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Addendum Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties

ICOMOS report for the World Heritage Committee
41st ordinary session, Krakow, 2 - 12 July 2017

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Addendum

**Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural
and Mixed Properties**

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World Heritage List Nominations received by 1st February 2017

V Mixed property

A Asia Pacific

Minor modifications to the boundaries

China [N/C 911bis]

Mount Wuyi

1

VI Cultural properties

A Arab States

Minor modifications to the boundaries/creation of buffer zone

Syrian Arab Republic [C 22bis]

Ancient City of Bosra

3

B Europe – North America

Nomination referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Georgia [C 710bis]

Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery

5

Minor modifications to the boundaries

Canada [C 4bis]

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site

18

Czechia [C 1078bis]

Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč

20

France [C 933bis]

The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes

22

Italy [C 825bis]

Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

24

Netherlands [C 759bis]

Defence Line of Amsterdam

26

Norway [C 1143bis]

Vegøyan -- The Vega Archipelago

31

Turkey [C 356bis]

Historic Areas of Istanbul

32

Creation/modification of buffer zones

Croatia [C 95ter]

Old City of Dubrovnik

34

Georgia [C 708bis]

Historical Monuments of Mtskheta

37

Mount Wuyi (China) No 911 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

China

Name of property

Mount Wuyi

Location

Wuyishan City, Fujian Province
China

Inscription

1999

Brief description

Mount Wuyi is the most outstanding area for biodiversity conservation in south-east China and a refuge for a large number of ancient, relict species, many of them endemic to China. The serene beauty of the dramatic gorges of the Nine Bend River, with its numerous temples and monasteries, many now in ruins, provided the setting for the development and spread of neo-Confucianism, which has been influential in the cultures of East Asia since the 11th century. In the 1st century B.C. a large administrative capital was built at nearby Chengcun by the Han dynasty rulers. Its massive walls enclose an archaeological site of great significance.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

Mount Wuyi (Fujian) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999 under criteria (iii), (vi), (vii), (x). The original nomination included only the southern, albeit larger, side of the Mount Wuyi mountain ecosystem and excluded the now proposed added Northern components which are located in another province, Jiangxi. The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for this property was adopted by the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2012 (Decision 36 COM 8E). The World Heritage Outlook analysis undertaken by IUCN in 2014 concluded that there was a "great need for better coordination across the province divide and Mount Wuyi would be greatly strengthened if Jiangxi sections could be added". The report urged the State Party to extend the site across the provincial boundary to include valuable and somewhat richer habitats on the Jiangxi province side of the mountain.

Modification

The proposed modification consists of the inscribed Mount Wuyi World Heritage property (1999) and the direct extension of Mount Wuyi to its north slopes, located in Jiangxi Province. The State Party proposes to add an additional area of 7,069 ha to the property boundary (extending from 99,975 ha to 107,044 ha) which corresponds to 7.1% of the revised enlarged property and an additional area of 6,721 ha to the buffer zone (extending from 34,050 ha to 40,170 ha).

The proposal for this modification is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the new added Northern components make the property more complete to represent South East China's sub-tropical mountains: adding wilder natural habitats, best habitats for some endemic and rare species, inclusion of many species of the Yangtze watershed, and overall enhancing the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of Mount Wuyi. The assessment of the impact of the proposed minor modifications to the boundary in relation to the natural dimension of the Outstanding Universal Value of this property remains IUCN's responsibility. However, ICOMOS notes that the property was inscribed as a mixed site and therefore, the proposed minor modifications to the boundary need to be also assessed in considering how the proposed modification contributes to a reflection of the cultural dimension of the Outstanding Universal Value. In this regard, ICOMOS considers that while the boundary modification proposed by the State Party emphasise the integrity of natural heritage, it gives little consideration to cultural heritage. For example, the heritage related to Chinese neo-Confucianism development such as Ehu Academy of Classical Learning could make significant contribution to the integrity of the Wuyi Mountain cultural heritage; however, it is not reflected in this minor boundary modification proposal.

The State Party holds that most of the modified extension to the property was already included within the buffer zone described and mapped in the original nomination and that all cultural sites and artifacts identified in the modified property are inventoried and properly protected at different levels of administration. However, ICOMOS observes that the proposed boundary modification includes areas of the Jiangxi Province that were not part of the original nomination as it is clearly illustrated on the map on revised boundaries and buffer zone of the property. Therefore, ICOMOS is of the view that the consideration for the integrity of cultural values of the property should be added to this proposal, including an inventory of cultural heritage sites within the extended area not covered in the original nomination.

The minor boundary modification proposal indicates that farmland, villages, and cooperative lands of the Wuyishan National Nature Reserve of Jiangxi province experimental zone are not included in the revised property but are included in the buffer zone to ensure some control of activities around the site. In this regard, ICOMOS notes that it is not fully clear what has been the rationale for the proposed new boundary delineation in relation to the

current villages (i.e. Dayan and Xikeng) and the northern section of Yanshan River. ICOMOS therefore considers it necessary that a more detailed explanation of how the buffer zone in the extended area is drawn up.

ICOMOS also suggests that in order to allow greater clarity on the precise definition of the proposed extended boundaries and the buffer zone, a topographical map to demonstrate the relationship between the modified boundaries with the boundary of Wuyi Mountain National Reserve (Jiangxi Province) is needed.

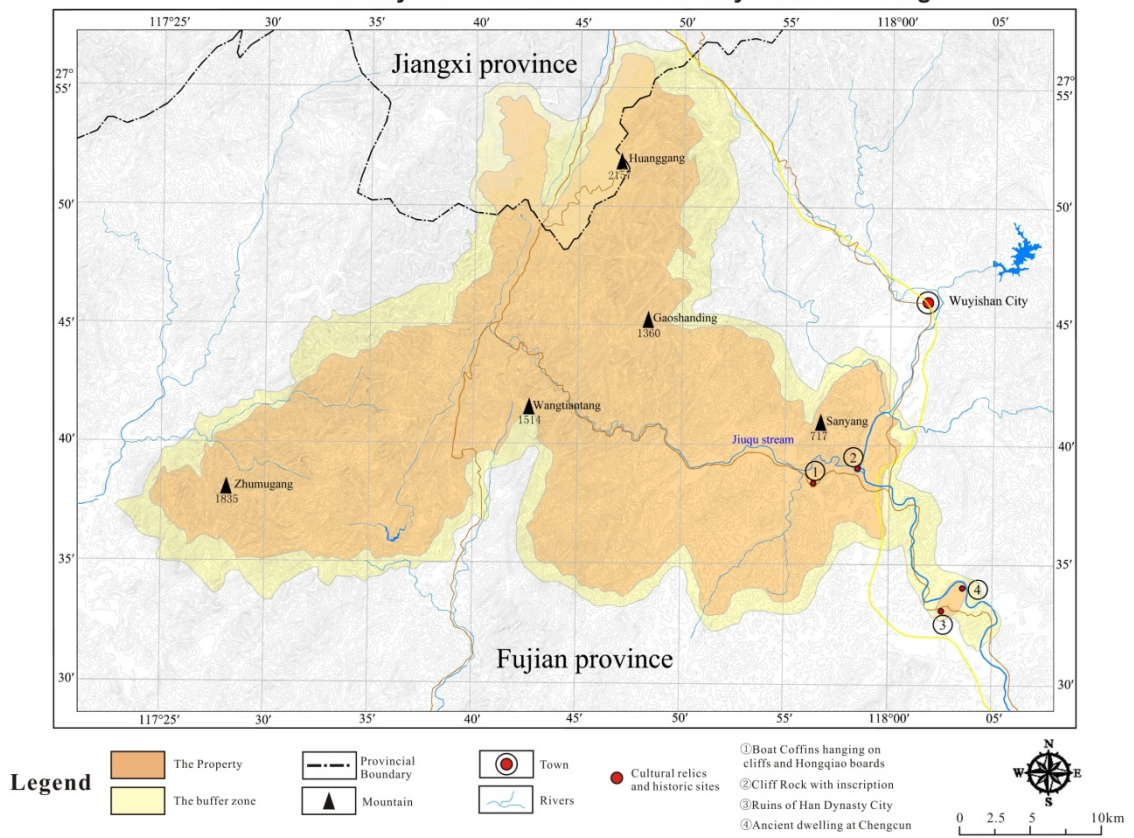
3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the minor modifications to the boundary and to the buffer zone of Mount Wuyi, China, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- a) Provide a textual description of the cultural sites in the proposed extended area and detailed justification on how they also contribute to the maintenance of the cultural dimension of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and how they are protected,
- b) Explain in detail the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone especially the relationship between the modified boundary and the current villages of Dayan and Xikeng and the northern section Yanshan River which are all excluded from the buffer zone,
- c) Provide a topographical map to demonstrate the relationship between the modified boundaries with the boundary of Wuyi Mountain National Reserve (Jiangxi Province);

Revised Boundary and Buffer Zone of Mt. Wuyi World Heritage



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) No 22 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Syrian Arab Republic

Name of property

Ancient City of Bosra

Location

Governorate of Deraa
Syrian Arab Republic

Inscription

1980

Brief description

Bosra, once the capital of the Roman province of Arabia, was an important stopover on the ancient caravan route to Mecca. A magnificent 2nd-century Roman theatre, early Christian ruins and several mosques are found within its great walls.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The Ancient City of Bosra was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 on the basis of criteria (i), (iii) and (vi). A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2010 (Decision 34 COM 8E). The property consists of four components totalling 99.8 ha: the Archaeological site area (90.4 ha), the East Pond area (1.2 ha), the Field Hippodrome area (4.7 ha) and the Natural Spring (3.5 ha).

At the time of the World Heritage inscription in 1980, no buffer zone was provided. However, following Unesco missions in 1997-2002, the State Party has established a single encompassing buffer zone of 200.4 ha in 2003. This buffer zone was not presented to the World Heritage Committee for approval, and therefore forms part of this application for minor boundary modification.

Together with the other five World Heritage properties in Syria, the Ancient City of Bosra was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2013 (Decision 37 COM 7B.57) due to the dangers posed by continuing and severe conflicts since 2011. Since that time, monitoring of the property has been difficult. A Damage

Assessment Report was able to be made in June 2015, and damages due to illegal constructions, stone collapses, illegal excavations and damage to many of the historic buildings have been reported by the State Party.

In 2015, a temporary ceasefire agreement was broken in this area, which resulted in further severe damages and illegal excavations; and in 2016, the World Heritage Committee acknowledged the efforts of the local communities to raise awareness of the need to protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances (Decision 40 COM 7A.17).

Modification

The proposed modifications to the property boundary are based on evidence from excavations that establish the contributory historical and archaeological significance of several additional areas. Three site elements are proposed for incorporation in the property boundary:

- Odeon Area, 4.9 ha (site element 12) is located to the southwest of Component 1 and includes remains of the necropolis, Tell Aswad, Roman cemetery, and the round-formed Odeon, dating to the middle of the 1st century and beginning of the 2nd century AD;
- Martyrs Graveyard Area, 7.5 ha (site element 45), located to the south of Component 1 and joins components 1 and 3 together. In addition to the Martyrs Graveyard, this area includes the Ayyubid Tomb;
- Natural Spring Water area, 4.0 ha (site element 46) is located to the northwest of Component 1 and joins components 1 and 4 together. The natural spring is believed to have supplied water to the site.

The effect of the proposed modifications is to join three of the former four components into a single component boundary, rendering the serial property of four components into a property of two components. Most of the land in the areas proposed for inclusion are owned by the State (68%).

Each of these areas is currently located within the buffer zone for this property. The total of the three elements proposed for addition to the property is 16.4 ha; and if approved, the total property area will be 116.2 ha, an increase of approximately 14%.

The State Party considers that the proposed boundary modification will provide a more coherent boundary for this property and include additional archaeological elements that are associated with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The property is managed by Directorate of Antiquities and Museums, which provides staff and financial resources. There is no management plan for the site, although the 'Bosra Plan' provides management, information and presentation of the property.

The property is protected under the Antiquities Law 222, as amended in 1999. The State Party advises that revisions to the Antiquities Law commenced in 2016 ('Law of Syrian Cultural Heritage'). The final draft is under review, but the new law is yet to be promulgated.

The proposed minor boundary modification also includes the formal recognition of the buffer zone (200.4 ha), which was established by the State Party in 2003. It encloses all the components of the property.

The proposed buffer zone aims to:

- Protect the visual setting of the property;
- Respect the visual integrity of the designed landscape, including its visual setting;
- Protect the views and vistas, which were key to the design of Bosra.

Legal protection of the buffer zone is provided by Ministerial Decision no. 380/A, dated 14 September 2003, and consists of four zones of protection that provide specific building height limits, site coverage and building design requirements: in zones 1 and 2 (located to the south of the property), additional floors (ground and first floors) to a maximum height of 8 metres are allowed; buildings in zone 2 should be dressed in basalt; in zone 3 (largely agricultural land to the north and north-west of the property), construction is allowed for storage buildings only, no more than 20m² in area, with a maximum height of 3 metres; and in zone 4 (located to the east of the property), trees and seasonal crops can be planted, and constructions of one floor with an average building height of 4 metres are permitted, along with the possibility of having an underground basement. Construction is allowed in sites over 1,000 m² in area with 120 m² built upon.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications to the boundary will strengthen the integrity of this property by incorporated additional related archaeological features, providing a more coherent boundary.

ICOMOS supports the formalisation of the buffer zone, which was established by the State Party in 2003 following a series of missions to this property. ICOMOS notes that the objectives of the buffer zone relate to the visual setting, and considers that the regulations concerning building heights in the zones of the buffer zone could be more precise. ICOMOS furthermore considers that the objectives of the buffer zone should be strengthened in relation to the protection of archaeological features, particularly those associated with the ancient water supply system (eg. elements associated with bringing water from outside wadis such as wadi ar-rakik and wadi az-Zeidi and related canals and aqueducts).

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

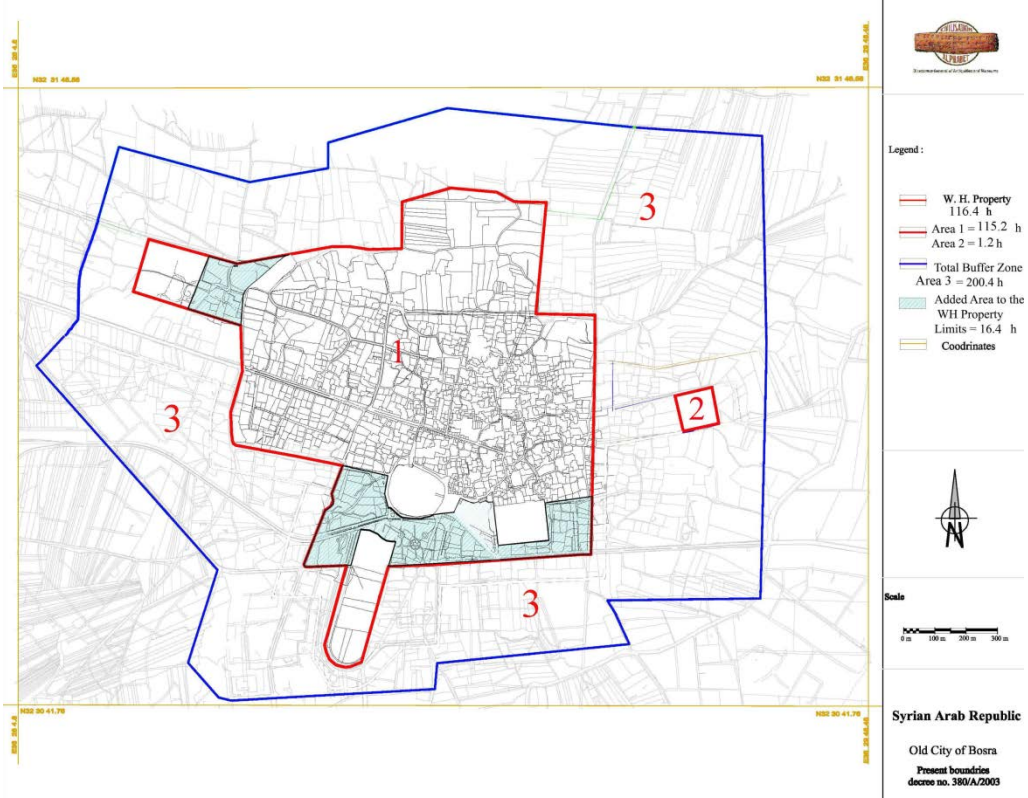
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary and the proposed buffer zone of the Ancient City of Bosra, Syrian Arab Republic **be approved.**

Additional recommendations

To further support the protection and management, ICOMOS recommends that the State Party take the following further actions pending the improvement in the situation of conflict that has affected this property:

- a) Develop clear objectives for the buffer zone and provide more precise regulations concerning the heights of buildings in the buffer zone, particularly in Zones 1, 2 and 4,
- b) Develop the Management Plan for the entire property and its buffer zone, taking into account the challenges of potential post-war reconstruction,
- c) Promulgate and implement the revised Antiquities Law (Law of Syrian Cultural Heritage) as soon as possible,
- d) Continue to improve the understanding and protection of the ancient water supply system;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the proposed buffer zone

Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Republic of Georgia) No 710bis

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Gelati Monastery

Location

Tkibuli district
Republic of Georgia

Brief description

Gelati Monastery is currently one part of the serial property of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery. This major boundary modification is for the reduction of the property to enclose only Gelati monastery and its monastic precinct.

On the lower southern slopes of the mountains of the Northern Caucasus, Gelati monastery belongs to the 'golden age' of medieval Georgia, a period of political strength and economic growth between the reigns of King David IV 'the Builder' (1089-1125) and Queen Tamar (1184-1213). It was David who in 1106 began building the monastery near his capital Kutaisi on a wooded hill above the river Tskaltsitela. The main church was completed in 1130 in the reign of his son and successor Demetré. Further churches were added to the monastery throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries.

Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was also a centre of science and education, and the Academy established there was one of the most important centres of culture in ancient Georgia.

The monastery is richly decorated with mural paintings from the 12th to 17th centuries, as well as a 12th century mosaic in the apse of the main church, depicting the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels. The monastery also contains the tomb of David the Builder.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is currently a serial nomination of two *monuments*.

The proposed modification is for a reduction to one single *monument*.

1 Basic data

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

29 January 2014

Background

The currently serial property of *Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery* was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 on the basis of criterion (iv). It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger in 2010.

At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee, in decision 37 COM 7A.32:

4. *Expresses its deep regret that despite previous decisions the re-building of Bagrati Cathedral has been completed and considers that the Bagrati Cathedral has been altered to such an extent that its authenticity has been irreversibly compromised and that it no longer contributes to the justification for the criterion for which the property was inscribed;*

5. *Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2014, a request for a major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own;*

The State Party submitted a major boundary nomination on 31st January 2014 and this was assessed by ICOMOS. At its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Committee, in decision 39 COM 8B.35, referred the major boundary modification of "Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery", Georgia, back to the State Party in order to allow it to strengthen management arrangements at Gelati Monastery and in particular to:

- a) *Clarify management procedures and responsibilities of the various agencies and organisations involved;*
- b) *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;*
- c) *Submit the revised draft Management Plan for review;*
- d) *Provide a timetable for when physical and visual protection for the buffer zone will be formalised and when clear guidelines and guidance for management and any development within the buffer zone will be put in place;*

The World Heritage Committee also recommended that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) *Giving urgent attention to providing adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings;*
- b) *Avoiding further reconstruction work particularly on the excavated ruins north of the Academy building;*
- c) *Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work;*
- d) *Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;*
- e) *Submitting any future proposals for a visitor centre, or new visitor arrangements, or for new accommodation for monks, to the World Heritage Committee for examination, at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments*

are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

On 1 February 2017, the State Party submitted supplementary information in relation to this Committee decision. This included the following: the Management Plan 2017, the Action Plan 2017-2021 (Annex to the Management Plan), and the Amendments to General Conservation and Rehabilitation Plan, 2008, in the light of recent excavations, including proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy; the location of new domestic quarters for monks and to outline of new visitor access arrangements.

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted several independent experts.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 26 to 30 October 2014.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

ICOMOS sent a letter to the State Party on 22 December 2014 requesting:

- Clarification of the responsibilities of the various agencies and organisations involved in the management of the site;
- 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;
- Details as to how adequate resources will, or might, be made available for the long-term programme of restoration of the fabric of the monastery and its wall paintings;
- A timetable for when physical and visual protection for the buffer zone will be formalised and when clear guidelines and guidance for management and any development within the buffer zone will be put in place.

