and that some recovery of vegetation has been observed in the areas where encroachment was previously addressed, and also requests the State Party to accelerate the actions to prevent damage to and encroachment of the ecological corridor, which is crucial to ensure the ecological continuity between the highland and lowland sectors of the property, and to submit more details on the status of the corridor with maps showing areas where encroachment has been removed, and which are regenerating, and which areas are still encroached;*

10. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the final results of the inventory are available, to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures, and establish a timeframe for their implementation as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*

11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

12. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;*

13. ***Also decides to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Impact of the conflict : looting of the infrastructures, poaching of elephants
- Presence of gold mining sites inside the property

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

Corrective measures identified
Adopted in 2009 and revised in 2014, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5983

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2012)
Total amount approved: USD 103,400
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/assistance/

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

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

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/718/documents/, and which reports the following:

- Deployment of 150 soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) to support park rangers, and launch of joint operations in targeted areas to address problems concerning military involved in illegal activities;
- 50 new guards were recruited and trained, and new equipment was acquired for ongoing monitoring of the property, resulting in a surveillance coverage area of 37% of the property. The recruitment of an additional 50 guards is foreseen. In 2015, three aerial surveys covered 31% of the property;
- One of the mining permits awarded to KiloGold has been cancelled, and artisanal mining quarries in three regions of the property have been closed by the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature - ICCN) and FARDC after their voluntary evacuation in March 2015. Some quarries have been re-occupied since the third trimester of 2015;
- Financial constraints have limited progress to mitigate the impacts related to increased traffic in the property. The road remains closed for night-time traffic through the property;
- It is foreseen that during the first trimester of 2016, a definitive agreement between ICCN and four communities in the Mambasa Territory will be signed regarding the establishment of an integral conservation zone inside the property;
- A population census of five villages along the RN4 revealed a 29% increase during the period 2010–2015, compared to 1% during 2003–2009. Population growth is also observed in large settlements to the west of the property, mainly linked to illegal gold and diamond mining inside the property;
- Efforts to sustainably manage the natural resources through community forestry in the areas bordering the property are continuing. Zoning of the northwest of the property led to delineation of 30 agricultural zones and 29 hunting zones, with the exercise now underway in some other areas;
- Plans are ongoing to establish the permanent consultation framework recommended by the Mambasa Round Table (11-12 May 2013);
- In spite of efforts to strengthen anti-poaching, they remain insufficient due to pressure from illegal mining and ongoing security challenges;
- Financial constraints continue to limit the implementation of the corrective measures.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's ongoing efforts to implement the corrective measures are welcomed. In particular, the cancellation of one of the mining permits awarded to KiloGold and the addition of 50 trained eco-guards for the ongoing surveillance of the property demonstrate important steps in addressing key threats. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to cancel all remaining mining permits that encroach on the property.

Whilst the evacuation from some mining quarries is welcomed, it is unclear how many illegal mining sites are active within the property. The re-occupation of some of these quarries since late 2015 has further impacted on the security within the property, and demonstrates that continued efforts to combat illegal mining and evacuate illegal occupants remain crucial and urgent. Sincere condolences are extended to the family of the guard who was killed by rebel groups in November 2015.

It is of great concern that anti-poaching efforts remain too limited to address the important threats faced. The State Party's intentions to recruit 50 more forest guards is appreciated in that regard, and the launch of the joint operations between ICCN and FARDC to continue efforts to resolve illegal activities by the military marks an important step. Nevertheless, the number of guards in the property remains low to ensure proper surveillance and to tackle heavily armed poachers, while efforts are focused on halting illegal mining activities.

It should be noted that the reported surveillance coverage of 37% appears to be lower than the figure reported to the Committee at its 39th session (48%) but slightly higher than the revised 2014 figure that is presented by the State Party in its current report (36%). It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to prioritise efforts to further expand the patrol coverage in order to regain control of the site to halt poaching and the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The significant increase in population size of the five villages along RN4 is also of significant concern and might be an indirect result of the rehabilitation of the road. No information is provided on the impact of the increase on the land use in the property. The increase questions the effectiveness of the system which was established to control immigration into the property, which would need to be evaluated and improved.

The development of a roadmap for the signing of an agreement between ICCN and the four communities in the Mambasa Territory in order to establish an integral conservation zone in the property is welcomed, as are the steps taken to inform the zoning plan for forest areas adjacent to the property.

It is regrettable that financial constraints are continuing to limit the implementation of many of the corrective measures and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its call upon donors to provide necessary financial and technical support to the site's managers to fully implement the corrective measures.