A response to ICOMOS' letter was received by the World Heritage Centre on 4 March 2015. As this was after the 28 February 2015 deadline set out in the *Operational Guidelines* for submitting additional information, the material has not been reviewed by ICOMOS.

The State Party provided further information on conservation work in its State of Conservation report submitted on 30 January 2015.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 The property

Description

The two sites of the serial property, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, although nominated together because of their historical and spiritual connections, are 12 km apart, are of different dates, and illustrate different stages of Georgian medieval architecture and culture.

The major boundary modification proposes a reduction to the property, involving the removal of Bagrati Cathedral, and a justification for Gelati Monastery to satisfy criterion (iv) on its own.

The following description focuses on Gelati Monastery.

Gelati Monastery

The monastic precinct is surrounded by an enclosing wall within which are a main Church of the Nativity of the Virgin (1106 AD), the churches of St George and St Nicholas (both 13th century AD), a bell tower (13th century AD), two gates, the former Academy building (partly 12th century AD), and a number of dwellings and subsidiary structures including a building used as accommodation for monks since the 1990s when monastic life was renewed.

The whole complex is sited on a natural terrace with wooded hills above and a village and river below. The main church of the monastery, the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, is flanked by the Church of St George to the west, with the two-storeyed Church of St Nicholas and the Academy building behind it.

Church of the Nativity of the Virgin

The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin was begun by King David the Builder in 1106 and completed under his son, King Demetre I in 1130. King David's tomb is in the south porch which was the original entrance.

The church is constructed of yellowish limestone blocks in a cross-in-square plan, with the dome resting on the corners of apse walls and on two massive piers. To the west is a narthex, from which three large doors lead to the church. The façades of the church are decorated with blind arcades and their turned columns and capitals echo those around the windows.

The chapels of St Andrew and St Marina to the east and west of the southern porch date from the 12th century although the latter was reconstructed in the 13th century. The northern porch and the chapel of the Saviour to its east date from the early 13th century. The second chapel of St Marina was added in the mid-13th century.

Murals and Mosaics

Within, the main church is richly decorated with mosaics and paintings. The mosaics were executed between 1125 and 1130 and cover around 50 square metres of the conch of the apse. They depict the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels on a luminous gold background.

The lower parts were damaged in a fire of 1510 and replaced with painting in the following decades.

The oldest wall paintings, executed between 1125 and 1130, are found in the narthex. The centre of the vault features the Ascension of the Cross by the Archangels, while the remainder of the vault and the upper registers of the walls display the seven ecumenical councils, while around the window is St Euphemia's Miracle at the Council of Chalcedon. The murals are among the best surviving examples of 12th century Georgian wall painting. Here we have the earliest surviving representation of the seven ecumenical councils in the East Christian world. Apparently, the murals of Gelati reflect the disputes between the Diophysites and Monophysites that took place in the Caucasus in the early 12th century.

The rest of the mural paintings in the church, covering much of the remaining interior, date from the period after a fire of 1510 and were executed in several stages during the 16th century. As well as images of Christ Pantokrator and the prophets, the Divine Liturgy, the Communion of the Apostles, and scenes from the life of the Virgin, the murals also contain numerous portraits of royal donors. They include more than 40 portraits of kings, queens, and high clerics and are unparalleled in Georgia.

Murals are also found in the chapels of the church. The most significant are the wall paintings in the Chapel of St Andrew commissioned by the King David VI Narin and dating from 1291 and 1292. They contain a double portrait of the king.

These paintings reflect the zenith of mural painting in Georgia. While Georgian mural paintings show influences from Byzantine style, during their peak in the 11-13th centuries a unique Georgian hagiography emerged that diverged from Byzantine forms.

Later murals are found in the first Chapel of St Marina which belongs to the so-called folk tradition which prevailed in West Georgia in the 16th century. Murals in other chapels date from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

The Church of St George was constructed to the east of the main church in the mid-13th century. It is a reduced copy of the main church, but with more elaborate stone decoration typical of its date. Its murals were painted between 1565 and 1583 by order of the Catholicos Evdemon I Chkhetidze and King George II of Imereti.

The Church of St Nicholas, to the west of the main church, dates from the late 13th century. The church is two-storied, which makes it unique in Georgian church architecture. All four sides of the lower storey consist of arches, supported by corner piers.

The Bell-Tower was constructed in the 13th century above a pool and spring to the northwest of the main church.

The Academy, a large rectangular hall to the west of the Church of St Nicholas, according to established opinion, housed the Gelati Academy and was founded by David the Builder. It is thus considered to date from the foundation of the monastery.

The Academy was restored in the 20th century after falling into ruin. In the past few years excavations have been undertaken to the north of the Academy building and a complex system of foundation walls and cellars of different ages has been uncovered. These contain an underground tunnel linking between the so-called wine cellar of the Academy to other buildings.

Royal graveyard

Within the four hectares monastic enclosure are royal graves, reflecting the monastery's role as a burial place for the Georgian Royal family.

Domestic buildings

There are also three 19th and 20th century domestic buildings used by the church.

History and development

Christianity became established in Georgia as early as 1st century when it was adopted as the state religion in what was then Iberia (East Georgia). Stone churches are believed to have been constructed from the 4th century onwards. The characteristics of the ecclesiastical architecture which emerged, were influenced by its location at the interface of Byzantine and Sassanian Iranian cultures.

In the 9th century, a strong Kingdom was formed in South Georgia (mostly in what is now Turkey) ruled by the Bagration dynasty. In late 10th century, King Bagrat III united most of Georgia under his rule. He moved his capital to Kutaisi, (in the centre of what is now Georgia) an ancient city reputed by the Greeks to be the final destination of the Argonauts and the residence of the legendary Colchian King Aëtes. In Kutaisi, Bagrat III built a new cathedral (completed in 1003) known as Bagrati after his name.

The revival of Georgian culture that started with the unification of the country continued in the 11th century but was hampered by political instability, resulting from invasions of Seljuk Turks in the 1060s.

It was David IV, crowned king in 1089 and later named "the Builder", who completed the unification of Georgia as a result of reforms to the army and administration, and alliances with the Crusaders that allowed him to expel the Seljuk Turks from the Caucasus. His reign is the beginning of what is known as the "Golden Age" of Medieval Georgia when Georgian culture flourished. This period lasted for around 120 years until the end of the reign of Queen Tamar (1184-1213).

The Gelati Monastery and the Gelati Academy both reflected the cultural and intellectual development of this Golden Age. King David wanted to create a centre of knowledge and education of the highest international standard of his times. He made every effort to gather the most eminent intellectuals to his Academy such as Johannes Petritzi, a Neo-Platonic philosopher best known for his translations of Proclus, and Arsen Ikaltoeli, a learned monk, whose translations of doctrinal and polemical works were compiled into his *Dogmatikon*, or book of teachings, influenced by Aristotelianism. He went on to found the smaller Ikalto Academy.

Gelati also had a scriptorium where monastic scribes copied manuscripts (although its location is not known). Among several books created there the best known is an amply illuminated 12th century gospel, which is kept in the National Centre of Manuscripts.

As a royal monastery, Gelati possessed extensive lands and was richly endowed with icons, including the well-known gold mounted Icon of the Virgin of Khakhuli (now housed in the Georgian National Museum).

After the disintegration of Georgia in the late 15th century, Gelati monastery became the property of the Kings of Imereti. In 1510, the Monastery was partially burnt by the invading Turks. King Bagrat III restored the buildings and in 1519, established an Episcopal See. Between 1565 and 1578, the See of the Catholicos of West Georgia was moved from Bichvinta (in Abkhazia) to Gelati and the Church of St George became a Catholicate Cathedral.

In 1759, the monastery was again set on fire by the Lezghians (from Dagestan) and almost immediately King Solomon I made efforts to restore it. After the conquest of the Kingdom of Imereti by the Russian Empire in 1810, the Catholicate of West Georgia and the Gelati Episcopal See were abolished. However, the monastery continued to function until the Soviet occupation of Georgia. In 1923, it was closed and turned into a branch of the Kutaisi Museum. Religious services and monastic life resumed in Gelati in 1988.

By the early 20th century, the structures of the major buildings of the Gelati monastery, except for the Academy, were in a relatively good condition. Some conservation and restoration works were undertaken in 1962 and 1963. A major conservation programme was begun in 2009 and is still ongoing.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The main purpose of the analysis included in the nomination dossier is to demonstrate that Gelati on its own does not have any comparators within Georgia that might also have similar value and attributes.

The analysis shows how the general layout of Gelati illustrates the Georgian monastic architectural tradition of free standing buildings within a walled courtyard. Although the same general concept can be seen in medieval monasteries such as Ikalto, Nekresi, Shiomgvime, Martvili, etc, none of them is as large as Gelati or as elaborate in terms of their architectural form or decoration.

The cross-in-square plan and multi-domed form developed in East Georgia in the 10th and 11th centuries. It can be seen in the Cathedral of Bichvinta (now in Abkhazia) which was built by King David III in the 10th century and may have influenced Gelati. At Gelati, though, the unusual width of the main dome of the main church and the abundance of light in the interior recall middle Byzantine churches and reflect its royal status.

The system of façade decoration with blind arches and wide window frames was developed in East and South Georgia in the 10th century. Around 1000, it was introduced into West Georgia being notably applied in Bagrati Cathedral, which must have been the source of inspiration for the builders of Gelati.

The main church of Gelati displays a masterful synthesis of these architectural developments in and outside Georgia. The creative skill and proficiency of its architect makes the church the most outstanding example of such synthesis now surviving intact in Georgia.

What further differentiates Gelati from other monasteries are its interior mosaics and murals. Study of the plaster in the apse attested that from the beginning, the conch was prepared for mosaic decoration, while the apse was prepared for murals in *secco* technique. Thus, the mosaic was incorporated into the original decoration of the church. The combination of mosaics and murals is rare in Middle Byzantine churches. Although the mosaic reflects the artistic principles of the Middle Byzantine mosaic art, its images are also rooted in local Georgian art. The practice of decorating churches with mosaics was not widely spread in Georgia. The few other examples are either preserved in small fragments (Tsromi) or completely destroyed (Akhiza). The mosaic is the only well-preserved mosaic decoration of a sanctuary in the larger historic region of Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus.

In summary, ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis demonstrates that within current day Georgia, and within greater Georgia, Gelati is the best example of a Georgian monastery from the 12th century onwards due to its considerable size, clear spatial concept, and the high architectural and decorative quality of its main buildings. It reflects in an exemplary way the cultural and intellectual developments of the "Golden Age" of Georgia. After the reconstruction of Bagrati Cathedral, the property has become the most distinguished reflection of architecture of this Golden Age.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property alone for the World Heritage List.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

Gelati is being nominated alone to express similar values to those for the inscribed property of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati monastery.

The original justification for inscription of the serial property on the basis of criterion (iv) was for the way both Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery represent the highest flowering of the architecture of medieval Georgia.

As set out above, the two sites illustrate different stages of Georgian medieval architecture and culture. While Bagrati was constructed by King Bagrat III in 1000 and reflects the culture emerging at the time of the country's unification, Gelati was built between 1106 and 1131 during the reign of David IV, known as David the Builder, and his son, at the beginning of the more stable Golden Age that followed the expulsion of the Seljuk Turks in 1121. Over a century separates their construction, they reflect different political circumstances and uses and, while Bagrati was badly damaged by the Turks in 1691 and was a ruin at the time of inscription, Gelati has survived as a complete monastic ensemble.

The following summarises the reasons the State Party has put forward for how Gelati justifies specific aspects of the flowering of medieval architecture in Georgia.

Gelati Monastery is:

- The highest expression of the artistic idiom of the architecture of the Georgian "Golden Age".
- Distinguished for its harmony with its natural setting, a well thought-out overall planning concept, and the high technical and artistic quality of its buildings.
- A magnificent architectural ensemble that illustrates the Georgian appropriation of the Imperial idea of power.
- One of the most powerful visual symbols of Medieval Georgia and the most vivid reflection of cultural and intellectual development in the "Golden Age", which was a significant expression of the power and high culture of Eastern Christianity at this time.

ICOMOS considers that this justification in general is appropriate but that it should be augmented with specific references to the considerable size, clear spatial concept, and the high architectural and decorative quality of the main buildings of the monastery, and that clearer details should be provided of the main attributes. Furthermore, ICOMOS considers that Gelati's royal associations, its relationship to the royal capital of Kutaisi and its role as one of the most important centres of culture and learning in ancient Georgia should also be noted.

ICOMOS considers that these additions also reflect the views set out within the 1993 ICOMOS evaluation report that stated:

"Gelati Monastery is a well preserved historical ensemble. It is of special importance for its architecture, its mosaics, its wall paintings, and its enamel and metal work. Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was a centre of science and education, and the academy established in the Monastery was one of the most important centres of culture in ancient Georgia. By virtue of its high architectural quality and the outstanding examples of art that it houses, Gelati Monastery is a unique Georgian cultural treasury, and a rare case in the history of world culture."

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

ICOMOS considers that no important original feature of the monastery from the 12th and 13th centuries have been lost during the centuries. The whole monastic precinct is included in the nominated property and contains all the buildings of the monastery; it thus fully meets the notion of wholeness. All the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value are present and included in the area.

All of the main buildings of the monastery as well as the buildings added in the 13th century are intact but not all are in a good state of conservation.

ICOMOS considers that there are also vulnerabilities related to the buffer zone and wider setting. Although the natural setting of the monastery has generally been preserved, some development pressures exist, but the level of threats is low and the processes are currently under control.

Authenticity

ICOMOS considers that the fabric and decoration and the spatial planning and layout of the property are authentic in form and design.

Overall, the architectural forms, spatial arrangement and decoration fully convey their value.

For a long period, major parts the mural paintings were in a bad state of conservation. . With the repair of the roofs, the process of degradation has been slowed down and restoration work undertaken. Although vulnerable, the paintings are in authentic state (see Conservation below).

The one area where there is a loss of authenticity is in the Academy building. At the time of inscription, in 1994, the Academy building was a roofless ruin. Although ICOMOS "expressed grave doubts about the projects being discussed ... for the re-roofing of the Academy building at Gelati", in 2009 the upper parts of the ruin's walls were rebuilt, a new wooden roof constructed and the interiors re-shaped. Although a usable space has been created, the building has lost its atmosphere and spirit and the work has not been undertaken on the basis of evidence of what existed before it became a ruin. There

has thus been some loss of authenticity for this important element of the monastery.

ICOMOS considers that overall the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met although authenticity has been to a degree weakened by the re-roofing of the Academy, and is vulnerable due to the fragility of some of the wall paintings.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

Both Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery together were inscribed in 1994 under criterion (iv): *Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery represent the highest flowering of the architecture of medieval Georgia.*

Gelati Monastery alone is now being justified under cultural criteria (iv) as follows:

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

Gelati Monastery is the masterpiece of the architecture of the "Golden Age" of Georgia and the best representative of its architectural style, characterized by the full facing of smoothly hewn large blocks, perfectly balanced proportions, and the exterior decoration of blind arches.

The main church of the monastery is one of the most important examples of the cross-in-square architectural type that had a crucial role in the East Christian church architecture from the 7th century onwards. Gelati is one of the largest Medieval Orthodox monasteries, distinguished for its harmony with its natural setting and a well thought-out overall planning concept.

The main church of the Gelati Monastery is the only Medieval monument in the larger historic region of Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus that still has well-preserved mosaic decoration, comparable with the best Byzantine mosaics, as well as having the largest ensemble of paintings of the middle Byzantine, late Byzantine, and post-Byzantine periods in Georgia, including more than 40 portraits of kings, queens, and high clerics and the earliest depiction of the seven Ecumenical Councils.

ICOMOS considers that the justification is appropriate.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that criterion (iv) can be justified for Gelati alone and that Outstanding Universal Value of Gelati Monastery has been demonstrated as a specific aspect of the flowering of the architecture of medieval Georgia.

4 Factors affecting the property

ICOMOS considers that potential threats are not negligible, but most are restricted.

The main vulnerability is the lack for a legally agreed boundary for the Church's ownership (see Ownership below). There is an urgent need to resolve these issues as currently there are no precise reference points to define the territory of the Gelati Monastery and, apparently, since 2013 several newly defined land plots have been registered to private owners adjacent to the land occupied by the Gelati Monastery, all of which creates legal uncertainty.

Threats from development in future appear to be unlikely, if the extensive proposed buffer zone is effectively managed.

Traffic of heavy trucks from a nearby existing stone quarry do result in noise and pollution, although, the impact on the property is fairly limited. ICOMOS notes that no extension of its activities is currently planned. Furthermore, the Master Plan provides possible solutions to resolve this issue, notably with a proposed new road access to the quarry. The supplementary information submitted in 2017 does not provide any further information on the proposed road, although the Management Plan highlights the issue of lorry traffic as a disturbing factor for which the government and the owner are presently discussing options to solve this problem.

Should the number of monks increase considerably, the present monastic buildings would not be spacious enough to host all of them. The Conservation Master Plan, 2008, (see Management below) designates a possible location outside the boundary of the property where a new building of limited size (length and height) could be constructed. In the supplementary information provided in 2017 that updates part of the Master Plan, an alternative is set out. This is for a proposed living zone for monks within the monastic complex at its north-eastern corner. No details of proposed buildings have been provided or of their capacity and both would be needed before its potential impact could be assessed.

A non-negligible threat could come from new buildings for tourist infrastructure in the village. ICOMOS considers that it will be essential to ensure that new guest-houses or hotels are not built near the property and are limited in number. Furthermore, their dimensions should be strictly controlled, with a height of two storeys. The negative impact of a new three storey guest-house facing across the Tskaltsitela River is evident.

Earthquakes are a risk across the whole of Georgia. The comportment of the main buildings should be monitored for seismic activities. ICOMOS notes that the buildings have withstood earthquake dynamics for nine centuries and any risk prevention improvements should avoid irreversible measures.

A Risk Preparedness Plan is being discussed to address fire, severe weather events and significant temperature changes etc. and should be progressed. Furthermore, Georgia has a painful memory of recent war and the risk of military conflict is an unfortunate reality that can lead to evacuation or other necessary measures of protection.

As Gelati is located far enough from the city of Kutaisi, currently there are no particularly acute air pollution problems.

ICOMOS considers that the main threats to the property are potential inadequately regulated development in the buffer zone and uncontrolled tourism pressures and the main vulnerability is the lack of formal registration of the Patriarchate's land rights.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

The proposed boundary for the property is identical to the one as clarified in 2010 under the Retrospective Inventory process. It includes the entirety of the monastery within its surrounding stone wall, together with a strip 30 metres wide beyond the wall.

The delineation of the proposed enlarged buffer zone is based on the work of an interdisciplinary group of experts and on GIS modelling. Data used includes field observation and inventories of the many monuments in the region (58 monuments, among them 10 chapels, including the Motsameta Monastery), as well as satellite chapels of the monastery and David's watchtower. ICOMOS notes that account has also been taken of historical context and social and cultural links between the monastery and its setting, as well as visual links with Kutaisi.

The resulting buffer zone not only consists of the immediate surroundings of the monastery and the entire wooded hillside, but the visual envelope of the valley. The Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection approved the boundary on 9 January 2014.

A municipal cemetery is located to the east in the immediate surroundings of the monastery. This contributes to regular visits to the monastery by the inhabitants of the village and to intensifying relationships between the local population and the monastery site. ICOMOS noted in 2015 that its transfer to another location is apparently being considered in order to allow expansion.

In the revised Management Plan, it is suggested that as the villagers wish to have the cemetery close to the Monastery there is conflict of interest between the development of the tourist infrastructure, the possible extension of the Monastery, and the cemetery. There is

a need to define the limits of the present cemetery and for an alternative site to be identified by the Municipality.

ICOMOS considers that the boundaries of the nominated property and of its buffer zone are adequate.

Ownership

In accordance with a Constitutional Agreement concluded between the State of Georgia and the Apostolic Orthodox Church of Georgia in 2002, all ecclesiastic buildings in Georgia, Gelati Monastery among them, are owned by the Georgian Orthodox Patriarchate of Georgia. However, it is made clear in the supplementary information provided in February 2017 that, although the Monastery is attributed to the Georgian Orthodox Church, such ownership right has not yet been registered in the Public Registry. This is because the boundaries not yet been fully agreed with private owners of adjacent plots and the State.

ICOMOS considers that ownership rights of the Patriarchate needs to be formally registered as soon as possible in order to avoid ownership disputes.

Protection

Gelati monastery has been a Listed Monument of National Significance since the Soviet period. It was listed in the Georgian National Register of Monuments by presidential decree on 7 November 2006. It is managed under the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage Protection. A Code on Cultural Heritage (CCH) has been developed which has chapter on the protection and management of the World Heritage in Georgia.

The buffer zone is also protected by the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage Protection in relation to monuments and protective regimes (i.e. Individual physical and visual protection areas as stipulated in the Law). The protection area was enlarged beyond Gelati Monastery to encompass the buffer zone in a Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection dated 9 January 2014.

The conservation and protection of the natural values of the surrounding landscape are regulated by the Forest Code of Georgia, the Law on Soil Protection, the Law on Environmental Protection and the Water law that constitute the legal framework for the management of the forests and the rivers in the area.

Applications for new constructions or reconstructions, including the infrastructure and earthworks within the Buffer Zone require the approval of the Cultural Heritage Protection Council – Section for Cultural Heritage Protected Zones and Urban Heritage of the Agency.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place is adequate for the property.

Conservation

Since 2009, works have followed a Conservation Master Plan 2008 (see Management).

Conservation of main structures

This covers: the rehabilitation of each of the main buildings of the monastery and its perimeter wall; an archaeological study of the monastic complex and its surrounding territory; conservation and strengthening and damaged building stones; conservation of the wall paintings and the mosaic; organization of the drainage system;

Conservation of the fabric of the south and east gates, the bell tower and St. Nicholas church have been completed. Current work includes strengthening the eaves of the churches in preparation for roof restoration. The temporary roof coverings will be replaced by glazed striated tiles, fragments of which were found during archaeological excavations. So far the dome of the bell tower and domes of the churches of St. Nicholas and St. George have been covered with glazed tiles. Work on stone conservation is on-going. The work is based on the principles of 'minimal intervention', and limited to cleaning, filling in missing joint-mortar of lime, in rare cases inserting loosened stones, fixing and plastering damaged blocks.

Work on the conservation of the murals is also on-going. The main dome of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin has recently been strengthened with the insertion of a ring beam of steel and lime mortar. A joint ICOMOS-World Bank mission visited the property in January 2015 to consider the efficacy of this intervention and to make overall recommendations on the conservation and monitoring approaches.

The mission concluded that the overall bearing structure of the church – foundation (*stereobate*), *crepidoma*, walls, arches – is mostly in satisfactory condition and do not seem to require heavy structural interventions. They nevertheless recommended further surveys and modelling as well as the introduction of a permanent monitoring system.

ICOMOS notes that the interior paintings in the main church as well as in the church of St. George have been a cause for concern. Their poor state of conservation was mainly due to former water penetration from roofs and upper windows, now stopped, and additionally to the effects of condensation. Currently, only urgent measures are being undertaken and these are executed with a high standard of professionalism.

A minor issue, but still important for long-term conservation, is the maintenance of services such as the existing historic water system, but also drainage, electricity, water under pressure, sewerage, heating-ventilation, interior and exterior lighting and safety systems. While some of these have been implemented in recent years, others are still awaiting adequate funding.

What has still not been assured are adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings. Also no details have been provided as to whether a clear system of documentation has been introduced for all conservation and restoration work and whether tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring has been put in place to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery, both as recommended by the World Heritage Committee.

Cellars adjoining Academy building

In 2014, ICOMOS noted that in the near future it would be important to consider and evaluate approaches to recent archaeological discoveries adjoining the Academy building, and that no new construction to shelter these remains should surmount the height of the ground before excavation.

The supplementary information provided includes proposals to cover the excavations of possibly 16th/17th cellars with a double roof of light weight translucent sheeting supported by metal frames. The height would be considerably above the previous ground level.

Although photographs of various comparators are provided showing similar light weight construction above archaeological remains, most shown are at archaeological sites with few standing buildings. In the case of Gelati, it is crucial to consider the impact of this proposed construction on the atmosphere of the intact, and comparatively small, living monastery. From the material provided, this impact would appear to be negative. Although the excavations would be made visible to the public, the introduction of utility roofs could have a very jarring visual impact on the monastic complex.

Protection of graves in entrance gates

The supplementary information provided in 2017 also outlines proposals for re-arranging the visitor access route to allow visitor to enter the Monastery through the southern gate, which recent archaeological investigations have shown to be the main way in. In order to facilitate greater use of this gate (and the eastern gate), there are proposals to protect gravestones with glass, for those on the floor, and with perspex, for those on the walls.

Although these proposals are modest and appropriate, they and the cellar roof highlight the need to clearly define the balance between a living monastery and an archaeological site.

Proposals for new monastic quarters

ICOMOS considers that taking into consideration that the property is a living monastery and a monument at the same time, precise zoning of the territory of the monastery to ensure on the one hand privacy for monks and on the other hand adequate space for visitors is important.

In case the number of monks should exceed the present capacity, the location for new monastic buildings was in 2014 proposed outside the monastery grounds. The new

revisions to the Conservation Master Plan now suggest an area within the wall of the monastery, based on recent archaeological surveys. No details are provided as to the extent of new buildings or the number of monks for whom the facilities will be provided.

If brought forward, full details of proposed new buildings and of the archaeological profile of the chosen area, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

ICOMOS considers that financial and institutional support for essential conservation and restoration work on roofs and wall paintings is urgently needed in order to allow a sustained work on both. Allied to this urgent work is the need for a programme to address restoration of stone facades and provision of adequate services.

The proposals for temporary roofs over the recently exposed cellars and other protective measures underlines the need to ensure the monastery is presented as a living site with modern interventions been introduced discreetly and in a way that doesn't conflict with the visual harmony of the complex.

Details of proposals for the development of monastic buildings within the boundary wall need to be further reviewed by ICOMOS before any commitments are made.

Management

Management structures and processes,
Including traditional management processes

Day to day management is entrusted to the monastic community. Gelati Monastery (unlike many other monasteries in Georgia) is open for visitors. With its 30 monks living in the precinct, the monastery administration is responsible for the current management of the site. That comprises basic cleaning and maintenance inside the churches, general upkeep of the territory, especially for the area within the enclosure walls, and ensuring safety.

Long-term interventions are implemented by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. Its local representative agency is the Kutaisi Historical Architectural Museum-Reserve, which is responsible for monitoring and management of the property, maintaining it in a good state of conservation and for providing a proper methodology for interventions.

The Agency also caters for the general management framework. It issues permits and would act in case of illegal or inappropriate intervention. Finally, it ensures proper documentation and recording of the site and prepares reports to World Heritage Centre. In future, it will run the new visitor centre with facilities and information for tourists.

The Agency's human resources are however limited, in number as well as in capacity.

Policy framework: management plans and arrangements, including visitor management and presentation

A draft Management Plan was submitted with the nomination dossier in 2014. The Committee considered that the management framework needed strengthening and clarifying and there needed to be a higher level of commitment from major stakeholders. ICOMOS submitted a Technical Review of the draft Plan to the State Party in April 2016.

The text of a revised Management Plan, 2017-2021 was submitted in February 2017 and is said to have taken account of the recommendation of the Technical Review. It also reflects contributions of the key stakeholders, the Church, and relevant government bodies and community groups, who were involved in the consultation process. The aim has been to develop a shared vision for the property.

The new Management Plan has been developed in harmony with the revised Conservation Master Plan (2015), with the Imereti Tourism development strategy, and with the 2014 management plan for the Imereti Protected Areas that includes the valley and canyon of the Tskaltsitela River in the buffer zone.

The Plan sets out clearly the scope of the property and the issues that need to be addressed. The main weakness is that as yet the Management Plan has no status: it can only provide recommendations. The text highlights that structures may need to be adapted to give a legal basis for implementation of the Plan. However, it does suggest that the Management Plan might be regarded as a task-oriented long term state programme, undertaken to fulfil State obligations under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. On that basis, the Management Plan could be approved by the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection under the current legislative framework after which it would become operational and enforceable by the Ministry with active participation of a Management Committee. That clearly is what needs to be achieved.

The Management Plan does not set out formal lines of responsibility or how the main stakeholders cooperate beyond outlining their main roles and responsibilities. A possible management system is set out in the Management Plan but one that is not yet implemented.

A Management Committee for the Gelati Monastery property remains to be appointed. When it is, it will have the status of an advisory organ of the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection and with the Advisory Committee on World Cultural Heritage created by the Order of the Minister on 27 February 2007.

What also remains to be defined is how the operationalisation of the Management Plan will be financed.

The revision of the Management Plan is thus a positive step forward in bringing stakeholders together but it lacks adequate structures, authority and resources to allow it to make a real impact.

Conservation Master Plan

From 2006 to 2008, the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports of Georgia elaborated a Conservation Master Plan for the Gelati Monastery in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Georgia. This plan covered conservation of the built structures as well as proposals to support the revival of monastic life that started in the 1990s and the needs of visitors.

The Conservation Master Plan 2008 contains documentation of all components of the monastery. It sets out rehabilitation projects for each of the architectural components as well as plans for archaeological excavations and the conservation of wall paintings.

The plan provides a framework for the National Agency responsible for the implementation of conservation works, and subsequent conservation activities have followed this plan. In the 2014 submission, it was noted that as the Master Plan does not meet all of today's requirements, it would be updated in 2015. The supplementary information submitted in 2017 provides a further update of the plan in a few specific areas: new accommodation for monks, roofing of archaeological excavations adjacent to the Academy building and a new visitor access route (see Conservation above).

A proposal for co-operation with the World Bank is being considered to allow construction of a visitor centre outside the site. The plans include improved visitor access routes to the site. The proposals were submitted to ICOMOS for review in 2013 and revised plans addressing ICOMOS's comments were submitted in 2015. In its second review of December 2015, ICOMOS supported the plans subject to the development of a visitor management strategy, including access for people with reduced mobility.

Recently, a Memorandum on Collaboration on Cultural Heritage Issues between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has been signed. It concerns all properties of the church. Nevertheless, it seems that an unresolved management conflict still exists. It is essential that clarification is provided of procedures and specific responsibilities for the special case of Gelati Monastery.

ICOMOS considers that the structure of the overall management system for the property is adequate but it is essential that clarification is provided for responsibilities and procedures.

6 Monitoring

The property is documented by good quality architectural plans. In addition, a series of good professional photographs have been made. ICOMOS notes that precise tri-dimensional measuring is lacking. Such data is essential as a basis for monitoring movements on the buildings on a regular basis. Especially in the event of an earthquake, it would be extremely important to be able to compare data before and after the event.

ICOMOS did not find it possible to verify how extensively current conservation work is documented. Although no documentation of recent intervention was available, it cannot be assumed that it did not exist. Such documentation should include descriptions, illustrations and justification for conservation interventions, as well as documentation of the state of conservation before, during and after work.

Formal monitoring needs to be related to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. These are not clearly set out as indicators in the Management Plan and need to be defined.

ICOMOS considers that monitoring should be strengthened to encompass tri-dimensional measurements and that a full documentation process for conservation work should be put in place. Further, monitoring indicators need to be defined that relate to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

7 Conclusions

This major boundary modification has been assessed in the context of decision 37 COM 7A.32 of the World Heritage Committee.

ICOMOS considers that Gelati Monastery alone can be considered to reflect certain specific aspects of the flowering of the architecture of medieval Georgia in an outstanding way and that the major boundary modification thus can be justified.

In terms of how the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee have been addressed in relation to strengthening and clarifying management procedures and defining commitment to protection and management from all key stakeholders, the revised Management Plan is a step forward. ICOMOS appreciates the work undertaken to revise the Management Plan to bring together the key partners. Currently, though, the Management Plan is weak in lacking a management structure and a Coordinating Committee for the property and a clear status for the Plan and clear responsibilities for its implementation. Thus, the Plan is currently only able to make recommendations without any obligation that national or local authorities will respect it.

Although there are no major threats facing the property, it is vulnerable to incremental change in the buffer zone and the authorities will have a challenging job to balance economic growth with the conservation of the setting of the property, as well as the demands of tourists with the needs of a living monastic community. Moreover, an overall conservation work on the main buildings still needs long term commitment and resources. For these reasons, there is a need to define a management structure that has the authority to address these challenges, and that provides a formal status for the Management Plan or at least that part of it that deals with planning processes.

ICOMOS recommends that the major boundary modification should be approved but that the State Party should be requested to report further to the World Heritage Committee as part of the State of Conservation process on the conservation of the property to show how a robust management system can be defined and implemented.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

Recalling decision 37COM 7A.32 of the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session which “*Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2014, a request for a major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own*”; ICOMOS recommends that the major boundary modification of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, to exclude Bagrati Cathedral, to become Gelati Monastery, Republic of Georgia, **be approved**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief Synthesis

On the lower southern slopes of the mountains of the Northern Caucasus, Gelati monastery reflects the 'golden age' of medieval Georgia, a period of political strength and economic growth between the reigns of King David IV 'the Builder' (1089-1125) and Queen Tamar (1184-1213). It was David who, in 1106 began building the monastery near his capital Kutaisi on a wooded hill above the river Tskaltsitela. The main church was completed in 1130 in the reign of his son and successor Demetré. Further churches were added to the monastery throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries. The monastery is richly decorated with mural paintings from the 12th to 17th centuries, as well as a 12th century mosaic in the apse of the main church, depicting the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels. Its high architectural quality, outstanding decoration, size, and clear spatial quality combine to offer a vivid expression of the artistic idiom of the architecture of the Georgian “Golden Age” and its almost completely intact surroundings allow an understanding of the intended fusion between architecture and landscape.

Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was also a centre of science and education, and the Academy established there was one of the most important centres of culture in ancient Georgia. King David gathered eminent intellectuals to his Academy such as Johannes Petritzi, a Neo-Platonic philosopher best known for his translations of Proclus, and Arsen Ikaltoeli, a learned monk, whose translations of doctrinal and polemical works were compiled into his *Dogmatikon*, or book of teachings, influenced by Aristotelianism. Gelati also had a scriptorium where monastic scribes copied manuscripts (although its location is not known). Among several books created there, the best known is an amply illuminated 12th century gospel, housed in the National Centre of Manuscripts.

As a royal monastery, Gelati possessed extensive lands and was richly endowed with icons, including the well-known gold mounted Icon of the Virgin of Khakhuli (now housed in the Georgian National Museum) and at its peak, it reflected the power and high culture of Eastern Christianity.

Criterion (iv): Gelati Monastery is the masterpiece of the architecture of the “Golden Age” of Georgia and the best representative of its architectural style, characterized by the full facing of smoothly hewn large blocks, perfectly balanced proportions, and the exterior decoration of blind arches. The main church of the monastery is one of the most important examples of the cross-in-square architectural type that had a crucial role in the East Christian church architecture from the 7th century onwards. Gelati is one of the largest Medieval Orthodox monasteries, distinguished for its harmony with its natural setting and a well thought-out overall planning concept.

The main church of the Gelati Monastery is the only Medieval monument in the larger historic region of Eastern Asia Minor and the Caucasus that still has well-preserved mosaic decoration, comparable with the best Byzantine mosaics, as well as having the largest ensemble of paintings of the middle Byzantine, late Byzantine, and post-Byzantine periods in Georgia, including more than 40 portraits of kings, queens, and high clerics and the earliest depiction of the seven Ecumenical Councils.

Integrity

The whole monastic precinct is included in the property and contains all the main 12th century buildings as well as those added in the 13th century. All the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value are present and included in the area. No important original feature of the monastery from the 12th and 13th centuries have been lost during the centuries, and its landscape setting remains largely intact. Not all buildings are in a good state of conservation.

Some development pressures exist, in the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property but the level of

threats is low and the processes are currently under control.

Authenticity

Overall, the architectural forms, spatial arrangement and decoration fully convey their value. For a long period, major parts the mural paintings were in a bad state of conservation. With the repair of the roofs, the process of degradation has been slowed down and restoration work undertaken although some remain vulnerable.

The one area where there is some loss of authenticity is in the Academy building which was roofless in 1994 at the time of inscription as part of the series, but re-roofed and the interiors re-shaped in 2009. The extensive buffer zone allows a full appreciation of the harmony between the enclosed monastery and its natural setting.

Management and Protection requirements

Gelati monastery has been a Listed Monument of National Significance since the Soviet period and was listed in the Georgian National Register of Monuments by presidential decree in 2006. The cultural protection area was enlarged beyond Gelati Monastery to encompass the buffer zone in a Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection in 2014. The buffer zone is protected for its monuments but also for visual attributes. The natural values of the surrounding landscape are regulated by the Forest Code of Georgia, the Law on Soil Protection, the Law on Environmental Protection and the Water law that constitute the legal framework for the management of the forests and the rivers in the area. Applications for new constructions or reconstructions, including the infrastructure and earthworks within the buffer zone require the approval of the Cultural Heritage Protection Council, Section for Cultural Heritage Protected Zones, and Urban Heritage of the Agency.

Conservation work is guided by the Conservation Master Plan, produced by the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports of Georgia in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Georgia. This plan covers conservation of the built structures as well as proposals to support the revival of monastic life that started in the 1990s and the needs of visitors. Adequate resources for long-term conservation programmes still need to be assured. A system of documentation for all conservation and restoration work and tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring of the overall stability of the various monastic buildings need to be put in place.

A Memorandum on Collaboration on Cultural Heritage Issues between the Georgian Apostolic Autocephaly Orthodox Church and the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has been agreed for all properties of the church. Day to day management of the property is entrusted to the monastic community who live in the property. Longer term interventions are implemented by the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia. Its local representative agency is

the Kutaisi Historical Architectural Museum-Reserve who is also responsible for visitor reception.

The Management Plan, 2017-2021 reflects contributions of the Church, and relevant government bodies and community groups who were involved in the consultation process. It aims to set out a shared vision for the property. The Plan was developed in harmony with the Conservation Master Plan, with the Imereti Tourism development strategy, and with the 2014 management plan for the Imereti Protected Areas that includes the valley and canyon of the Tskaltsitela River in the buffer zone. It needs approval by the Minister of Culture and Monument Protection to become fully operational and enforceable by the Ministry. A Management Committee for the property remains to be appointed and it is necessary for key roles and responsibilities to be established.