Finally, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and that it continues to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of the guard killed in operations for the protection of the property;*

4. *Welcomes the cancellation of one of the mining permits awarded to KiloGold Society inside the property and urges the State Party to provide information on the remaining mining permits overlapping with the property and to ensure their cancellation;*

5. *Takes note of the actions taken by the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) to close some artisanal mines and reiterates its request to the State Party to evacuate and close all illegal artisanal mines within the property;*

6. *Expresses its concern at the continued deterioration of the security situation in the property, increased poaching and the reopening of artisanal mining sites encouraged by rebel groups;*

7. *Notes with appreciation the development of a roadmap towards the signing of an agreement between ICCN and the four communities in the Mambasa Territory in order to establish an integral conservation zone in the property, and the steps taken to inform the zoning plan for forest areas adjacent to the property;*

8. *Acknowledges the addition of 50 trained guards for the ongoing surveillance of the property, but notes with concern that the reported surveillance coverage is significantly lower than what was reported to the Committee at its 39th session and therefore, also*

reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize efforts to further expand the patrol coverage and regain control of the site to halt poaching and the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including through the recruitment of additional guards and the adequate provision of financial and material resources;

9. *Also notes with concern the significant increase in the number of inhabitants in the five villages along the RN4 which questions the effectiveness of the system established to control immigration into the property, and requests the State Party to evaluate and improve this system in order to make it more effective, and to evaluate the impacts of the increased population on land use around the villages;*

10. *Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures and to resume operations suspended due to a lack of security, and reiterates its call upon donors to provide necessary financial and technical support for these efforts;*

11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

12. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;*

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Impact due to conflict
- Increased poaching and illegal encroachment affecting the integrity of the site

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

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4575

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)
Total amount approved: USD 149,900
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium.

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Conflicts with local communities concerning park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property

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

Current conservation issues
On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/ and provides the following updates:

- A co-management agreement for the property was signed in August 2015 between the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature - ICCN) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), to support future development and management of the site;
- Efforts to ensure the security in the property have continued through the implementation of the third phase of "Operation Bonobo", which has led to seizure of weapons, arrests and sentences;
- Substantial efforts have been made to implement the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) through provision of training workshops in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ- Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), resulting in 50% park coverage in 2015, compared to 22% coverage in 2013-2014;
- Inventories were conducted in Watsi-Kengo and Mondjoku sectors through the support of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and WCS, and the preliminary analysis indicates a bonobo population of approximately 4,280 in Watsi-Kengo;
- 35 kilometers of the park boundary were successfully delineated in Bianga through a transparent and participatory process involving local communities;
- Six multiple use zones have been identified for the ecological corridor between the two components of the property and agreed with the communities, including a sustainable conservation zone, and management plans have been developed through consultation with the local communities. However, some land conflicts are reported to remain;
- A population survey has been conducted for Kitawala and Yaelima villages inside the property, estimating the total population in the property around 5,000 people. So far, no sustainable solution could be identified to address this issue;
- Donors European Commission, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the German Development Bank (KfW- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) have committed to increasing their financial contributions to improve the management of the property. Donors will provide, to the property, substantial financial resources, through the August 2015 co-management agreement, amounting over 20 million euros for the period 2016-2020.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN
The signing of the co-management agreement for the property between ICCN and WWF, which aims at improving the management and future development of the site, is highly appreciated. A Conservation Director has been appointed to work closely with ICCN General Directorate to implement the park's conservation strategy and new activities funded by donors.

The continued delivery of tangible results through "Operation Bonobo" is encouraging and the State Party's ongoing efforts, in cooperation with financial and technical partners, to implement some of the corrective measures, are welcomed. The 27% increase in area covered by trained park staff using

SMART compared to the previous year is also welcomed. It is appreciated that several donors have committed significant funding for the management of the property and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its calls on the international community to continue this financial support over a longer period of time to adequately manage the property and to increase operational capacity and address the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The inventory of flagship species has been initiated and now conducted in two of the sectors but only the preliminary results of the bonobo population estimate is reported. No further data and results are provided on other species (in particular elephants) and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the full findings of the inventories of all flagship species as soon as they become available. It would also be important to use these data to quantify the relevant indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) which was proposed by the 2012 mission.

It is appreciated that the ecological corridor to link the two components of the property has been designed through consultation with local communities, and the multiple use zones defined, as the corridor is important to maintain the long-term integrity of the property. The sustainable conservation zones are stated by the State Party to be of particular importance for ensuring an ecological link between the two components of the property. However, the map provided by the State Party suggests that these zones are still largely separated from the southern component of the property by the agricultural zone. Further options to improve connectivity should be considered. While the population surveys of Kitawala and Yaelima villages have been conducted, no further progress of socio-economic studies in the Yaelima communities has been reported in order to inform the strategy on how to address their residence in the park. It will be important to initiate a dialogue with these communities to identify a possible way forward.