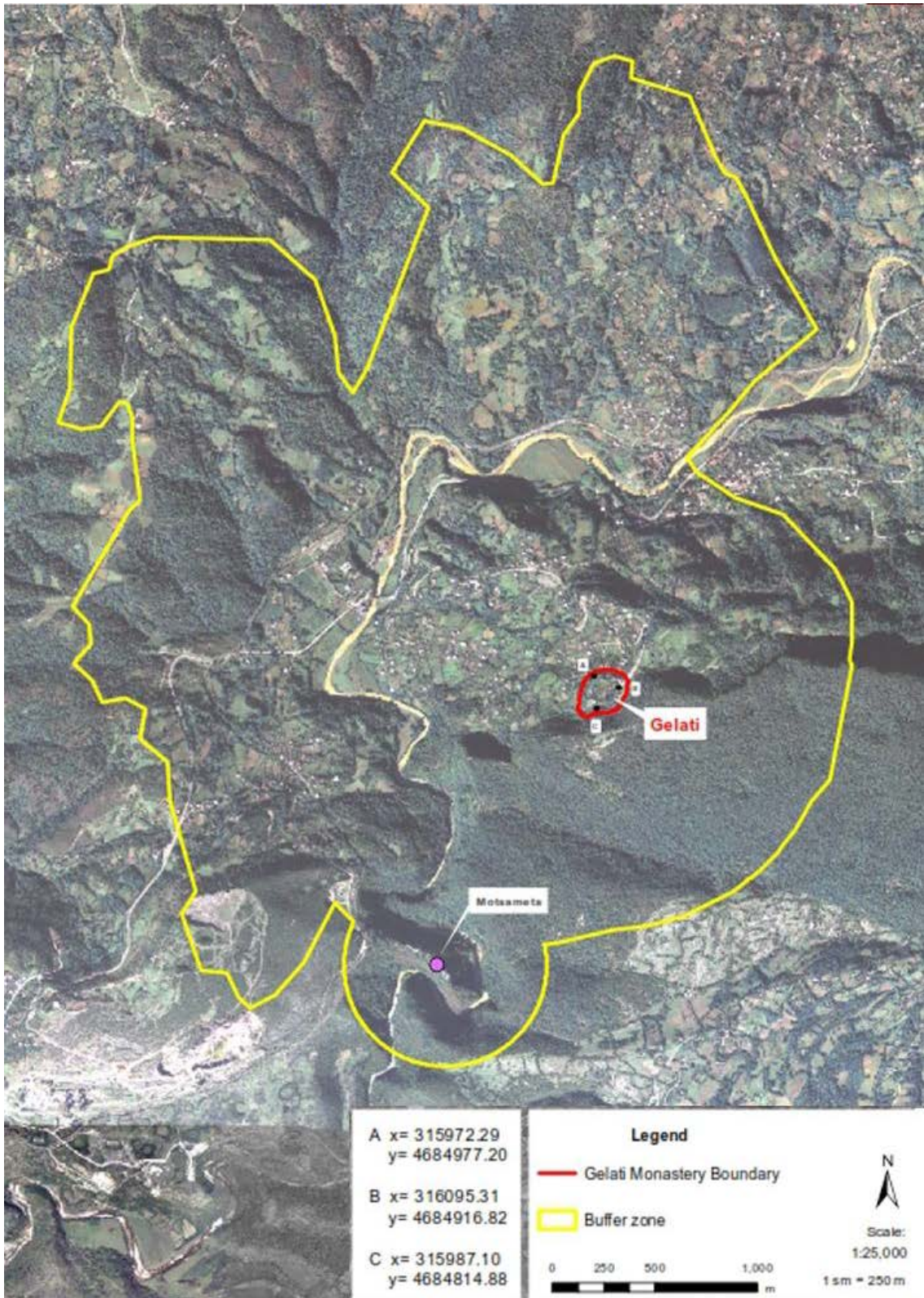
Additional recommendations

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Providing adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings,
- b) Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work,
- c) Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;
- d) Approving and implementing the management structure for the property with clear responsibilities for the various agencies and organisations involved in its management,
- e) Setting up a Coordinating Committee for the property with representation from key stakeholders,
- f) Putting in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes,
- g) Registering as soon as possible the land rights of the Patriarchate in order to avoid land disputes,
- h) Submitting full details of proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy, outlining the new visitor access arrangements and location of new domestic quarters for monks, including the archaeological profile of the chosen area, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*,

- i) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to reflect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value,

ICOMOS further recommends to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 31 December 2019 a State of Conservation report on the progress on the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;



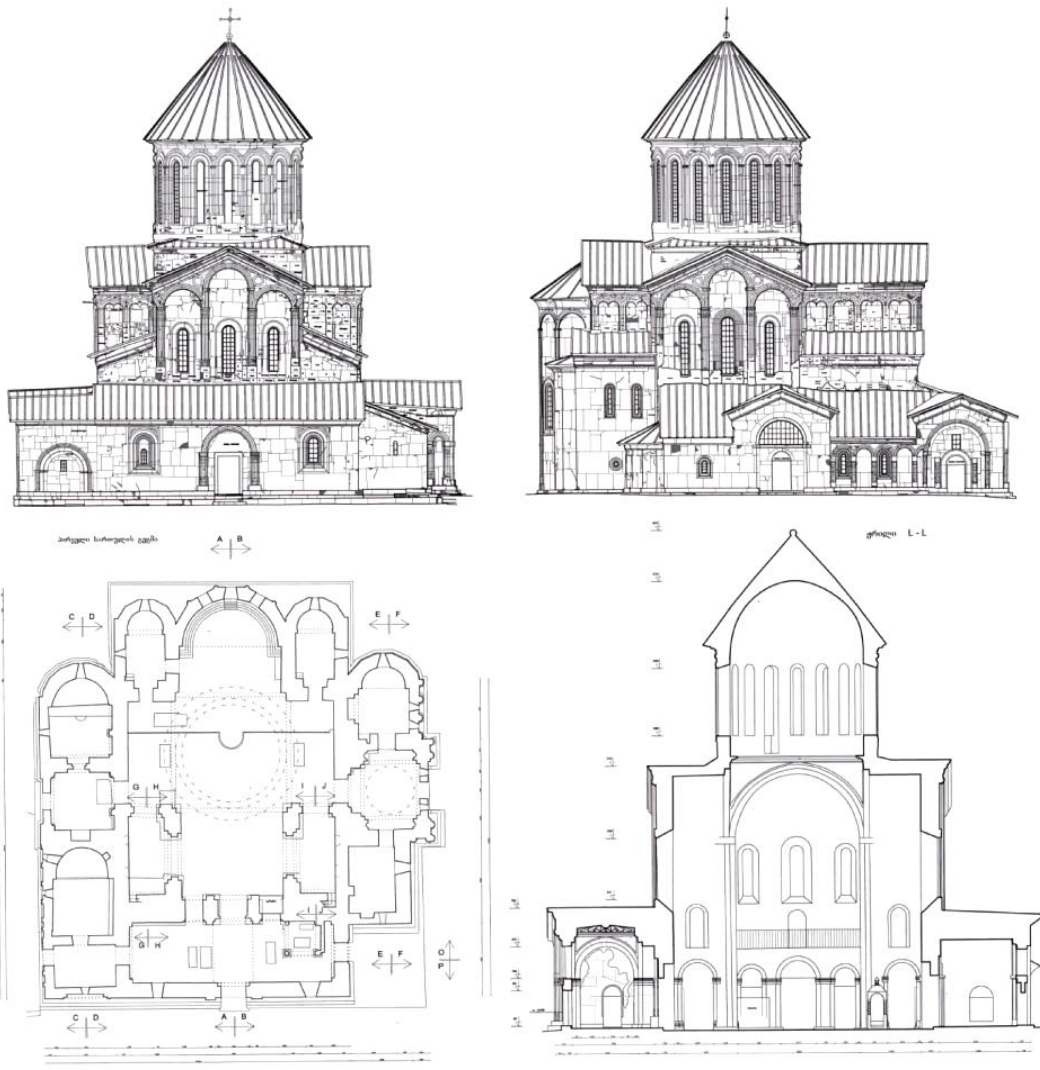
Map showing the revised boundaries of the property



Gelati Monastery seen from the south-west



Academy, Church of St Nicholas, and bell-tower seen from the south



The main church, measured drawings of west and north elevations, plan and cross-section



Main church, interior view looking east

L'Anse aux Meadows, National Historic Site Canada No 4 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Canada

Name of property

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site

Location

Province of Newfoundland and Labrador
Canada

Inscription

1978

Brief description

At the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland, the remains of an 11th-century Viking settlement are evidence of the first European presence in North America. The excavated remains of wood-framed peat-turf buildings are similar to those found in Norse Greenland and Iceland.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The archaeological site of L'Anse aux Meadows, at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland was discovered by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad in 1960. The uncovered buildings were similar to those found in Norse Greenland and Iceland from the same period. The layout of the rooms, fireplaces and openings followed Norse design. The archaeology also uncovered approximately 800 bronze, bone, stone and wooden artifacts that confirm the Norse origins of the property.

In 1978 at the 2nd session of the World Heritage Committee (CONF 010 VIII.38), "L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Park" was inscribed on the World Heritage List under criterion (vi) as "the earliest evidence of European settlement in the New World" and a "milestone in the history of human migration and discovery". The property shaped a land and sea area of 8055,67 ha, administered by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Government of Canada. In 2000 at its 24th session (CONF 204 X, Cairns), the World Heritage Committee

approved the change of the name of the property to "L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site".

As a follow up to the Retrospective Inventory of this property made by the World Heritage Centre, the State Party has been requested to provide an updated map showing the property as inscribed, meeting all the technical requirements established by the World Heritage Committee.

Modification

The minor boundary modifications submitted by the State Party concerns the clarification of the size of the property, which was incorrectly recorded at the time of its inscription, and the reduction of the boundaries of the inscribed property in order to reflect those of L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site as managed by Parks Canada Agency.

The clarification of the size of the property is linked to the Beak Point area, which is wrongly part of the World Heritage property. At the time of the inscription, the property was registered as of 8055.67 ha, without excluding the size of the Beak Point area, for which no surveys were conducted to know the exact surface of this zone. This survey has been undertaken and referenced as survey plan CLSR 105878 in January 2017. The area of Beak Point is now known and is of 2.42ha.

The management plan of the inscribed property, which was updated in 2003, mentions that the Beak Point area is considered as parts belonging to what is called "Phase II" in the management plan. Located north to the archaeological sites, it is composed of four households forming part of the community of L'Anse aux Meadows. By the 1975 Federal-Provincial Agreement, the lands of Phase II are to be included within the property boundaries when present owners of owner-occupied lands are willing to sell their lands.

The minor boundary modification also concerns the reduced boundaries of the property in order to reflect the transfers of management of five parcels of land of the property from the government of Canada to the provincial government.

In 1985, a Federal Order-in-Council (P.C. 1985-3388) transferred four parcels (60.00ha) located on the edge of the inscribed property to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Parcel 1 (58.22 ha) and Parcel 2 (1.67 ha) are located at the southeast corner of the site. Parcel 3 (0.08 ha) and Parcel 4 (0.03 ha) are located near the village of L'Anse aux Meadows on a small point opposite Beak Point. A fifth parcel of land (2.25ha) was transferred back to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1996. In this framework, the State Party submits this minor modification of the property's boundary proposal according to the new administrative situation.

According to the State Party, this overall reduction of boundaries will facilitate the management of the property as managed by Canada Parks Agency. This reduction of

0.80% of the property, from 8055.67 ha to 7991 ha, does not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to contain no direct association with the Norse occupation.

Furthermore, "L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada - Management Plan, November 2003" has already adopted the proposed boundary of the property.

Moreover, the State Party indicates that the removal of Parcels 1 – 5 as well as the corrected zoning of a portion of Beak Point in no way affects the integrity of the archaeological features. The attributes that express the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage site remain intact.

ICOMOS notes that Parcel 5 was transferred to the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1996. According to Map.2, sheds, fences, houses, exist in this parcel. Nevertheless, the map does not indicate what is the importance of these constructions, whether they are historic or not.

Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4 were transferred to the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the decree P.C 1978 – 680 / March 9th 1978 – Annex 1. According to Map.3, no indication to historic or archaeological site is displayed.

Depending on the available documents and the State Party's indications, ICOMOS considers that no technical damages would affect the property following the removal of the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

The State Party explains the reasons of the removal of these parcels from the property: to restore traditional gardens areas to residents for Parcels 1 and 2, to return land traditionally used by local fisherman and mariners for Parcels 3 and 4, and to permit the province to accommodate the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5.

L'Anse aux Meadows is managed under the Canada National Parks Act (2000) and the Parks Canada Agency Act (1998). There are two regulations under the Canada National Parks Act: The National Historic Site General Regulations and the National Historic Site Wildlife and Domestic Animal Regulations.

The Canada National Parks Act includes authorities to make regulations concerning the management of national historic sites, for instance, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. Activities that take place in this site are also regulated under a number of federal and provincial laws.

ICOMOS considers that the present legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and Integrity of L'Anse aux Meadows provides a clear basis for effective management and protection.

The management plan was approved in 2003. The site is managed under the responsibility of Parks Canada, which is currently engaged in inquiries and management planning process for L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site. On the other hand, the Management Plan (2003) outlines strategies with respect to the protection of cultural resources; the heritage presentation program at the site; the management of natural resources and traditional activities; the ongoing partnerships and public involvement that ensure the commemorative integrity of the site; finally, the protection of the World Heritage values under which the site has been inscribed by UNESCO.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications do not have impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and reinforce the management and protection plan of the property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

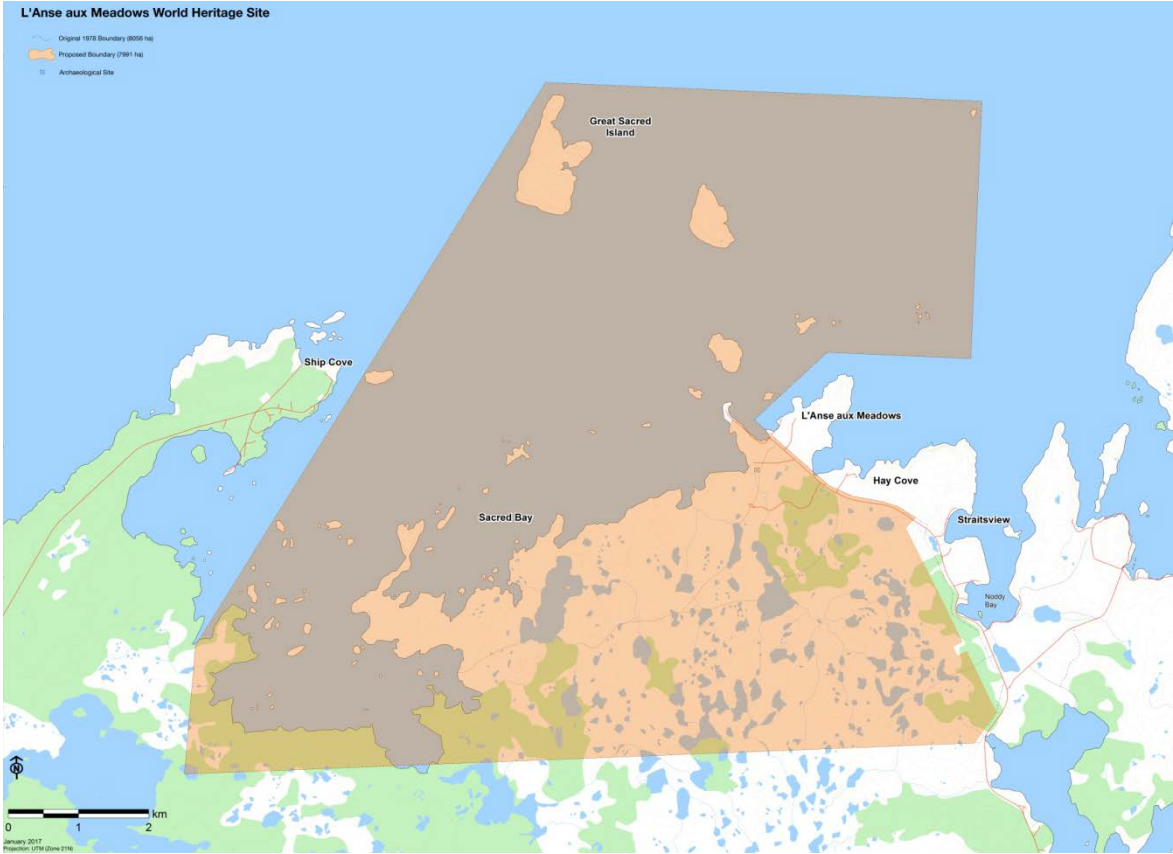
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the minor modification of the boundaries of L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Canada, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- a) Confirm clearly that there are no more archeological sites in excavation or in potential excavation in the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
- b) Clarify the future utilization of the Beak Point parcel,
- c) Submit photographs of the concerned five parcels,
- d) Provide further information on the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5,
- e) Clarify whether other modifications of a similar nature are being considered;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč (Czechia) No 1078 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Czechia

Name of property

Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč

Location

Třebíč district, Vysocina Region
Czechia

Inscription

2003

Brief description

The ensemble of the Jewish Quarter, the old Jewish cemetery and the Basilica of St Procopius in Třebíč are reminders of the co-existence of Jewish and Christian cultures from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The Jewish Quarter bears outstanding testimony to the different aspects of the life of this community. St Procopius' Basilica, built as part of the Benedictine monastery in the early 13th century, is a remarkable example of the influence of Western European architectural heritage in this region.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003 on the basis of criteria (ii) and (iii). The Periodic Report exercise in 2014 noted that the boundaries and buffer zone are both adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value. As part of the report, a map with modified boundaries was submitted, notably reducing the area for the Basilica. However, these modified boundaries were not submitted to the World Heritage Committee, and were not adopted.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted for the property by the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 (Decision 40 COM 8E, Istanbul, 2016).

Modification

The State Party proposes the better definition of the boundary of the three components of the serial property for two reasons: because of technical improvements in mapping for the property, and to better reflect the Outstanding Universal Value in the case of one component, the Jewish Quarter.

The proposed modifications to the boundaries are:

Component 001 – *The Jewish Quarter*, reduction from 4.73 ha to 4.34 ha;

Component 002 – *The Jewish Cemetery*, reduction from 1.23 ha to 1.13 ha;

Component 003 – *St Procopius' Basilica*, increase from 0.23 ha to 1.08 ha (although this increase appears to have been calculated by the State Party based on the change from the map produced as part of the 2014 Periodic Report, rather than the original boundary map).

The overall property area increases from 6.19 ha to 6.55 ha.

The boundaries identified in the nomination dossier relied on a relatively large scale map with thick, hand-drawn boundaries. This original map lacked precision, and the proposed modified boundaries provide much better accuracy at an improved scale.

The State Party proposes to slightly modify the boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter, to better reflect an historical map of the quarter from 1822. While the intent may eventually be supported, ICOMOS considers that the justification provided is not yet sufficient. As noted in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, the significant period is from the Middle Ages up to World War II. It is also clear in the nomination dossier that the Jewish Quarter has changed through its history. There were periods of growth as well significant losses as a result of fires. There is insufficient justification provided about why the 1822 map should be used as the basis for the boundaries. It is also noted there are some discrepancies between the modified boundary for this component, and the boundary in the 1822 map. The justification should also be provided to support these variations from the 1822 boundary.

As regards component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery, and component 003 - St Procopius' Basilica, the State Party proposes to correct the boundaries by reducing the area of component 002 and extending the area of component 003 in order to reflect the factually correct extents of those components. ICOMOS considers those proposals appropriate.

As regards to the buffer zone, the State Party did not propose a modification. The adjustments are a consequence of the better definition of the boundaries of the components, because of technical improvements in mapping for the property. ICOMOS considers that this adjustment is appropriate.

While the State Party notes there will be no change in the area of management, and presumably the general management arrangements, it also notes the manager of the former monastery (part of component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica) will be a new and willing partner in the property management. The State Party should ensure integrated management for the property, including the former monastery.

The legal protection for the property will not be affected by the boundary modification. Many houses in component 001 – The Jewish Quarter are declared cultural monuments protected under the Act on State Heritage Conservation, and otherwise the component is within a larger urban heritage zone. Component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery and component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica are both declared national cultural monuments and have the highest legal protection.

ICOMOS considers the proposed modifications to the property boundary with respect to component 002 – The Jewish Cemetery and component 003 – St Procopius' Basilica will contribute to protection of Outstanding Universal Value of the property and strengthen management. However, the justification of the proposed modifications to the property boundary of component 001 – The Jewish Quarter is not yet satisfactory regarding both the choice of an historical (1822) boundary, and apparent minor discrepancies between the proposed boundary and the 1822 boundary.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

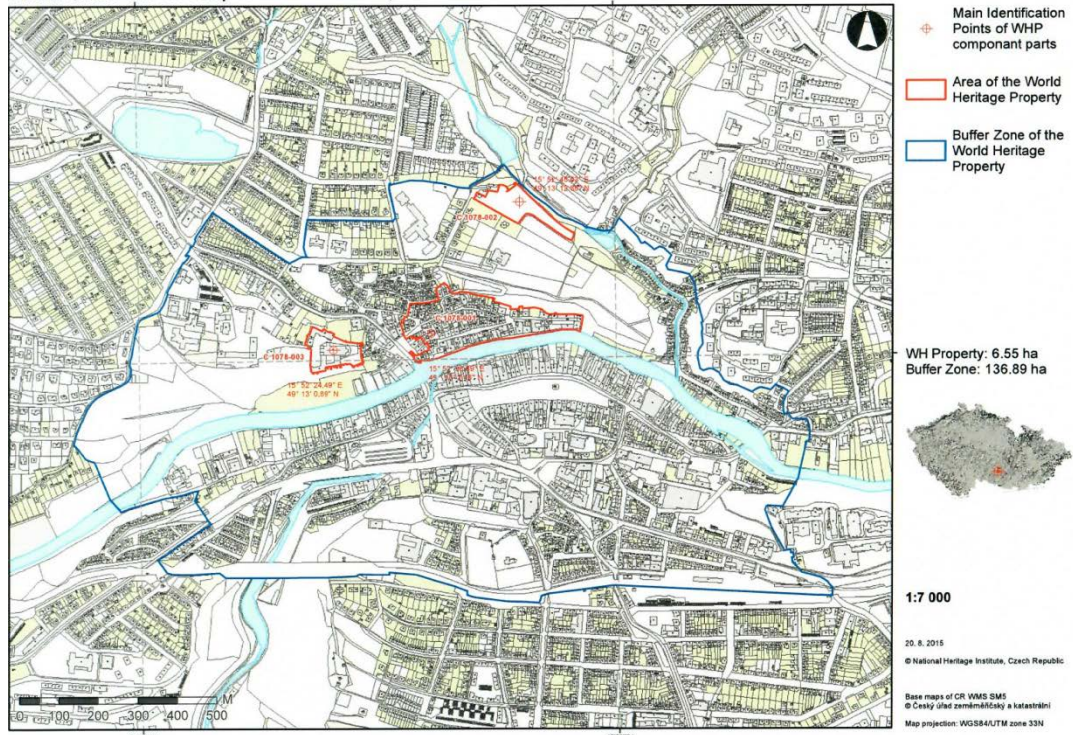
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč, Czechia, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- a) Provide additional justification for the proposed change of boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter. This should include additional justification for the choice of an historical (1822) boundary as the basis for the component boundary in the context of the history of property and its significant period up to World War II, as well as a clarification for discrepancies between the 1822 boundary and the proposed boundary;

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party ensure integrated management for the property, including the former monastery.