It is of utmost concern that despite four consecutive requests from the Committee (**36 COM 7A.7**, **37 COM 7A.7**, **38 COM 7A.40** and **39 COM 7A.7**), the State Party has not yet provided any information on the status of oil exploration and exploitation projects, and it is considered that there is an urgent need to receive clarification on the current status.

While important progress in the implementation of the corrective measures can be noted, it is clear that it will take time for the OUV to recover. It is therefore recommended that the State Party try to quantify the proposed indicators of the DSOCR, as soon as detailed survey results are available for the entire property, so that a realistic timeframe can be established.

In the meantime, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Welcomes the State Party's ongoing efforts, to implement the corrective measures, with the substantial financial and technical support from various partners, but notes the importance of sustaining this financial support over a longer timeframe in order to adequately manage the property and increase operational capacity and restore its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

4. *Also welcomes the increased patrols of the property by park staff covering 50% of the area, and the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) approach for data collection;*

5. *Appreciates the establishment of the design of the ecological corridor through consultation with local communities to link the two components of the property,*

including the identification of six multiple use zones, requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the management plans, and urges it to consider further options to improve connectivity between the "sustainable conservation zones" and the southern component of the property;

6. *Notes with concern that disputes over land are continuing within the property, concerning in particular the Kitawala and Yaelima communities, and also requests the State Party to establish an effective dialogue with these communities to identify a possible way forward, in compliance with the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012);*

7. *Also notes that the inventory of flagship species has been conducted in two of the sectors within the property and further requests the State Party to submit the full findings of the inventories for all flagship species assessed to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as they become available and, based on the results, to also submit an updated Desired state of conservation for the removal of a property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) which quantifies the indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*

8. *Deeply regrets that the State Party has still not provided any information on the status of oil exploration and exploitation projects (Decisions **36 COM 7A.7**, **37 COM 7A.7**, **38 COM 7A.40**, **39 COM 7A.7**), and strongly urges the State Party to submit this information as a matter of urgency, and reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;*

9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

10. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;*

11. ***Also decides to retain the Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1994-present

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Increased poaching of wildlife
- Incapability of staff to patrol the 650 km long boundary of the park
- Massive influx of 1 million refugees occupying adjacent parts of the park
- Widespread depletion of forests in the lowlands

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338

Corrective measures identified
Adopted in 2011, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338
Revised in 2014, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5979

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4338

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 10 (from 1980-2005)
Total amount approved: USD 268,560
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 1,802,300 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain as well as the Rapid Response Facility (RRF).

Previous monitoring missions
April 1996 - March 2006 - December 2010: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reinforced monitoring mission; March 2014 : World Heritage Centre / IUCN / Ramsar Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability
- Attribution of a petroleum exploration permit inside the property
- Poaching by the army and armed groups
- Encroachment
- Extension of illegal fishing areas
- Deforestation, charcoal production and cattle grazing

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/

Current conservation issues
On 5 February 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/63/documents.

- No activity linked to petroleum was observed in the property in 2015. The report noted that the State Party retains the option of officially addressing in the near future the World Heritage Centre to solicit an advisory mission of the Advisory Bodies to discuss;
- The efforts of the joint Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature – ICCN)) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) patrols have enabled the coverage of 75% of the Park area. Nevertheless, insecurity continues to affect the implementation of the corrective measures and staff security. Military operations continue in the northern and central sectors, against the different armed rebel groups. Attacks have been directed against the Park causing the death, in June 2015, of four guards and about fifteen soldiers. Further attacks were also carried out, on 12 March 2016, targeting the control posts where two guards of the ICCN were killed;
- The population of mountain gorillas accustomed to humans continues to increase as does the hippopotamus population, roughly 40% in two years following a dramatic decline in the last twenty years. Elephant poaching continues (16 killed in 2015 against 13 in 2014 and 25 in 2013); also 15 telemetric collars were placed to reinforce their surveillance;
- Combat against encroachment has enabled the recuperation of 29% of the invaded areas, including 15,000 ha in 2015 alone, of the 85,000 ha of occupied land. However, the invaders encourage the extension of their villages into the park creating a new threat;

- The State Party notes the continuing activities of charcoal production controlled by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) The State Party has completed the construction of the hydro-electrical central at Matebe (13.8 MW), which should result in a decreased demand for charcoal. Two new centrals will be built in 2016. These major projects are the result of the work initiated by "Virunga Alliance" to transform the ecosystem services into social service to improve the social well-being of the neighbouring populations of the park;
- A study carried out at Lake Edward shows that the fish stocks remain important, but the tendency is to overfish.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Although petroleum activity has not been observed, it must be emphasized that petroleum exploration continues to threaten the integrity of the property. The State Party has still not confirmed the cancellation of the petroleum concessions that encroach the property and has not confirmed its commitment to no longer authorize new petroleum explorations or exploitations within the property. It has not yet transmitted the results of the seismic prospection undertaken in 2014 by the SOCO Society. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to cancel the petroleum concessions granted in the property as well as to confirm its position according to which petroleum exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status.

In a call for tender concerning the attribution of petroleum exploration concessions at Lake Edward, published on the official Internet site of the Petroleum Directorate of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), the Republic of Uganda has decided to include the Ngaji block that is located in the Ugandan part of Lake Edward and borders the property. With regard to this alarming situation, the World Heritage Centre wrote, on 24 August 2015, a letter to the Permanent Delegation of Uganda to UNESCO, recalling that Lake Edward is mentioned several times in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Consequently, the decision to open the Ngaji block to petroleum exploration is likely to impact on its OUV and could have negative impacts on the hydraulic system of the Lake. On 26 February 2016, the Director-General of UNESCO also addressed a letter to the President of the Republic of Uganda, informing of her concern regarding the attribution of this petroleum block. On 25 May 2016, the State Party of Uganda responded to the second letter, recognizing the environmental sensitivity of the Lake Edward Basin and noting six actions that have been implemented by the State Party to ensure that oil and gas activities in the region do not have a negative impact on the environment. Among the listed actions it is noted that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for oil and gas operations in the entire Albertine Graben was undertaken, the recommendations of which guide decision-making in the petroleum sector. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Uganda to submit the report of this SEA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

However, on 1 March 2016, the MEMD published a press statement indicating that of the seven societies that had submitted offers for the different blocks to be attributed, none had shown an interest in Ngaji.

It is recommended that the Committee express its deep concern regarding the possible attribution of the Ngaji block and that it reminds the State Party of Uganda of Article 6.3 of the *Convention*. It is also recommended that the Committee urgently request the two States Parties concerned to strongly commit not to authorize any petroleum exploration or exploitation at Lake Edward.

Improvement of the encroached areas and the increase of the populations of key species (gorillas, hippopotamus, elephants) is encouraged. However, some actions of the invaders, that encourage encroachment, are worrying as they could compromise the result achieved in the community conservation framework. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to implement the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, in particular the peaceful evacuation of the illegal occupants in the property. It is recommended that the Committee encourage all the initiatives of the "Virunga Alliance" and that it warmly welcomes this innovative initiative which aims to support economic development based on ecosystem services. The European Commission, in the framework of its support programme of 11th EDF (European Development Fund), will provide substantial support amounting to several tens of thousands of Euros to the park over the period 2016-2020.

Insecurity is a continuing problem and the efforts of the State Party to demobilize the rebels and integrate them into the FARDC are commendable. It is recommended that the Committee warmly welcomes the fact that the patrols were able to maintain a 75% surveillance of the park, and that the

military operations against the armed groups continue, and it conveys its sincere condolences to the families of the guards and the military killed during operations to protect the property.

It is finally recommended that the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism continue to be applied.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.4** and **39 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards and the military killed during operations for the protection of the property;*

4. *Regrets that the State Party has not confirmed its commitment not to authorize new petroleum exploration and exploitation within the boundaries of the property, as was established at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List in 1979, and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the petroleum concessions granted inside the property;*

5. *Reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;*

6. *Expresses its utmost concern as regards the decision of the State Party of Uganda to include the Ngaji block in the calls for tender for the future petroleum exploration projects, this block being located in the Ugandan part of Lake Edward bordering the property, and recalls its obligations contained in Article 6.3 of the* Convention*, stating that "*Each State Party to this Convention undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention";

7. *Recalling that the importance of Lake Edward is mentioned several times in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considers that any activity linked to petroleum on Lake Edward is highly likely to damage the OUV of the property as well as its integrity, including by negative impacts on the transboundary waters; and urgently requests the State Party of Uganda to refrain from granting petroleum exploration permits for the Ngaji block;*

8. *Also requests the State Party of Uganda to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that was undertaken for oil and gas operations in the Albertine Graben;*

9. *Encourges the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda to strengthen their cooperation around the "Grand Virunga" complex, including Lake Edward, and eventually consider the preparation of a new proposal for inscription for a transboundary extension of the property to reinforce its values and integrity;*

10. *Also urges the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to firmly commit not to authorize any petroleum exploration or exploitation at Lake Edward;*

11. *Notes with satisfaction the progress accomplished by the State Party regarding the combat against encroachment, as well as the encouraging results of the ecological monitoring showing an increase in the mountain gorilla population accustomed to humans, a beginning of restoration of the hippopotamus population and a stabilisation of elephant poaching;*