ANNEX 01_B BUFFER (20. 8. 2015)

Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč, Id. N° 1078



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France

No 933 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

France

Name of property

The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes

Location

Loiret, Loir-et-Cher, Indre-et-Loire and Maine-et-Loire departments

Centre-Val-de-Loire and Pays-de-la-Loire regions
France

Inscription

2000

Brief description

The Loire Valley is an outstanding cultural landscape of great beauty, containing historic towns and villages, great architectural monuments (the châteaux), and cultivated lands formed by many centuries of interaction between their population and the physical environment, primarily the river Loire itself.

Date of ICOMOS approval of report

10 March 2017

1 Issues raised

Background

In 2000, "The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes" was inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criteria (i), (ii) and (iv). The initial nomination dossier however was inconsistent in its treatment of the Château de Chenonceau: although not shown on the maps indicating the boundaries of the property, the château was described in an information sheet in the dossier, stating that it was one of the property's principal monuments. The State Party wishes to correct this inconsistency by requesting a minor modification of the property's boundaries. In addition, the State Party wishes to correct an error in the initial nomination dossier, as the insertion of the upper part of the spur known as the Éperon de Marnay (Azay le Rideau) had been omitted.

Modification

The modifications proposed by the State Party constitute an increase of 627 ha in the property's area, which is thus raised from 85,394 ha to 86,021 ha. The buffer zone area is increased from 208,934 ha to 213,481 ha.

In the nomination dossier of the inscribed property, the Estate of Chenonceau is referred to as one of the principal monuments of the property, but it was not shown on the maps. The dossier did however mention the possibility of exceptions to the property boundaries in order to ensure the coherency of the Valley and its human occupancy "if the value of certain sites, located a certain distance from the ridge of the hill or on a tributary, requires their inclusion to encompass major landscapes or monuments," and the Estate of Chenonceau was referred to as one example.

The State Party proposes to correct the absence by including the Estate of Chenonceau (182 ha), comprising the château, its outbuildings, its park and gardens, part of the village of Chenonceaux and part of the river Cher running from the D80 trunk road to the east, up to the start of the Rue du Cher (on the left bank of the river) to the west. The area of the park of the château to the south of the river Cher is located in the municipality of Francueil. The proposed boundary also includes the historic road between Chenonceau and Amboise, in its present-day width, which passes through the municipalities of Civray-de-Touraine and Chisseaux.

The State Party justifies the inclusion of the Estate of Chenonceau as from a historical and architectural viewpoint, this château, built across the river Cher, is indeed a "Château de la Loire". Built in the first quarter of the 16th century by Thomas Bohier, the treasurer of Francis I, and subsequently extended, before being embellished and enhanced with gardens in the second half of the 16th century, it embodies the architectural flourishing of the Loire Valley in the Renaissance, in the first and second French Renaissance periods. It soon became a property of the Crown, is strongly linked to the history of the kings of France, and – located less than two and a half leagues from the Château d'Amboise – constitutes an essential part of the royal domain.

The Château de Chenonceau has been listed as one of France's Historic Monuments since its inscription on the national list of 1840. Its park is similarly listed by the order dated 7 November 1962. The Maison des Pages and the Church of Chenonceaux are also protected as listed Historic Monuments.

The boundaries of the Estate of Chenonceau were established in accordance with the "amended protection boundaries" introduced in 2005. The associated municipalities, i.e. Chenonceaux, Civray-de-Touraine, Francueil, Chisseaux and Amboise, are set to approve before June 2017 the management plan adopted in 2012.

ICOMOS considers that the inclusion of the Estate of Chenonceau is necessary in the light of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and that this inclusion will help to maintain the property's integrity.

As for the Éperon de Marnay, the State Party proposes including in the property boundaries the upper part of the interfluvium between the river Indre and the river Loire (445 ha) – which currently forms part of the buffer zone –

as the current boundaries only include the lower part. The interfluvium marks the southern limit of the main course of the river Loire to the south, and that of the river Indre to the north. The modification consists of including the zone of confluence between the river Loire and the river Indre to the east up to the RD57 main road, from the limit of the village of Lignéres-de-Touraine to the hamlet of Luré in the municipality of Azay-le-Rideau.

The State Party justifies the inclusion of the *Éperon de Marnay* as it is occupied by a mosaic of small parcels of orchards and vineyards. This long-established land pattern now constitutes a relict, bearing witness to a centuries-old organisation, and representing historic agricultural landscapes of the Loire valley of which today few vestiges remain. Associated with the agricultural plateau is a zone of troglodytic dwellings and their cellars, at the foot of the hill. This composition constitutes a characteristic feature of the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property.

Finally, the State Party also refers to the fact that this modification will enable the inclusion of the extremity of the interfluvium forming a belvedere, which affords views across the Loire Valley together with 360° panoramic perspectives.

The State Party supports its proposal by referring to the boundary principles described in the nomination dossier of the initial property, which stated that boundaries were chosen as follows: "The proposed longitudinal extension runs from the mouth of the Maine, in Anjou, to Sully-sur-Loire, in the Orléanais. As for the lateral extension, it is proposed that the principle of making it run from one ridge to the other of the two hills in the valley should be adopted." The inclusion of the extremity of the spur would thus be consistent with this principle of co-visibility.

As for the *Éperon de Marnay*, the State Party indicates that a national protection project for sites (Article L 341-1 et seq. of the French Environment Code) is currently being prepared concerning the upper parts of the spur. Its management as a listed site is in line with the recommendations made in the regional prefectural order of 15 November 2012 concerning the Unesco Loire Valley management plan.

ICOMOS considers that the inclusion of the *Éperon de Marnay* will enable a greater degree of protection of the landscape quality of the inscribed property.

In conclusion, ICOMOS considers that the proposed modifications contribute to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the Loire Valley and will have a positive impact on its integrity, protection and presentation to visitors.

3 ICOMOS recommendations

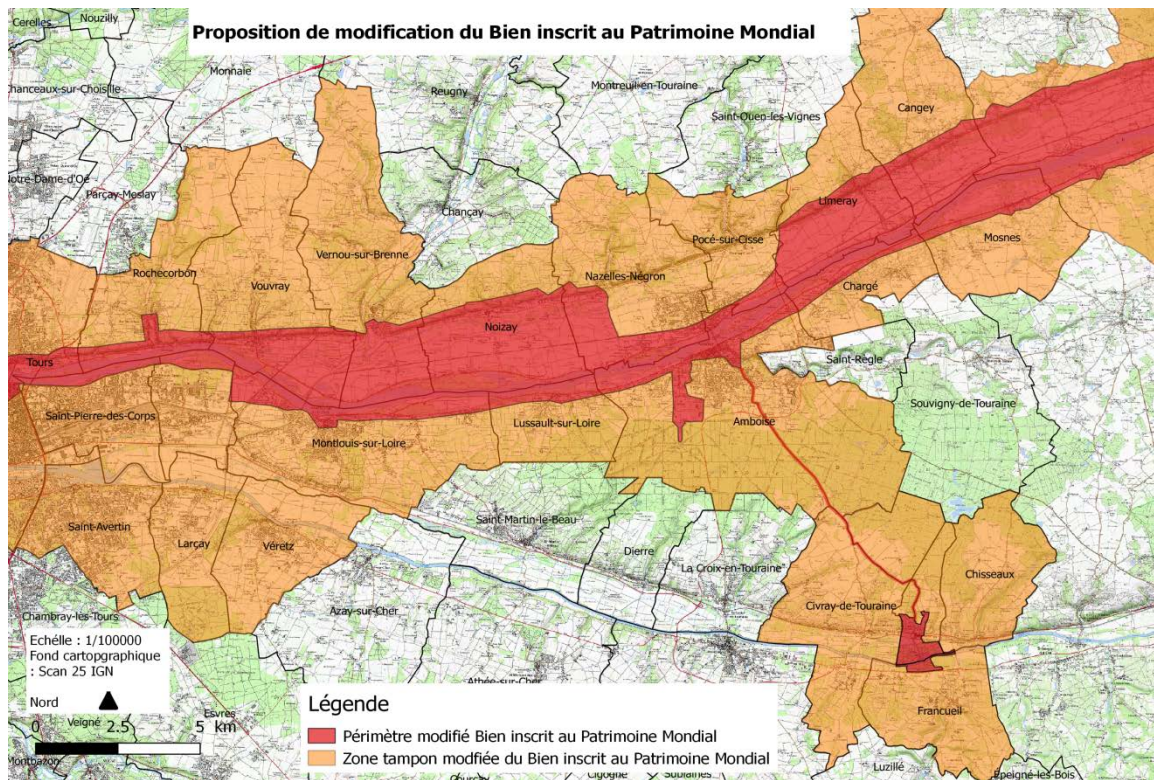
ICOMOS recommends that the proposal of a minor modification of the boundaries of the Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France, **be approved**.

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed modification of the buffer zone of the Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France, **be approved**.

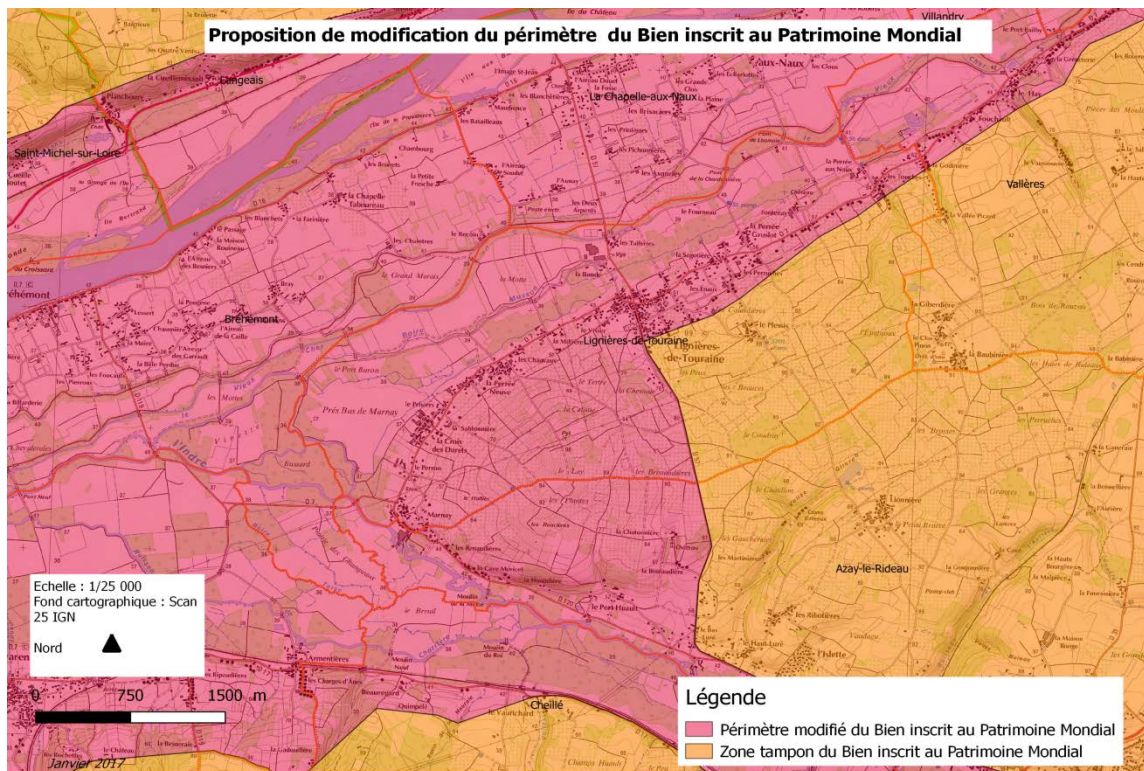
Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following points:

- a) Continue consultations with the municipalities affected by the minor modification of the property boundaries in line with the management plan approved in 2012,
- b) Finalise the national protection of the sites for the upper part of the *Éperon de Marnay*,
- c) Provide the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS with updated maps of the Loire Valley property as presented in the 2012 management plan;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone – Domaine de Chenonceau



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone - L'éperon de Marnay

Aquileia (Italy) No 825 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Italy

Name of property

Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia

Location

Province of Udine
Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region
Italy

Inscription

1998

Brief description

Aquileia was one of the largest and wealthiest cities of the Early Roman Empire. It was destroyed by Atilla in the mid-5th century and most of it still lies unexcavated beneath the fields. The patriarchal basilica, completed in the 11th century and remodelled in the 14th century includes earlier elements such as exceptional 4th century mosaic pavements. The basilica played a key role in the evangelization of a large region of central Europe.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The property Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia was inscribed in 1998 under criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi). There is no buffer zone.

Following the Retrospective Inventory in which the State Party was requested to provide the size of the property and resubmit a clarified map, the World Heritage Committee adopted by decision 32 COM 8D the clarification of the area of the property at its 32th session in 2008.

At its 40th session in 2016, the World Heritage Committee adopted in decision 40 COM 8E a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

Modification

The State Party proposed the Sepolcreto (necropolis) of the Roman city of Aquileia for inclusion in the property. This is a small area of 0.11 hectares that is just outside the current boundary of the property, which encompasses 155.3 hectares. The new area of the property would be 155.41 hectares. The Sepolcreto is composed of five funerary enclosures located outside the walls of Aquileia, excavated by Giovanni Brusin in 1939-1940. Recent archaeological surveys have identified around ninety additional burials, meaning that Aquileia burial ground is one of the best preserved necropolis of northern Italy.

The State Party justifies the inclusion of the Sepolcreto within the boundaries of the property on the grounds that it would strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value of the property by representing another aspect of the city and its attributes. The property already includes public, commercial, and residential functions exemplified by the forum, thermal baths, basilica, port, warehouses and luxury residences, and these attributes along with the necropolis as the most complete example of an Early Roman city in the Mediterranean world.

The necropolis is owned by the Italian State and protected by its laws. It has been incorporated into the draft management plan for the property, which is awaiting approval.

Conservation work has been done on the necropolis in 1942 and interventions from that time are clearly marked. It has seen more conservation work in 2016 to restore the drainage system, conserve the walls and improve the public access path. The viewpoint for the necropolis is now wheelchair accessible.

ICOMOS notes that a necropolis is mentioned in the original nomination dossier and in the ICOMOS evaluation of the property. It is not explicitly stated in the justification for the modification, but it appears that a mapping oversight led to the exclusion of the necropolis from the original boundary of the property. In this regard, ICOMOS considers that the justification of the minor boundary modification proposed misses detailed explanations in relation to the necropolis mentioned in the nomination dossier. The condition of integrity is improved by the addition of the necropolis while that of authenticity is not affected by this proposed change.

ICOMOS also notes that, despite the need for a buffer zone identified in the ICOMOS evaluation in 1998, and by the State Party itself in the Periodic Report fulfilled in 2014, no buffer zone have been established for the property. However, ICOMOS still considers that a buffer zone is necessary for the protection of the property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

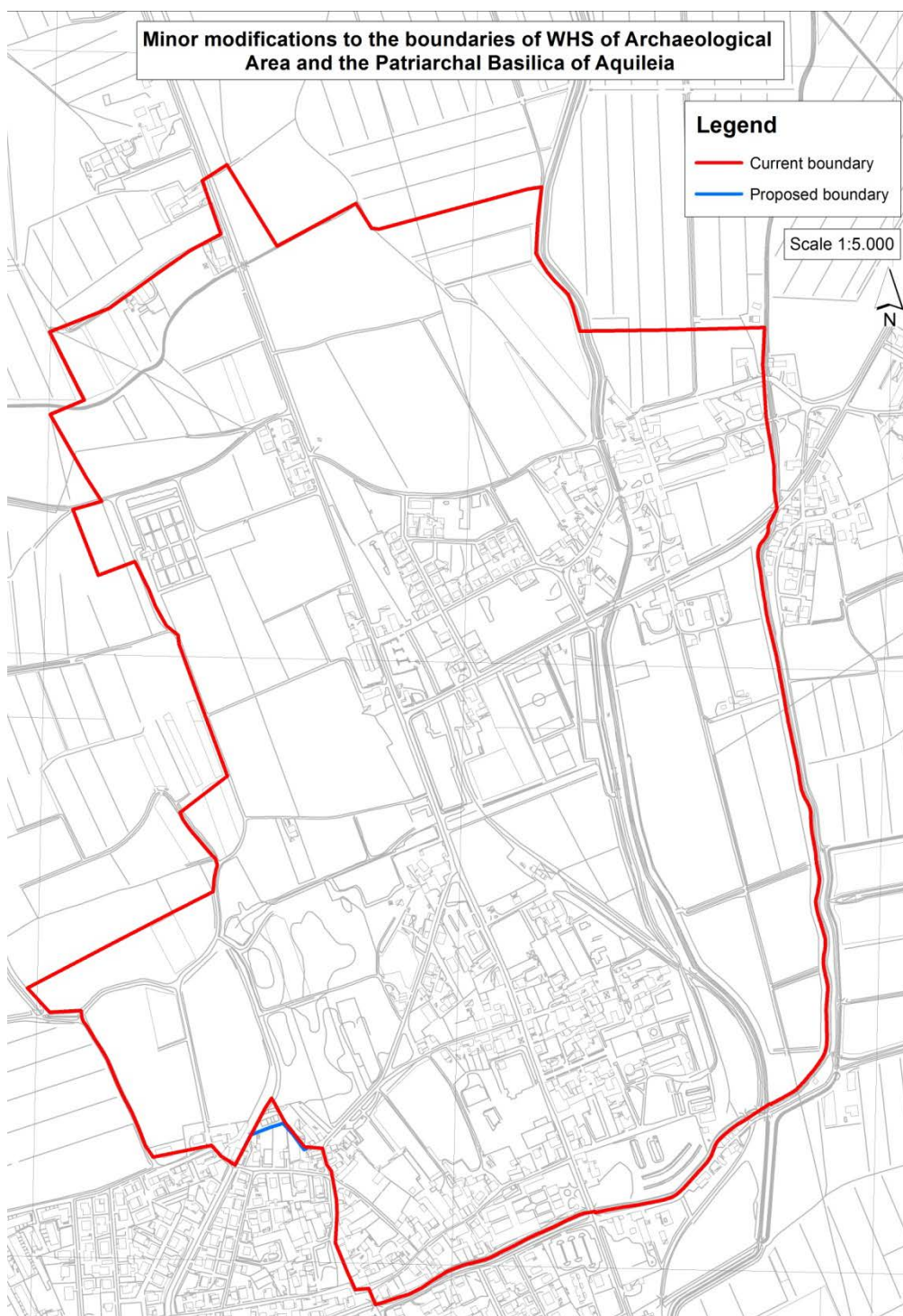
Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Finalising the draft management plan of the property and submitting it to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Center once it is adopted,
- b) Considering the creation of a buffer zone;



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Defence Line of Amsterdam (Netherlands) No 759 bis

1 Basic data

State Party
Netherlands

Name of property
Defence Line of Amsterdam

Location
Provinces of Noord-Holland and Utrecht
Netherlands

Inscription
1996

Brief description

The Defence Line of Amsterdam was built between 1883 and 1920 and extends 135km around the city of Amsterdam. The fortifications also function to control the water, demonstrating knowledge of hydraulic engineering. The centre of the country was protected by a network of 45 forts, acting in concert with temporary flooding from polders and an intricate system of canals and locks.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The Defence Line of Amsterdam (Stelling van Amsterdam) was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996 on the basis of criteria (ii), (iv) and (v). The property was nominated as a group of monuments (45 forts, batteries and smaller works), but is presented as a 'ring' of forts and open spaces, in a single continuous boundary. The defence line extends for about 135 km, located approximately 15-20 km from the centre of Amsterdam. The width of the ring-shaped property is 3.5 km, but narrows further in some sections. The total area of the property was calculated at the time of inscription to be 14,953.3 ha. There is no buffer zone.

In 1996, ICOMOS recognised this property's cultural landscape qualities; and that the defence system was intact and well conserved.

The Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2016 (Decision 40 COM 8E).