12. *Notes with concern the invader coalitions and the launching of simultaneous actions of village extensions into the Park, also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the commitments undertaken in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, in particular the peaceful evacuation of illegal occupants in the properties;*

13. *Congratulates the "Virunga Alliance" initiative for its work towards the sustainable economic development of the property through the enhancement of the ecosystemic services of thepark, and welcomes the support provided to local populations and to the provincial and national authorities and thanks the financial donors and the private sector for their support in the implementation of this programme;*

14. *Further equests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

15. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;*

16. ***Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (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 (DRC)

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- Depletion of the Walia ibex population and other large mammals
- Phenomenon of encroachment
- Impacts of road construction

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, See page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4085

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Not yet established

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 10 (from 1978-2013)
Total amount approved: USD 323,171
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 100,000 (2012-2015) in support of community conservation and development of the grazing pressure reduction strategy (Spain and Netherlands) with important co-financing from Global Environment Fund (GEF)

Previous monitoring missions
2001, 2006 and 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Land conversion
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Other Threats: Declining populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/

Current conservation issues
On 3 February 2016, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/ and addresses conservation issues as follows:

- Voluntary relocation of 418 households from Gich village is underway through a participatory process with stakeholders;
- While some donors have already supported the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living in immediate vicinity of the park (UNDP through the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation initiative, Austrian Development Cooperation, the German Development Bank, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency), more funding needs to be mobilized to implement the livelihood improvements strategies, particularly for the relocated community, and the grazing pressure reduction strategy (GPRS);
- In partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and UNESCO, and with financial support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, development of the GPRS has been finalised through a participatory process and designates 92% of the property as a no grazing zone, and the remaining 8% as sustainable resource use zone. The no grazing zone has therefore currently been extended from 37% to 70% of the park;
- A partnership has been established between the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) and AWF to manage the property;
- The Simien Mountains Community Tourism Charity Association (SIMCOT-CA) has been established to lead community based tourism. Tourism facilities have been improved, tourist numbers have continued to rise, and the local communities are increasingly benefiting from the revenue generated;

- Construction of the Debark – Mekane-Birhan – Dilyibza realignment road is underway but was delayed. The Debark – Adi arkay – Shire road realignment option is under discussion;
- A park gate has been constructed at Sawrie on the main road from Debark to the property to monitor traffic levels and to restrict use to daylight hours;
- Research conducted by students found the populations of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf to be increasing, but the State Party is currently looking for funding to commission a more detailed independent scientific study to assess their status, composition and distribution;
- Three applications to develop eco-lodges in the park have been received by EWCA, and potential sites have been selected. The proposed developments are undergoing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for review by EWCA and other stakeholders before final approval by the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The State Party reassures that the final EIA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- Measures are being taken to limit disease transmission such as through close collaboration with vets and the implementation of zero tolerance policy to domestic dogs.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It should be noted that the ongoing voluntary relocation of the Gich village community to Debark town is continuing. An independent study has assessed the process to have been in line with national and international standards, construction of new housing is nearing completion, land plots have been made available and the majority of households received compensation payments. It is welcomed that international donors are supporting livelihood and property management programmes, but significant international financial support is still required to provide alternative livelihood opportunities for the people living in the immediate vicinity of the park, and in particular those relocated.

It is welcomed that joint implementation of the grazing pressure reduction strategy (GPRS), which has been developed through a broad stakeholder engagement, is well underway. It is a major accomplishment in addressing overgrazing, provisions of alternative livelihoods, law enforcement and enhanced monitoring of the property, and enables the authorities to meet one of the outstanding corrective measures requested by the Committee (**34 COM 7A.9**). Long-term investments should be continued to ensure effective implementation with key stakeholders, including the communities.

Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations appear to have increased, however a more detailed independent study in line with the Committee's recommendation (Decision **39 COM 7A.10**) remains necessary, and the State Party's stated commitment is welcomed. The State Party could consider the possibility of requesting International Assistance to support this study.

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the construction of the gate to restrict and monitor traffic, and encourage the State Party to speed up the realignment of roads. A map with all existing and proposed roads would be beneficial to ensure a common understanding of their locations, especially in relation to the extended park boundaries.

Further clarification on the exact location of the proposed eco-lodge developments inside the park is required to determine any potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property under both criteria (vii) and (x). It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the EIA includes a thorough assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the report to the World Heritage Centre for review before any decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse.

To conclude, the State Party has made significant progress in implementing most of the corrective measures and towards achieving the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). However, further progress is required to ensure the financial sustainability of the alternative livelihood programmes and the GPRS.