The proposed minor boundary modification has arisen through the processes undertaken by the State Party to improve the mapping of the property, and to remedy some discrepancies. The State Party submission states that while the maps for the 1996 inscription identify 45 fortification components, the mapping was incomplete; there are seven sites that were mentioned in the nomination but not mapped: coast fort near IJmuiden (015); fort near Heemstede (021); advanced defence at Vijfhuizen (022); Fort Kijkuit (042); battery near the IJ before Diemerdam (043); fort along the Pampus (044); battery near the IJ before Durgerdam (045). New GIS systems have allowed the area of the property to be more precisely calculated and mapped.

The State Party intends to submit a nomination to extend the Defence Line of Amsterdam by adding components of the Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie (New Dutch Waterline), enabling the full extent of the Fort Holland defence line to be included in the World Heritage List. This area of the future plans for extension is understood to include a line of approximately 85 km in length and 5-10 km in width. The proposed extension was included in the Tentative List for The Netherlands in 2011.

The intentions of the State Party to improve the mapping and documentation of the World Heritage property and to submit a dossier proposing an extension were the subject of exchanges between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in 2014; and the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory Mission in September 2015. The Advisory Mission's terms of reference focused on the question of how the New Dutch Waterline could be proposed as an extension to the existing World Heritage property, but also included consideration of various issues concerning the protection and management of the existing World Heritage property. The possibility of submitting a minor boundary modification was discussed during the ICOMOS Advisory Mission.

Modification

The proposed modification to the property boundary is based on the need for greater completeness in the mapping of the total area of the inscribed property, and to establish a more coherent boundary.

The State Party's submission includes modifications to some boundaries in light of developments that have taken place since 1996 (a total of seven specific areas are proposed for exclusion from the World Heritage property); exclusion of the entirety of one inscribed component (Fort Kijkuit); and inclusion of five new inundation field sections.

The State Party does not consider that the proposed changes will have a substantial impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property, and will strengthen its integrity. The State Party further advises that it will submit a nomination file for evaluation in 2018 to extend the existing property by adding components of the New Dutch Waterline. The proposed minor boundary modification is considered by the State Party to be a step toward the planned extension.

In addition to submitting maps for almost all of the previously identified components, the minor boundary modification submission contains the following proposals:

- Proposed inclusion of five new areas that the State Party considers can contribute to and strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value of the Defence Line of Amsterdam. Each of these is proposed in order to improve the visual integrity and coherence of the boundary by adding inundation lands.
 - Starnmeerpolder (323 ha): a former inundation polder, now a grassland area used for dairy farming (marked as A1);
 - Spaarnwoude (240.9 ha): a wooded recreational area without specific attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, but proposed for inclusion in order to strengthen the integrity of the World Heritage property (which is otherwise relatively narrow at this location) (marked as A2);
 - Inundation Field in the vicinity of the Vóórstelling near Vijfhuizen (141.8 ha): an open inundation field which also includes some small batteries that form part of the Vóórstelling Vijfhuizen fortifications (marked as A3);
 - Vechtstreek, Wijdmeren (723.5 ha): undeveloped inundation field, with grassland and small lakes (marked as A4);
 - Vechtstreek, Muiden-Weesp (550.6 ha): large open inundation field currently used for agriculture, nature conservation and leisure activities (including water-based recreation). Also located in this area are some concrete defences from the 1930s, which were built later than the Defence Line of Amsterdam (marked as A5).
- Proposed omission of Fort Kijkuit (042), which is located 2.25 km south of the Defence Line of Amsterdam and which is part of an older waterline, the early 19th century New Dutch Waterline (which the State Party intends to nominate as an extension to the current World Heritage property). The rationale provided by the State Party for this modification is that its inclusion in the original nomination was an error, arising in part from the overlapping histories between some forts in the Defence Line of Amsterdam and the older New Dutch Waterline. The Fort is also located outside the continuous boundary for the World Heritage property. This problem was first raised by the State Party in 2009, and the World Heritage Centre advised that omission of this element would require a minor boundary modification. However, the State Party also plans to re-include this site within the proposal for an extension to the property. This proposed exclusion is referred to as 'C' in the maps submitted.
- Proposed exclusion of five areas (referred to as B1.1 to B1.5), on the basis that developments that were planned or approved before 1996 have been subsequently developed. The State Party considers that their original inclusion was an error, as they were included in zoning plans for residential areas or industrial estates at the time of inscription; and acknowledges that the developments were a factor of past weak coordination between heritage and spatial planning mechanisms. The State Party considers that no important attributes of Outstanding Universal Value will be affected by these exclusions.
 - Broekpolder, municipality of Heemskeerke (exclusion of an area of 156 ha, marked as B1.1): this was an area of inundation fields for the Defence Line of Amsterdam, which was designated as a residential area in 1993. The housing estate of Broekpolder was developed from 1996, located to the west of the A9 Motorway diversion, which forms a barrier between the developed area and the remaining open inundation field. Because of the development, the open nature of the area has been lost and cannot contribute to the visual integrity or attributes of the inscribed property. The State Party therefore proposes to adjust the boundary to align with the eastern edge of the A9 motorway.
 - Wijkmeerpolder west of the A9, municipality of Beverwijk (exclusion of an area of 97.5 ha, marked as B1.2 in the submission): an industrial port estate was built here in the 1990s according to the 'De Pijp Industrial Plan' (approved in 1964) following the diversion of the A9 motorway and the construction of a new tunnel under the North Sea Canal. The nearby Fort of Velsen is proposed to be retained within the World Heritage property, but the State Party proposes to exclude the industrial estate.
 - Eastern side of Haarlem, municipality of Haarlemmerliede / Spaarnwoude and Haarlemmermeer (exclusion of an area of 202.7 ha, marked as B1.3): this area contains two industrial estates (De Liede and Polanenpark) built between 1981 and 1997, located between the N200 and N205 arterial roads. This area is one that is 'behind' the main defence line and according to the State Party, does not contain any attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
 - Floriade site Vijfhuizen, municipality of Haarlemmermeer (exclusion of an area of 113.9 ha, marked as B1.4): this area is not an original inundation field. It was designated as a future residential area ('Vinx location') from 1993, and the area has been completely built on since 2002. According to the State Party, this area does not contain any attributes related to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.
 - Vrijschot Noord, Hoofddorp, municipality of Haarlemmermeer (exclusion of an area of 27.4 ha, marked as B1.5): this area was developed for a housing estate (Vrijschot-Noord) from 1994 based on a zoning plan approved in 1993. The housing estate is located between the Haarlemmermeer Woods, the Geniedijk and the

national road N201. The area was not an inundation field, and according to the State Party, there are no attributes of Outstanding Universal Value in the area proposed for exclusion.

- Proposed exclusion of two areas (referred to as B2), on the basis that irreversible developments have occurred on them since 1996, including those associated with the nearby Schiphol Airport. The State Party considers that no important attributes of Outstanding Universal Value will be affected by these exclusions.
 - Edam Industrial Estate (exclusion of an area of 22.8 ha, marked as B2.1): this industrial estate is located partly inside the boundary of the World Heritage property, based on the Plabeka Implementation Strategy adopted in 2011. In addition to the World Heritage designation, the area was also located within a National Landscape from 2007. The State Party refers to this as a 'dual protection', but the boundaries are not identical, and the confusion contributed to the granting of planning permission that was granted for the Industrial Estate, without informing the World Heritage Centre. While regrettable, the State Party considers that the property will no longer be vulnerable to such decisions now that the boundaries of the World Heritage property have been clarified and accurately mapped. The area is located inside the Defence Line (or 'behind' the main defence line), and did not function as an inundation field. According to the State Party, no attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are located in this area.
 - Geniedijk and surrounding area, municipality of Haarlemmermeer (exclusion of an area of 622 ha, marked as B2.2): this area is located on the south-western side of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, to the south of the Schiphol Airport. Some developments in this area were included in the provincial regional plan for Haarlemmermeer-Schiphol from 1995, but the developments have been recently realised, and are continuing. The Schiphol airport zone has a national economic priority, and these developments are a factor of the pressure to facilitate spatial developments close to the Airport. The Schiphol Logistics Park is currently under construction, and a possible 6th runway is envisaged for this area. No high-rise or residential buildings will be allowed. The area south of the Geniedijk has a greenhouse development (PrimaVera) planned in 1995 and included in the previous regional plan. An additional logistics industrial estate located on the southern side of the Geniedijk is based on the regional plan of 2003.

The State Party acknowledges with regret that these developments have occurred within the World Heritage property, and advises that it has implemented strengthened national policy and regulations to prevent future occurrences of this kind. The new Heritage Act has been in force since 2016, and the new Environmental and Planning Act will come into force in 2019. The Spatial Planning (General Rules) Decree (Barro) legally regulates the protection of heritage sites and monuments of exceptional national importance (including the Defence Line of Amsterdam). Based on the Barro, the Provinces have the responsibility to incorporate the Outstanding Universal Value of this property into provincial regulations, and to develop policies in relation to World Heritage. The State Party also advises that it has recently established Heritage Impact Assessment for proposals with a potential impact on the World Heritage property.

The Management Plan for the Defence Line of Amsterdam was adopted by the competent administrations of the provinces of Noord-Holland (2015) and Utrecht (2016).

In relation to the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory Mission to establish a buffer zone for the Defence Line of Amsterdam, the State Party submission for the minor boundary modification explains that it does not currently have any legally feasible mechanisms, and that it does not consider a buffer zone to be necessary, as the open spaces within the property function as a *de facto* buffer zone.

In the current documentation, the area of the property is stated as 14,953.3 ha, but according to the State Party, GIS mapping has enabled a more accurate figure of 17,572.755 ha to be determined for the existing area of inscription. The overall impact of the proposed minor boundary modifications (including the five inclusions and the seven exclusions) will be a modest increase in the total area of the property to 18,310 ha. The submission has been accompanied by digital maps and GIS shape files.

ICOMOS appreciates the work undertaken by the State Party to complete and improve the accuracy of the documentation and mapping of this property, and the careful work that has been undertaken to review the changes to the property since 1996. ICOMOS anticipates that this inventorying will improve the protection and management of the property in the future. ICOMOS furthermore welcomes the advice from the State Party that its arrangements for legal protection, policy coordination and management have been strengthened.

Noting that the State Party has indicated that it will nominate an extension to the property to include the Nieuwe Hollandse Waterlinie (New Dutch Waterline), ICOMOS considers that the proposed changes to the boundaries of the present World Heritage property should be thoroughly assessed within the context of the overall intentions, including a systematic and thorough technical

evaluation mission that can determine with more certainty the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (including its integrity and protection).

While some of these areas were visited in the 2015 Advisory Mission, and some of the issues were discussed, this was not the primary focus of the terms of reference, and does not replace the need for a focused assessment and mission. In addition, the recommendations of the Advisory Mission have not yet been fully implemented.

ICOMOS therefore concludes that this proposal cannot not be considered to be a minor boundary modification.

Based on the information provided, ICOMOS also considers that the following issues require more specific attention and dialogue with the State Party.

While ICOMOS appreciates that the establishment of a buffer zone for this property poses some challenges for the State Party, the assertion that a buffer zone is not needed is not supported at this stage. This is based in part on the significant pressure on land in this part of The Netherlands, the diverse development pressures, and the fact that developments impacting on the integrity of the World Heritage property since its inscription in 1996 have led to the current proposals for the exclusion of seven areas from the property boundary. For these reasons, the ICOMOS Advisory Mission had recommended the provision of a buffer zone.

In relation to the seven areas to be added to the World Heritage property, ICOMOS considers that they could possibly contribute to the coherence and visual integrity of the property in these areas, but that the attributes and specific management and protection arrangements require more detailed assessment.

In relation to the seven areas to be excluded from the inscribed property, ICOMOS notes that developments since 1996 have occurred within the inscribed property in these locations without sufficient attention to their impacts, and that these have weakened the overall integrity of the World Heritage property.

ICOMOS also notes with concern that the economic importance of the Schiphol Airport is considered to present a continuing pressure on the protection of the World Heritage property.

In relation to the proposed exclusion of the area marked B2.2 on the maps provided by the State Party, ICOMOS considers that the proposed changes will leave the World Heritage property highly vulnerable. Together with the smaller exclusion marked as B1.5, and an already very narrow section through Geniedijk, the proposed exclusion marked B2.2 renders the 'line of defence' into the narrowest of threads, consisting only of the dike and canal, and an associated line of trees, disconnected from the landscape context.

In relation to the proposal by the State Party to exclude the site of Fort Kijkuit from the inscribed property, ICOMOS considers that the rationale for this exclusion is largely dependent on the outcome of a future nomination process (for the extension of the property to incorporate the 'New Dutch Waterline'). Because there are attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value located within this area, ICOMOS does not consider that this is a sufficient rationale for the exclusion of this element from the World Heritage property. ICOMOS notes that the State Party has not provided updated mapping for this component, but this should be addressed when practicable and submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Defence Line of Amsterdam, including the five additions to the property (marked A1-A5), the seven areas proposed for exclusion (marked B1.1-B1.5, and B2.1-B2.2), and the exclusion of Fort Kijkuit, the Netherlands, **should not be approved**.

Additional Recommendations:





To further support the protection and management, ICOMOS recommends that the State Party take the following further actions:

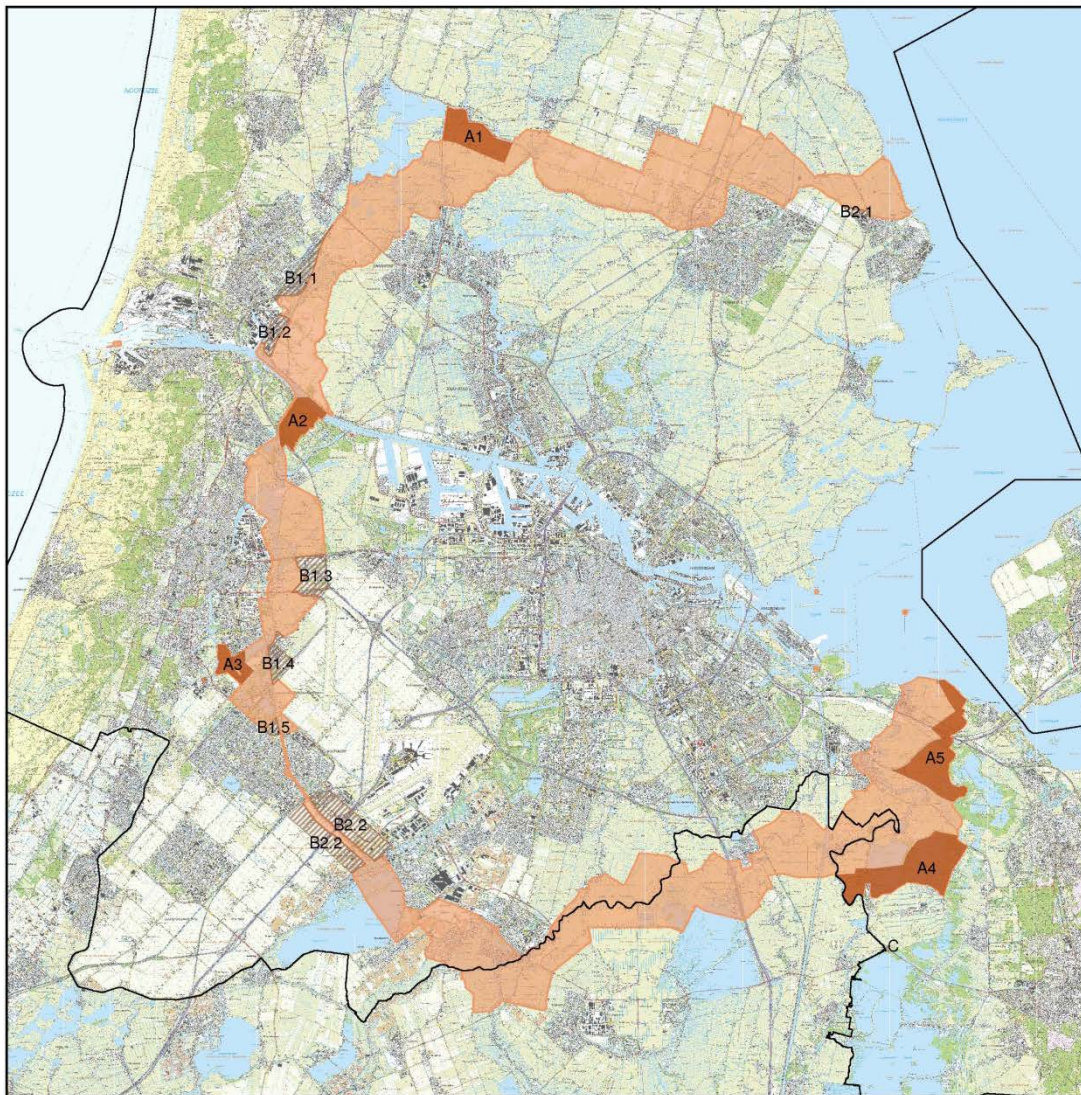
- a) Consider the implementation of a buffer zone for the World Heritage property in order to improve the protection of the property and its visual integrity, particularly for sections near industrial and residential development areas (and in particular, the Geniedijk area near the Schiphol Airport),
- b) Continuing to strengthen the legal protection and monitoring for the remaining areas inside the inscribed property,
- c) Ensuring that the protection of the World Heritage property is effectively incorporated into all existing and future zoning plans,
- d) Continuing to support communication and capacity building initiatives for local and provincial governments and stakeholders,
- e) Ensuring the use of 'Heritage Impact Assessment' processes for all zoning and development proposals inside and adjacent to the Defence Line of Amsterdam (particularly in relation to proposals for expansions to the Schiphol Airport and its associated facilities and surrounds),
- f) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are communicated to the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*,

- g) Providing updated mapping for the Fort Kijkuit component (no. 042), and an updated figure for the overall area (in hectares) of the inscribed World Heritage property,
- h) Continuing to work cooperatively with a broad range of public and private owners and stakeholders to ensure the conservation (including possibilities for adaptive reuse) of the fort structures and their settings;

ICOMOS remains at the disposal of the State Party in the framework of advisory processes to advise further on the above recommendations, if requested to do so.

Proposed modification of the boundary of the Defence Line of Amsterdam

-  Proposed revised boundary of the property (18310ha)
-  Proposal to include (A ;1980ha)
-  Proposal to exclude (B and C ;1243ha)
-  Boundary of the province of Noord-Holland



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Vegaøyen (Norway) No 1143 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Norway

Name of property

Vegaøyen – The Vega Archipelago

Location

Nordland, Vega
Norway

Inscription

2004

Brief description

A cluster of dozens of islands centred on Vega, just south the Arctic Circle, forms a cultural landscape that bears testimony to a distinctive frugal way of life based on fishing and the harvesting of the down of eider ducks in an inhospitable environment. There are fishing villages, quays, warehouses, eider houses (built for eider ducks to nest in), farming landscapes, lighthouses and beacons. The Vega Archipelago reflects the way fishermen/farmers have over the past 1,500 years, maintained a sustainable living and the contribution of women to eiderdown harvesting.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The property was inscribed in 2004 on the basis of criterion (v) with boundaries that followed the municipal boundary on the island of Vega. The boundary was intended to include only traditional farms and nature areas in the property. Farms run with modern practices would be in the buffer zone. At the time of inscription, the area of the property was 103,710 hectares and the area of the buffer zone was 28,040 hectares.

At its 38th session (Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee adopted in decision 38 COM 8E a Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

In 2009, the municipal boundary was digitalized and the digital versions were found to vary in small ways from the earlier mapping. One error was also found: because of the

quality of mapping available, the boundary included a modern farm in Moen was originally intended to be in the buffer zone.

The State Party in the 2014 Periodic Report of the property has identified this change. This modification is the subject of this report.

Modification

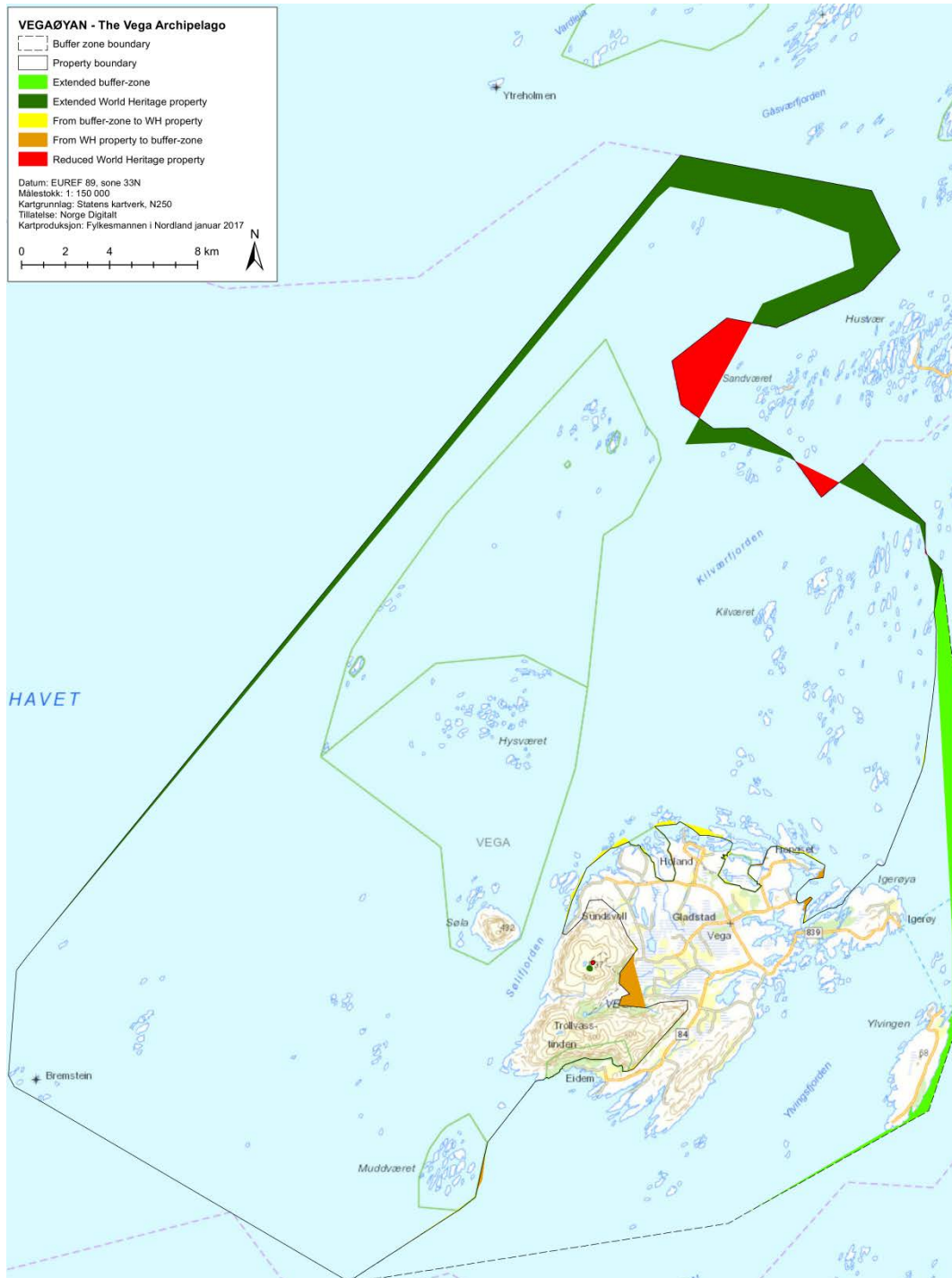
The modification request submitted by the State Party as a minor boundary modification proposes to expand the protected area by 3,584 hectares and to expand the buffer zone by 912 hectares. The new protected area would total 107,294 hectares and the buffer zone would be 28,952 hectares. These modifications to the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone aim to the harmonisation of the boundaries of the property with the official boundaries of the Municipality of Vega, which have been digitalised in 2009 and integrated within the revised Management plan for Vegaøyen.

New digital mapping resolves as well the problem with the modern farm in Moen, which was included by mistake. Moen is a modern run agricultural area that should have been put in the buffer zone at the time of the inscription, such as the other active farms, which are already part of the buffer zone of the property. This modification aims also to put the property boundaries in line with the precise digitalised boundaries of the municipality, and therefore to avoid any confusion in the management system of the property, as well as for its conservation and protection. No changes are made to the attributes of the property; all attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property remain inside the new boundary. The conditions of integrity and authenticity are not affected. The statutes and plans that relate to the property have all been updated with the new digital version of the boundaries.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary and to the buffer zone of Vegaøyen – The Vega Archipelago, Norway, **be approved.**



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property and of the buffer zone

Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) No 356 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Turkey

Name of property

Historic Areas of Istanbul

Location

City and Province of Istanbul

Turkey

Inscription

1985

Brief description

With its strategic location on the Bosphorus peninsula between the Balkans and Anatolia, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Istanbul has been associated with major political, religious and artistic events for more than 2,000 years. Its masterpieces include the ancient Hippodrome of Constantine, the 6th-century Hagia Sophia and the 16th-century Süleymaniye Mosque, all now under threat from population pressure, industrial pollution and uncontrolled urbanization.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

At the time of inscription of the property, in 1985, the boundaries of the four component sites: *Sultanahmet Archaeological Parc*, *Süleymaniye Mosque and its associated Conservation Area*, *Zeyrek Mosque (Pantocrator Church) and its associated Conservation Area* and *Land Walls of Istanbul* were not clearly defined.

Clarifications of the boundaries were approved at the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee (Brasilia, 2010), in decision 34 COM 8D.

An updated Management Plan, containing new maps, was submitted in 2011 and examined by the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, Saint Petersburg, 2012 (Decision 36 COM.7B.892). The World Heritage Committee:

[...]

6. *Requests the State Party to invite an urgent joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to*

assess progress in mitigating the visual impacts of the proposed Golden Horn Bridge, to consider proposed renewal and conservation projects, as well as progress with the overall strategic management of the property, and to assess the overall state of conservation of the property;

7. *Acknowledges the detailed information provided by the State Party on the revision of the Management Plan and on proposed renewal and conservation projects and other conservation initiatives;*

8. *Further acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to address the need for conservation plans, an effective management system, development strategies for traffic and tourism, and a buffer zone;*

9. *Also considers that the revised Management Plan is a significant improvement, commends the State Party for its scope in relation to the overall Historic Peninsula, and also requests it to address, at the first annual review of the Management Plan, the recommendations that ICOMOS has provided;*

These clarifications were not considered satisfactory by the 2012 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission as it considered the plans to be lacking in detail. The mission report urged *'the authorities to submit to the World Heritage Committee for approval without delay plans clearly defining the World Heritage property'*.

At its 37th session (Decision 37 COM 7B.85, Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee:

[...]

3. *Take notes of the results of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission and requests the State Party to implement its recommendations and to duly proceed with the annual review of the Management Plan;*

These proposals of boundary modifications is intended to eliminate differences of boundaries between World Heritage Committee decision 34.COM.8D, and indicated in the Management Plan approved in 2011, and boundaries contained in the nomination dossier submitted in 1985.

Modification

The current proposals of boundary modifications include clear, cadastral plans, based on a detailed study of archival records, including the nomination dossier. They are accompanied by comprehensive description and a full justification.

The proposals offer the opportunity both to correct the inadequate plans and anomalies endorsed by decision 34 COM.8D (Brasilia, 2010), and to make minor adjustments reflecting current understanding and management objectives. The following sets out the adjustments for three of the four component sites.

The modification request submitted by the State Party as a minor boundary modification according to the procedure outlined in the Operational Guidelines proposes to expand the area by 96,2 hectares. The new proposed area would total 765,5 hectares.

Sultanahmet Urban Archaeological Component Area of World Heritage Site (proposed area: 54 ha; 920 listed buildings)

The boundaries have been slightly extended to include the:

- Marmara Sea Walls;
- Historic grounds of the Topkapi Palace;
- Remains of the Boukoleon Palace.

Süleymaniye Mosque and its Associated Component Area of World Heritage site (proposed area: 140 ha; 992 listed buildings)

The boundaries include the addition of:

- The Süleymaniye Hamam which is an integral part of the Süleymaniye social complex;
- City blocks 468, 489, 548, and 550 which are all part of the tight-knit grain of this part of the historic city;
- Blocks 2394 and 960 flanking the Valens Aqueduct;
- Blocks 960, 962, 967 and 2384 that close a gap.

Istanbul Land Walls Component Area of World Heritage site (proposed area: 562 ha; 701 listed buildings)

The boundaries have been extended to include:

- The Marble Tower;
- Fragmentary surviving sea walls extending north-eastwards from the Marble Tower;
- One street block inside the walls to the east;
- Small areas of substantially open space, including cemeteries, outside the walls to the west but not already included in the boundaries.

ICOMOS welcomes the proposals put forward on the basis of a thorough and detailed assessments of the three component sites, their immediate settings and the archival records.

The proposed boundary delineations are set out at high resolution allowing an understanding of them in relation to individual buildings and streets. Such details will be valuable as a management tool.

On the issue of names for each of the component sites, while ICOMOS acknowledges the need to clarify that the serial property consists of four areas in order to avoid the misunderstanding that there are four World Heritage properties on the Historic Peninsula, it nevertheless considers that the names could be simplified as follows:

Süleymaniye Mosque Historic Area of Istanbul
Zekrek Mosque (Pantocrator Church) Historic Area of Istanbul
Sultanahmet Historic Area of Istanbul
Land Walls Historic Area of Istanbul

and, that where necessary, these could be followed by:
Component site of the Historic Areas of Istanbul World Heritage property.

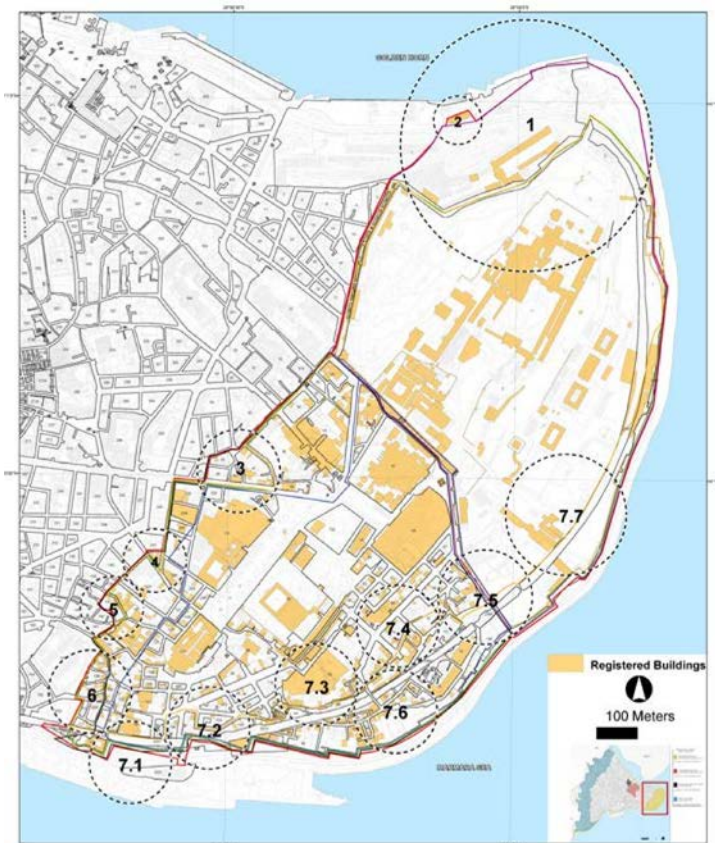
3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Historic Areas of Istanbul, Turkey, **be approved**.

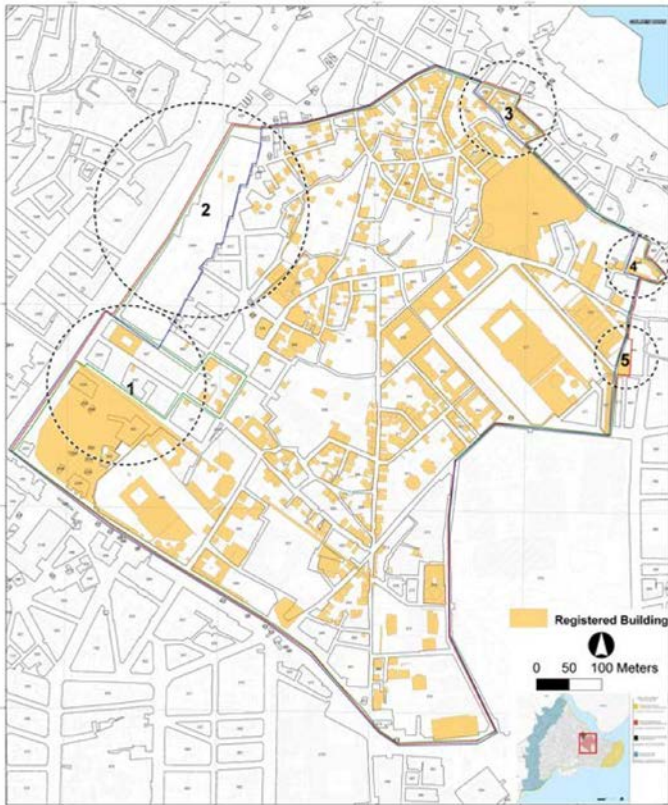
Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party consider the change of the names of the four component parts of the property.



SULTANAHMET URBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT AREA OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE	
<p>Site boundaries approved by the decision dated 17.07.1956 and numbered 513 of the Conservation Board referred in the nomination file for the UNESCO World Heritage List and adopted as the boundaries of the one of the four areas of Historic Areas of Istanbul World Heritage Site by UNESCO WHC</p> <p>Area:51 ha Registered Building :654</p>	
<p>Boundary of the Urban -Archaeological Site determined with the decision dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No1</p> <p>Area:65 ha Registered Building :792</p>	
<p>Boundary of the 1st Degree Archaeological Site determined with the decision dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No1</p> <p>Area:73 ha Registered Building :171</p>	
<p>Boundary approved in the decision WHC/34.COM/8D</p> <p>Area:109 ha Registered Building :745</p>	
<p>Boundary of Sultanahmet Urban Archaeological Component Area of World Heritage Site according to Management Plan approved in October 2011</p> <p>Area:125 ha Registered Building : 959</p>	
<p>Proposed Boundary of Sultanahmet Urban Archaeological Component Area of World Heritage Site</p> <p>Area:140 ha Registered Building : 992</p>	<p>1) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 513 dated 17.07.1956 and numbered 513 of the Conservation Board referred in the nomination file for the UNESCO World Heritage List and adopted as the boundaries of the one of the four areas of Historic Areas of Istanbul World Heritage Site by UNESCO WHC.</p> <p>2) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 654 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p> <p>3) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 792 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p> <p>4) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 171 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p> <p>5) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 745 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p> <p>6) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 959 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p> <p>7) The area approved in the decision of the Conservation Board No. 992 dated 12.07.1995 and numbered 6848 of Istanbul Conservation Board No.1.</p>

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property - Sultanahmet Urban Archaeological Component Area



SULEYMANIYE MOSQUE AND ITS ASSOCIATED COMPONENT AREA OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE

<p>Site boundaries approved by the decision dated 19.06.1981 and numbered 12851 of the Conservation Board, referred in the nomination file for the UNESCO World Heritage List and adopted as the boundaries of the one of the four areas of Historic Areas of Istanbul World Heritage Site by UNESCO WHC</p> <p>Area:51.4 ha Registered Building :878</p>
<p>Boundary approved in the decision WHC/34.COM/8D</p> <p>Area:51.8 ha Registered Building :907</p>
<p>Proposed Boundary of Süleymaniye Mosque and its Associated Component Area of World Heritage Site</p> <p>Area:54 ha Registered Building :920</p>

When the map sections provided in the annexes of the Board Decisions with respect to the boundaries are compared with the boundaries indicated in the Management Plan approved in 2011,

1-The map section approved with the 19.06.1981 dated and 12851 numbered decision included the city blocks of 960, 962, 967 and 2384 which correspond to the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Healthcare Services Directorate and the Regat Nuri Stage of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality City Theatres respectively, however these places are no longer included in the World Heritage Site in the 2011 Management Plan;

2-The city block 2899 that corresponds to the Blocks I and II of İMC (Istanbul Market for Linen Drapery) were originally not included within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site according to the 19.06.1981 dated and 12851 numbered decision, however it is included within the World Heritage Site in the 2011 Management Plan;

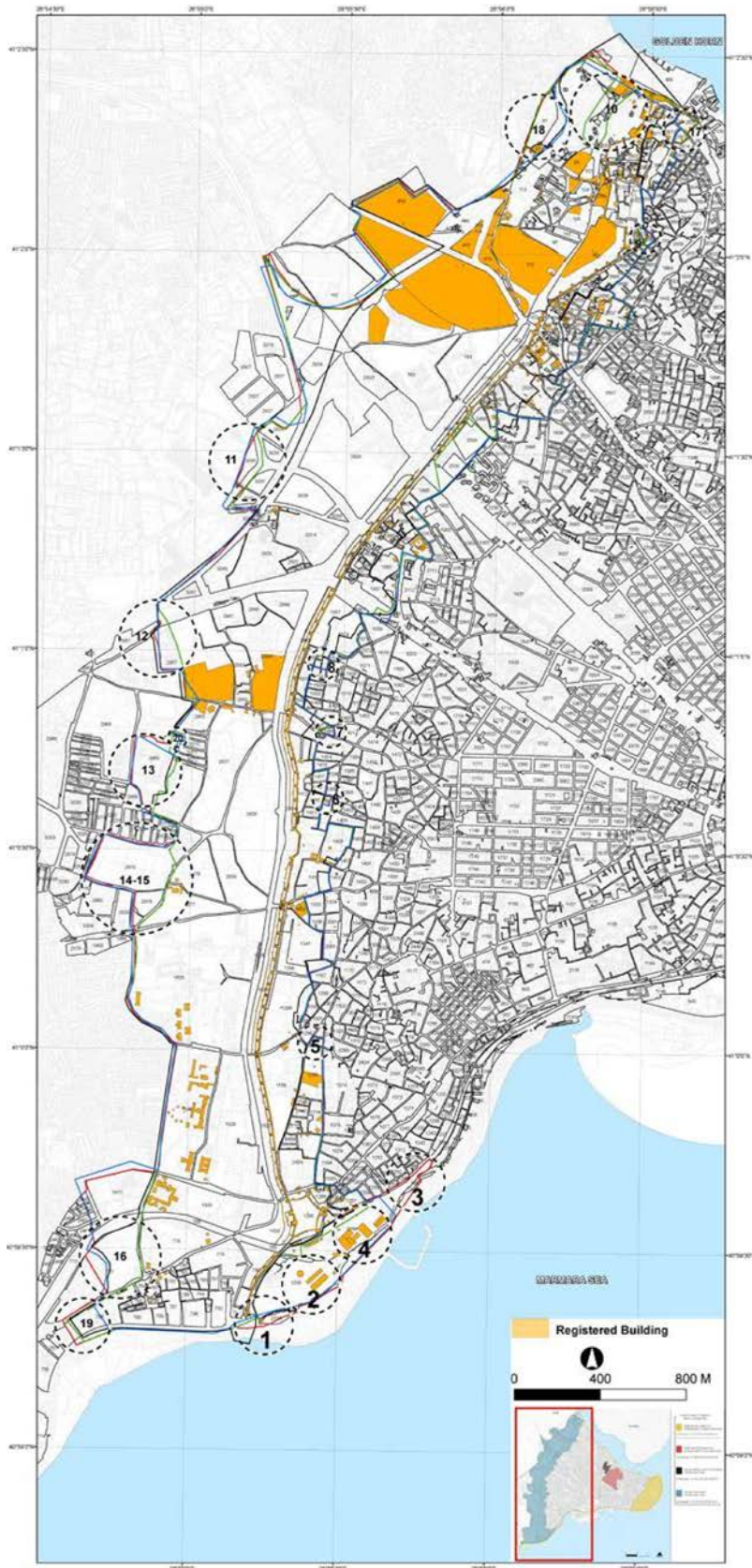
3- The City blocks 489, 548 and 550 situated on the Kızılköprü Street were originally not included within the boundaries indicated in the approval map section in the 19.06.1981 dated and numbered 12851 decision, however it is included within the World Heritage Site in the 2011 Management Plan;

4- The City block 468 on the Kapancılar, Subhanlıcazi Street was originally not included within the boundaries indicated in the approval map section in the 19.06.1981 dated and 12851 numbered decision, however it is included within the World Heritage Site in the 2011 Management Plan;

5-The Hamam (Building No. 6 on the plan) that is part of the Süleymaniye Social Complex and that is on the City Block No. 464 Plot 2 was not part of the approval map section based on the 19.06.1981 dated and 12851 numbered decision and was also not included within the boundaries of the World heritage Site in the 2011 Management Plan, however they should be included within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site in order to preserve the integrity and the originality of the Social Complex.