It should be noted that the State Party has not provided any update on its intentions to submit a request for modification of the property boundaries to harmonize them with the extended park boundaries. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to complete the International Assistance project approved to prepare a proposal for a significant boundary modification for the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, as requested since Decision **35 COM 7A.9**.

In view of the significant progress reported by the State Party in implementing the corrective measures, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess progress towards achieving the DSOCR.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Takes note that the on-going voluntary relocation of the Gich community is nearing completion, and requests the State Party to ensure that the remaining compensations and housing contructions are fully completed, and the implementation of the strategies for alternative livelihoods are continued;*

4. *Welcomes the funding provided by different donors to support the development of alternative livelihood opportunities for the people living in the immediate vicinity of the park, and calls on further donors to support these initiatives to ensure their sustainability in the long term;*

5. *Notes with appreciation the completion of the grazing pressure reduction strategy through stakeholder engagement and the timely initiation of its implementation, and also requests the State Party to secure investments and keep the World Heritage Centre updated on progress with the strategy's implementation;*

6. *Notes that a recent study found an increase in Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations, and encourages the State Party to apply for International Assistance to commission a more detailed independent study in line with Committee Decision **39 COM 7A.10**;*

7. *Also notes that a gate has been constructed at Sawrie to restrict and monitor road use and further requests the State Party to accelerate the delayed realignment of roads crossing the property to reduce the pressure on the existing road through the property and to submit a map with all existing and proposed roads;*

8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to clarify the location of the proposed eco-lodge developments inside the park, and to ensure that the relevant Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) include a thorough assessment of the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the report to the World Heritage Centre for review before any decisions are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the* Operational Guidelines*;*

9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a proposal for the modification of the property's boundaries through the preparation of a new nomination, as per Decision **35 COM 7A.9,** in order to harmonize the boundaries of the property with the new boundaries of the national park;*

10. *Requests moreover the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and towards meeting the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);*

11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

12. ***Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

Previous Committee Decisions see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/

International Assistance
Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)
Total amount approved: USD 155,000
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation; USD 1,039,000 from the Government of Norway.

Previous monitoring missions
May 2011, September 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Encroachment
- Fire
- Hunting and poaching
- Artisanal mining
- Illegal logging
- Governance
- Engagement of local communities

Illustrative material see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2016, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/. This report presents the progress achieved on a certain number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- In January 2016, the Permanent Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) approved the results of an audit on the stocks and the plan of usage to determine the elements of the stocks of rosewood and ebony for legal exportation;
- The capacities of the authorities and the civil society to identify precious wood have been strengthened;
- Act N°2015-056 of 17 December 2015 concerning the repression of offences linked to rosewood and ebony provides for the creation of a special tribunal to adjudicate the traffickers as well as reinforcing the penalties;
- The area covered by the surveillance was 90% in each component of the property in 2015. Surveillance efforts have been reinforced by mixed brigades (gendarmerie, military, local authorities responsible for water and forests, mining police) as well as by the Local Committees of the Park (LCP) comprising neighbouring communities that have patrolled 47% of the property in 2015 (against 52% in 2014). The use of the SMART tool (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), enabled a better control of all the human pressure;
- Several awareness-raising activities for the neighbouring communities were carried out.

Progress towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is reported as follows:

- The illicit logging of precious wood has diminished in the property, but is still present at a level representing 10% of the level registered in 2009;
- Since 2014, the variable clearing rate has been registered below the level of 0.01% defined in the DSOCR;
- The number of lemur traps was on the increase in 2015 (112 against 68 in 2014). Currently, 24 of the 28 species of lemur present within the property are subject to ecological monitoring;
- In 2015, 42.28 ha of the Masoala National Park have been restored.

From 28 September to 2 October 2015, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission took place, including a site visit to the Masoala National Park, one of the components of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The evident political willingness of the State Party to halt the illicit trafficing of precious wood with the adoption of the Act N°2015-056 reinforcing the penalties against the traffickers, and the progress accomplished by the State Party towards the indicators of the DSOCR should be welcomed. The efforts made to involve the local communities in the conservation activities of the property should also be welcomed. In reading the report of the State Party, it is evident that progress has been accomplished towards achieving the indicators of the DSOCR, notably with regard to the reduction of illicit logging of precious wood and the control of agricultural clearing. However, as noted by the 2015 mission, the necessary resources to pursue the improvements of the precious wood industry appear to be no longer available by the end of 2015. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to prepare and implement a plan to acquire sufficient resources to initiate a strategy for the seizure of the stocks of illegal precious wood.

The mission noted that the exploitation of rosewood continues in the property, even though the volume appears diminished. It also noted that despite the efforts made by the State Party and its partners, the quantity of the illegally exploited rosewood in the protected areas in general, and in the components of the property still remains to be clarified. Therefore, it is recommended that the

Committee request the State Party to fully implement the CITES action plan. Indeed, the situation of the illegally exploited precious wood as presented to the mission is alarming. Nearly 300,000 logs were declared, whereas only 27,791 were seized. Efforts to find the remainder of the hidden stocks are costly but must be continued. Furthermore, the mission emphasized that the option taken by the Interministerial Committee to establish a local treatment factory for the seized wood should ensure that it does not provide an opportunity for the illegal traffickers to "launder" their stocks of hidden wood. In this respect, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify the nature and destination of the products delivered by the proposed treatment factory to evaluate the impact on the future demand for precious wood and in consequence, the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The mission has also noted that the artisanal and illegal mining exploitation is also an important threat for the ecological integrity of the property, particularly in the Zahamena and Ranomafana Parks. Moreover, the lemur traps also constitute a serious problem in several components of the property, including Majojely, Zahamena and Andringitra Parks.

Finally, the mission considers that the efforts made by the State Party, while certainly commendable, do not respond fully to the DSOCR indicators. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Commends the State Party for the evident political will to halt the illicit trafficing of precious wood with the Act N°2015-056 creating a special tribunal to injudicate the traffickers and reinforce the penalties;*

4. *Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party towards attaining the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), but considers that all the indicators have not yet been achieved;*

5. *Also welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to ensure the involvement of the local communities in the conservation activities of the property, as demonstrated by the surveillance of the property by the Local Park Committees;*

6. *Notes with concern that even although the volume appears to be diminished, the exploitation of rosewood in the property continues and that the quantity of illegally exploited rosewood still remains to be clarified, and urges the State Party to fully implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) action plan;*

7. *Requests the State Party to prepare and implement a plan to acquire sufficient resources to ensure the long-term implementation of the strategy to seize the illegal stocks of precious wood;*

8. *Also requests the State Party to clarify the nature and destination of the products to be delivered by the proposed treatment factory to evaluate the impact on the future demand of precious wood and consequently the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*

9. *Also notes with concern the artisanal and illegal mining, notably in the Zahamena and Ranomafana National Parks, as well as poaching of lemurs in several components of the property, including the Marojejy, Zahamena and Andringitra National Parks, also constituting serious threats to the OUV and the integrity of the property;*

10. *Further requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations of the 2015 mission;*

11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the corrective measures, as well as the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

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

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
The region having recently suffered from military conflict and civil disturbance, the Government of Niger requested the Director-General of UNESCO to launch an appeal for the protection of the site

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

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

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
In progress

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 7 (from 1999-2013)
Total amount approved: USD 172,322
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

Previous monitoring missions
May 2005 and February 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports
- Political instability and civil strife
- Poverty
- Management constraints
- Ostrich poaching

- Soil erosion
- Demographic pressure
- Livestock pressure
- Pressure on forestry resources

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

Current conservation issues

On 9 February, 2016 the State Party submitted a report on the conservation of the property, available at http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents/, and provided the following information concerning the progress accomplished in the implementation of the updated corrective measures:

- Since October 2015, the Management Unit of the property was strengthened by the appointment of a conservator for the sole management of the property and its seven forestry agents based at Iférouane, enabling the implementation of a minimal emergency programme, surveillance, including notably anti-poaching combat;
- The Communal Forestry Commissions (COFOCOM) clarify the rights of land-use and access to resources of the local populations;
- An evaluation of management efficiency of the property using the Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) toolkit was used by IUCN in January 2016 with funding from the World Heritage Centre;
- The Departmental Directorate of Environment, Urban Safety and Sustainable Development (DDESU/DD) and its Communal Services (SCESU/DD) control and collect data on the volume and types of timber on all the road axes in the region of Agadez;
- An ecological monitoring mission in December 2015 confirmed the presence of dorcas gazelle, dama gazelle and Barbary sheep around Mount Takoulkouzat. Concerning the addax antelopes, reports provided by the local populations indicating the possibilities of their existence around Mount Tamyakces remain unconfirmed;
- Reintroduction efforts for the red-neck ostrich continue with the first releases into the nature of a few individuals originating from the *ex situ* reconstitution programme foreseen in the near future;
- Artisanal gold panning in the region of Agadez close to the property as well as the illegal circulation of weapons of war in the zone increases the threats.

The State Party notes that the “Niger Fauna Corridors Project” (NFCR) is now in its last year of implementation, and that the imminent start of the third phase of the project for Co-Management of Natural Resources in Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (COGERAT) is expected in 2016, its funding already secured through Global Environmental Fund (GEF).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts undertaken by the State Party in the implementation of the updated corrective measures, adopted by the Committee during its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), should be warmly acknowledged.

However, the EoH evaluation of January 2016 noted that the property does not have a management plan or a budget to cover effectively the principal activities, in particular surveillance and ecological monitoring. Important efforts are still required to establish functional management bodies with technical and financial means and adequate staff.

Moreover, the redynamization of the local surveillance bodies in the valleys would be an excellent strategy to counter the staff deficiency. In fact, during the politico-military crisis, these structures have played an important role in the protection of the property against all forms of pressure, explaining the presence recently noted of Sahelo-Saharan antelopes within the property, with the exception of addax, as indicated in the wildlife inventory reports of 2015 and 2016.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to accelerate the recruitment of forestry agents and ensure appropriate funding for the Management Unit to enable a better control of the exploitation of natural resources in the property and to ensure an efficient implementation of the emergency surveillance programme.

The EoH evaluation also confirmed that “motor poaching” and the exploitation of timber still remain the major pressures within the property. It is regrettable that the State Party has not provided any

information on the level of poaching, or on the results of the anti-poaching combat carried out in 2015. Also, the lack of information on the volume and the type of timber removed from the property and exploited for commercial use does not permit an analysis of the degree of the threat. In this context, the continuing gold-panning activity in the region of Agadez, close to the property, as well as the illegal circulation of weapons of war are noted with concern. Indeed, the 2015 mission noted that a large part of the timber originating from the property is directed to the gold-panning sites. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information and data on these threats and the actions carried out to mitigate them.

The encouraging results obtained during the ecological monitoring mission of December 2015 were confirmed by the two inventories of February and March 2016 in the framework of the Africa Nature II programme, showing the presence of dorcas gazelles, dama gazelles and the Barbary sheep with the Kilometer Abundance Index of 0.008, 0.001 and 0.001 respectively.

However, despite these efforts, the volume of data is still insufficient to evaluate the status of these species throughout the property. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to implement the recommendation of the 2015 mission concerning the establishment and implementation of a five-year monitoring programme on the state of conservation of the dorcas gazelle, the dama gazelle and their habitats throughout the property with support from the partners. Furthermore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to implement all of the other recommendations of the 2015 mission.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.12** adopted during its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Warmly welcomes the confirmation of GEF funding enabling the implementation of the third phase of the project for Co-Management for the Natural Resources of the Air and Ténéré (COGERAT), expected to start in 2016;*

4. *Also warmly welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, but considers that important efforts are still necessary to implement them all;*

5. *Reiterates its concern with regard to the lack of human and logistical means to ensure the sovereign function of the Management, Surveillance and Ecological Monitoring Unit of the property and requests the State Party to accelerate the recruitment of forestry agents, and ensure adequate funding of the Management Unit to better control the exploitation of the natural resources within the property;*

6. *Notes with concern the continuing problem of gold panning in the region of Agadez, close to the property, as well as the illegal circulation of weapons of war leading to an increase in poaching threats and timber harvesting;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to provide detailed information and data on poaching and timber harvesting in the perimeter of the property, as well as the actions carried out to combat these threats;*

8. *Notes with satisfaction the encouraging results obtained during the ecological monitoring mission of December 2015, but also considers that the efforts undertaken*

are not sufficient to obtain a satisfactory level of information to evaluate the status of these species throughout the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2015 IUCN reactive monitoring mission, in particular those concerning the preparation and implementation of a five-year programme to monitor the state of conservation of the dorcas gazelle, the dama gazelle and their habitats, as well as an action plan on the corrective measures defined in consultation with the State Party during the mission;

9. *Again urgently requests the State Party to carry out the necessary studies with a view to preparing a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;*

10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;*

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

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late receipt of the State Party report on the state of conservation of the property)

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (late supplementary information)

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

See Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A.Add (State Party report on the state of conservation of the property not received)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

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

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

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

Corrective measures identified
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1275/
Updated: see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures
Adopted, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/1062;
Updated: see pages http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4348 and
http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4958/

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

International Assistance
Requests approved: 0
Total amount approved: USD 0
For details, see page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds
N/A

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Quantity and quality of water entering the property
- Urban encroachment
- Agricultural fertilizer pollution
- Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife
- Lowered water levels due to flood control measures
- Damage from hurricanes

- Exotic invasive plant and animal species

Illustrative material See page http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/76/

Current conservation issues

A report on the state of conservation of the property was requested by the World Heritage Committee, only for its 41st session in 2017 (Decision **39 COM 7A.17**). This request was based on the view expressed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in 2013 that the implementation of the corrective measures and improvement of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger would likely take at least another ten years.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the World Heritage Committee retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 40 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/7A,*

2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*

3. *Recalls its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, 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 41st session in 2017;*

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