It was decided to include the City Block 464 Plot 2 on which the Hamam is situated and the City blocks 960, 962, 967 and 2384 on the map section approved by the 19.06.1981 dated and 12851 numbered decision in the World Heritage Site.

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property - Süleymaniye Mosque and its Associated Component Area



ISTANBUL LAND WALLS COMPONENT AREA OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE

- Site boundaries approved by the decision dated 10.06.1981 and numbered 12850 of the Conservation Board, referred in the nomination file for the UNESCO World Heritage List and adopted as the boundaries of the one of the four areas of historic Areas of Istanbul World Heritage Site by UNESCO WHC.
Area: 548 ha
Registered Building: 536
- Land Walls Internal Conservation Belt Boundary Current boundaries determined in accordance with the decisions of Conservation Board taken at different times.
Area: 476 ha
Registered Building: 476
- Boundary approved in the decision WHO/04.COM/8D
Area: 458 ha
Registered Building: 557
- Proposed Boundary of Istanbul Land Walls Component Area of World Heritage Site
Area: 561 ha
Registered Building: 701

When the map sections provided as annex to the Board's decision with respect to the boundaries are compared with the boundaries indicated in the Historic Peninsula Management Plan approved in 2011:

- The plots that are not within the 2011 Management Plan World Heritage Site boundaries although they are within the Land Walls Internal Protection Band on the boundaries of the Land Walls Zoning Plan approved by the 19/06/1981 dated 12850 numbered decision that was the basis for the UNESCO application file submitted in 1985,
 - The Block No. 1256 Plot No. 7 that includes the Miski Tower,
 - The Block No. 1256 Plots 4, 8 and 11 that includes the İETT Yedikule Garhanevi,
 - 3-Part of the Block No. 2384 Plot No. 2 that includes the TCDD Yedikule Station,
 - The Plots No. 5, 6 and 7 that include the TCDD Yedikule Traction Workshops,
 - The Block No. 1295 Plot No. 1, 2 and 3,
 - The Block No. 1400 Plot No. 6 that includes the Yedikule Karahayri Mescidi,
 - The Block No. 1408 Plot No. 21 that includes the Hacı Evfya Mescidi,
 - The Block No. 1507 Plot No. 3, 4 and 5,
 - The Block No. 2080 that includes the missing registered plots of Monumental Kanlıca Synagogue,
 - The blocks that were originally not included in the Land Walls External Protection Band on the boundaries of the Land Walls Zoning Plan approved by the 19/06/1981 dated 12850 numbered decision that was taken as the basis in the application file submitted to the UNESCO but that stay within the 2011 management Plan World Heritage Site boundaries,
 - The Blocks 2821 and 2873
 - The Block No.2965 Plot No.20
 - The plots that were originally not included in the Land Walls External Protection Band on the boundaries of the Land Walls Zoning Plan approved by the 19/06/1981 dated 12850 numbered decision that was taken as the basis in the application file submitted to the UNESCO but that stay within the 2011 management Plan World Heritage Site boundaries,
 - The median strip on the E-5 highway on which the Block No. 88 and 89 of the Eyüp District are located,
 - The Catholic Cemetery situated on the Block No. 3033 in the District of Zeytinburnu,
 - The Block No. 2957 Plot No. 4-23 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - The Block No. 2965 Plot No. 27, 31 and 32 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - The Bahalı Armenian Cemetery situated on Block No. 2978 and Block No. 3305, 5 plots and Block No. 2979 Plot No. 4-11,
 - The Block No. 2978 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - The Karahayri Cemetery situated on Block No. 771 Plot No. 7 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - The plots that are not within the 2011 Management Plan World Heritage Site boundaries although they are not within the Land Walls Internal Protection Band on the boundaries of the Land Walls Zoning Plan approved by the 19/06/1981 dated 12850 numbered decision that was the basis for the UNESCO application file submitted in 1985,
 - The National Sovereignty Park situated on the Block No. 91/03 within the district of Eyüp,
 - Block No. 758, Plot No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 27, 28, 29 and 30 situated within the District of Zeytinburnu
- In the light of the examinations and studies made, it was decided to include the following locations within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site based on the 19/06/1981 dated 12850 numbered decision that was the basis for the UNESCO application file submitted in 1985:
- 1- The Block No. 1256 Plot No. 7 on which the Miski Tower is situated,
 - 2- The Block No. 1256 Plot No. 4, 8 and 11 on which the İETT Yedikule Garhanevi is situated,
 - 3- Part of the Block No. 2384 Plot No. 2 that includes the TCDD Yedikule Station,
 - 4- The Plot No. 5, 6 and 7 on which the TCDD Yedikule Traction Workshops are situated,
 - 5- The Block No. 1295 Plot No. 1, 2 and 3,
 - 6- The Block No. 1400 Plot No. 6 on which the Yedikule Karahayri Mescidi is situated,
 - 7- The Block No. 1408 Plot No. 21 on which the Hacı Evfya Mescidi is situated,
 - 8- The Block No. 1507 Plot No. 3, 4 and 5,
 - 9- The Block No. 2080 that includes the missing registered plots of the Monumental Kanlıca Synagogue,
 - 10- The Median Strip on the E-5 Highway on which the Block No. 88 and 89 in the district of Eyüp are situated,
 - 11- The Catholic Cemetery situated on Block No. 3033 in the District of Zeytinburnu,
 - 12- The Block No. 2957 Plot No. 2-23 in the District of Zeytinburnu,
 - 13- The Block No. 2965 Plot No. 27, 31 and 32 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - 14- The Bahalı Armenian Cemetery situated on Block No. 2978 and Block No. 3305, 5 plots and the Block No. 2979 Plot No. 4-11,
 - 15- The Block No. 2978 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - 16- The Karahayri Cemetery situated on Block No. 771 Plot No. 7 in the district of Zeytinburnu.
- Based on the principle of not narrowing down the World Heritage Site boundaries, it was decided to preserve the following locations within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site:
- 17- The Block No. 2821 and 2873 in Ayvansaray,
 - 18- The National Sovereignty Park on which Block No. 91/03 is located in the district of Eyüp,
 - 19- The Block No. 758, Plot No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 27, 28, 29 and 30 in the district of Zeytinburnu,
 - 20- The Block No. 2965 Plot No. 20 in the District of Zeytinburnu.

Map showing the revised boundaries of the property - Istanbul Land Walls Component Area

Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) No 95 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Croatia

Name of property

Old City of Dubrovnik

Location

County of Dubrovnik-Neretva, Adriatic Coast

Croatia

Inscription

1979

Brief description

The 'Pearl of the Adriatic', situated on the Dalmatian coast, became an important Mediterranean sea power from the 13th century onwards. Although severely damaged by an earthquake in 1667, Dubrovnik managed to preserve its beautiful Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Damaged again in the 1990s by armed conflict, it is now the focus of a major restoration programme co-ordinated by UNESCO.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The World Heritage property of the Old City of Dubrovnik, comprising an area of 24.7 ha, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979 under criteria (i), (iii) and (iv) initially with no buffer zone. The boundaries were modified in 1994 when property was extended to 96.7 ha to include areas outside the city walls: the Pile medieval industrial suburb, the Lovrijenac Fortress, the Lazarets, the Kase moles, the Revelin Fortress, and the island of Lokrum to the south-east of Dubrovnik, some 500m from the coast, and a smaller buffer zone comprising 53.7 ha was established. Due to the serious damage during the Croatian War of Independence (1991-1995), the property has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in danger from 1991 to 1998. Despite the 1994 extension, several State of Conservation (SOC) reports and the second Cycle Periodic Reporting (2014) indicated the need for extension of the buffer zone in order to better present the property at its wider setting including the immediate and important areas that are functionally important to the property and to effectively provide an

added layer of protection to the property from the growing pressures of development and tourism.

After receiving information from civil society, the World Heritage Centre requested that the State Party provide clarification on a large resort project in the vicinity of the World Heritage property, as well as on the progress in the regulation of cruise ship tourism. On 28 January 2014, the State Party submitted a SOC report providing details regarding the potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value of cruise ship tourism, as well as of the planned sport and recreation centre with a golf course and tourist village. The State Party reported that the proposed recreational centre would cover an area of protected forest for some 359 ha on the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka, situated directly above the City of Dubrovnik. The proposal included the construction of two golf courses, a sports centre, two hotels, 240 villas, 408 apartments, an amphitheatre, equestrian club, parks, promenades, and other facilities. Some of the villas would be constructed at the edge of the escarpment giving them views over the Old City.

At its 38th session (Decision 38 COM 7B.25, Doha, 2014), the World Heritage Committee took note of the information submitted by the State Party regarding the large project planned for the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka in the vicinity of the World Heritage property and requested the State Party to provide the project documentation and the respective Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any development works started and any final decision has been taken. The documents provided by the State Party demonstrated that the large size of the development project could have an irreversible impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The development project would eradicate the clear distinction that has historically existed between the urban complex of Dubrovnik, as a unique creation of medieval architecture and town planning, its landscape and rural environment setting. The analytical documentation annexed to the SOC report provided by the State Party did not assess the proposed development in terms of its potential impacts on the attributes that sustain the Old City of Dubrovnik's Outstanding Universal Value. Given the current situation the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property to assess current conditions at the property, including the evaluation of potential development impacts and identify options for development proposals in accordance to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (Decision 38 COM 7B.25), especially in regard to the large project planned for the plateau of Mount Srđ and Bosanka.

Following development plans submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre and Decision 38 COM 7B.25, a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission took place between 27 October and 1 November 2015. With regards to the boundary issues, the Mission recommended that the State Party considers the development and submission to the World Heritage

Centre of a minor boundary modification proposal for an extension of the buffer zone to include the west facing slopes of Mount Srđ, the sea area around the Island of Lokrum and the fortress landscape of the Srđ plateau. At its 40th session (Istanbul, 2016), the World Heritage Committee decided by the decision 40 COM 7B.50 to:

[...]

4. *Endorses* the recommendations of the 2015 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and also requests the State Party to give the highest priority to the implementation of its recommendations, notably to:

1. *Develop and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the Management Plan of the property, including a tourism strategy, legal regulations for cruise ship tourism, identification of the sustainable carrying capacity of the city, a risk-preparedness action plan and an interpretation strategy,*
2. *Not to proceed with the Bosanka 2 project, nor to construct the Lazeretto; Quay/Landing Stage with connection to the Old Port,*
3. *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2017, a minor boundary modification proposal with a view to expanding the buffer zone as recommended by the mission,*

This proposed minor modification of boundaries is the State Party's response to the Committee's decision.

Modification

The proposed minor modification of boundaries consists of an extension of the buffer zone from the existing 53.7 ha to 1,188.6 ha, while the boundaries of the inscribed property remain unchanged. According to the State Party, the proposed extended buffer zone is defined partly by administrative boundaries of the city, and partly following the topography of the terrain in order to preserve important views: in the east, the boundary corresponds with the administrative boundary of the city where it rises from the coastline to the Žarkovica peak, then continuing towards the northwest along the ridge of the Mount Srđ ending in the River of Dubrovnik. The boundary then crosses the Gruž bay and continues parallel to the southern coast to the Montovjerna hill, and then descends to the bay of Danče. From there, the boundary continues comprising waters of the old city and island of Lokrum and returns to the coast at the Bay Orsula.

The State Party holds that the enlarged buffer zone aims at incorporating surrounding urban and landscape areas, embracing all the inseparable areas attached to the old town, namely: east and west suburbs, the slopes of the Mount Srđ and waters in front of the old harbour and the island of Lokrum. The extension of the existing buffer zone is justified by the State Party on the grounds that adding areas of urban and natural landscape as inseparable integral areas will enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the Old City of Dubrovnik. All of these areas of the proposed new buffer zone complement and highlight the historical functional, urban identity and integrity of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the general reasons for establishing a buffer zone for the Old City of Dubrovnik have been clearly explained, but, while the minor boundary modification proposal seems to follow most of the

recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission on the boundary issues, it nevertheless fails to clarify fully the rationale underlying the delimitation of the proposed boundaries.

Then, although the Mission report recommends that the slopes of Mount Srđ be included into the buffer zone and presents a map illustrating a possible delimitation, in the map presented in the State Party's proposal, the boundary of the buffer zone excludes some areas of the slopes of Mount Srđ that are included in the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission report.

Therefore, ICOMOS considers that it would be helpful if the State Party could outline the methodological framework that was used for the definition of the buffer zone for the property and describe in detail, also through graphical and photographic documentation, how the buffer zone is demarcated in relation to the administrative boundaries of the city and the topography as well as in relation to the important views (e.g. from the city towards the hills). The minor boundary modification dossier presents fifteen photos presenting some areas of the proposed buffer zone extension but these panoramic views have no caption and have not been clearly indicated on the maps provided, nor in any cartographic documentation or visual simulation. Thus, ICOMOS is of the view that a detailed description of the analysis and methodological frameworks that informed the decision made concerning the delineation of the proposed boundaries of the buffer zone is required.

According to the State Party, the whole area of the inscribed property together with the proposed buffer zone is currently regulated by spatial planning documents including the General Urban Plan of the City of Dubrovnik. ICOMOS understands that the process of preparing the Management Plan for the property started in 2014 and the Institute for Restoration of Dubrovnik has been recently appointed to co-ordinate the elaboration of the Management Plan. ICOMOS believes that the prompt finalisation and approval of the Management Plan for the property is of utmost importance as a means of ensuring that the buffer zone is able to provide an effective protection for the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property.

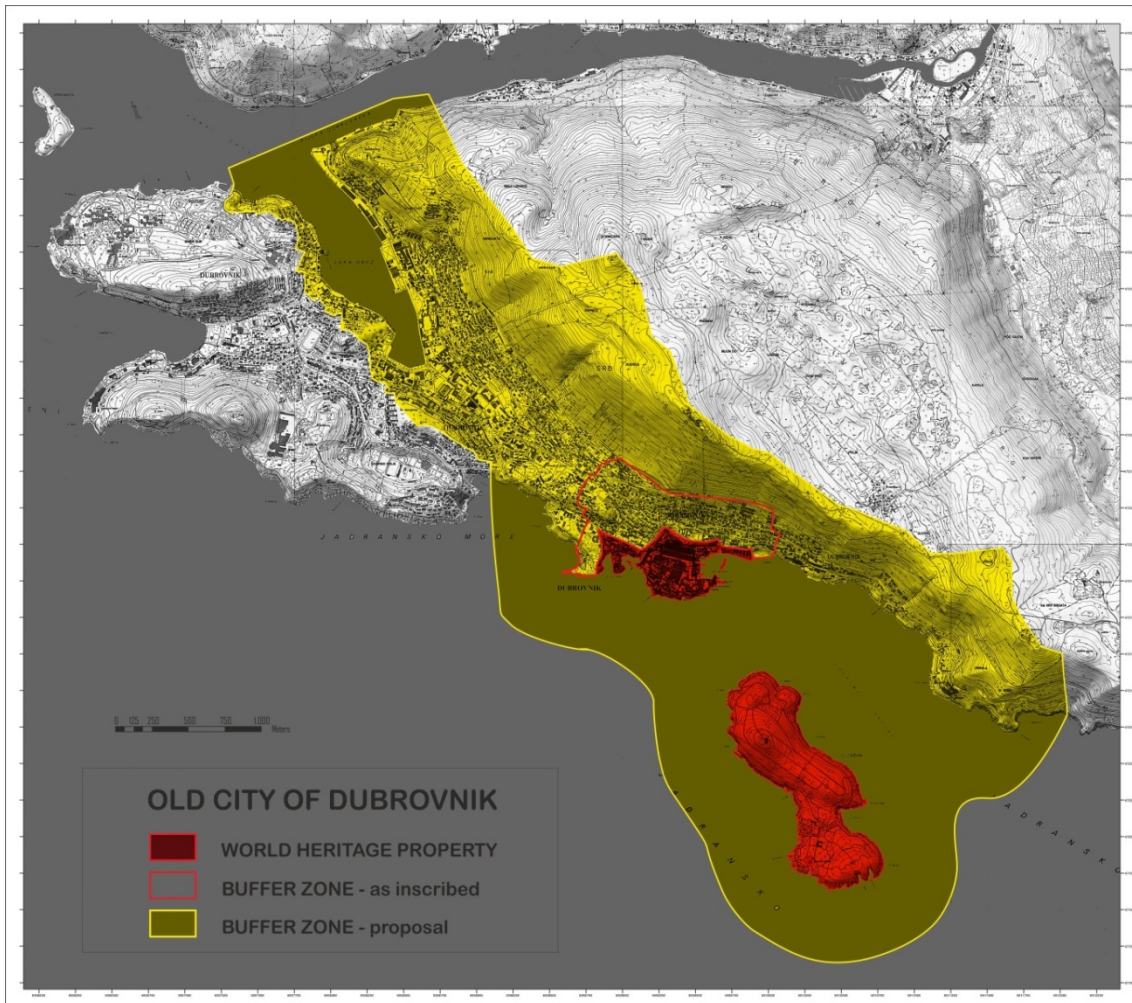
Additionally, ICOMOS is of the view that it would be desirable to have a legal Act which limits, or prohibits, the passage and mooring of boats, ships and yachts (except the passage of small boats transporting the visitors to the Lokrum island) in the coastal area between the old city and Lokrum island, in accordance with the proposed revision of the boundaries and extension of the buffer zone.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the examination of the minor modification to the boundary of Old City of Dubrovnik, Croatia, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- a) Explain in detail the methodological framework and rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, also through cartographic, graphic and photographic documentation, in particular with regard to the protection of the relevant visual links of the inscribed property with the surrounding setting,
- b) Clarify how and by when the Management Plan will be finalised and amended so as to include the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the buffer zone to effectively act as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,
- c) Limit the passage and mooring of boats, ships and yachts (except the passage of small boats transporting the visitors to the Lokrum Island) in the coastal area between the old city and Lokrum Island;



Map showing the proposed boundaries of the buffer zone

Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia)

No 708 Bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Georgia

Name of property

Historical Monuments of Mtskheta

Location

City of Mtskheta

Region of Mtskheta-Mtianeti

Georgia

Inscription

1994

Brief description

The historic churches of Mtskheta, former capital of Georgia, are outstanding examples of medieval religious architecture in the Caucasus. They show the high artistic and cultural level attained by this ancient kingdom.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

10 March 2017

2 Issues raised

Background

The Historic Monuments of Mtskheta were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1994 on the basis of cultural criteria (iii) and (iv), under the name of 'City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta'.

In 2002, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a UNESCO-ICOMOS mission to visit the site in response to ongoing constructions and degradations at the site (Decision CONF 202 21B.46). Following the report of that mission, the World Heritage Committee urged the State Party to prepare a detailed map of the property and buffer zone, amongst other matters (Decision 28 COM 15B.69). Following progress with this mapping, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to submit a boundaries clarification document and, if relevant, a boundaries modification proposal (Decision 32 COM 7B.90).

The World Heritage Committee included the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2009 because of serious concerns about the state of conservation of the property, and also noted the lack of documents clarifying

the boundaries and buffer zone (Decisions 33 COM 7B.102 and 33 COM 8C.1). The World Heritage Committee subsequently adopted a Desired State of Conservation for the property for its future removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger including, in particular clearly marked boundaries and a buffer zone precisely identified, and implementation of the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (Decision 34 COM 7A.27).

The property boundaries were clarified by the State Party in response to the Retrospective Inventory (Decision 36 COM 8D).

By Decision 40 COM 7A.29, the World Heritage Committee:

5. *Decides* to remove the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

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

c) Pursue a stakeholder involvement strategy and methodology, together with communication tools,

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

in order to finalize and implement the ULUMP including supportive land use regulations, and a management plan, and also continue to ensure the long term conservation of monuments and archaeological sites through the development of adequate plans and restoration programmes;

7. *Welcomes* the establishment of a unified buffer zone, encompassing the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting and requests the State Party 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;

8. *Also welcomes* the initiative of the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;

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, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

During this long process, there were a number of missions, mission reports and State of Conservation Reports, which contributed to the deliberations of the World Heritage Committee.

Modification

The State Party proposes a modified buffer zone for the property in recognition that the current buffer zone is too small, and is not sufficient to protect the property. The buffer zone will increase substantially from 8.73 ha to 2,382.5 ha. The proposal provides a unified buffer zone for the three components of the property, and encompasses the landscape surrounding the components including the panorama along the rivers and mountain setting.

The development of the modified buffer zone is the result of a process including the integrated Site Management Plan (2012), previously submitted to the World Heritage Centre, the Pilot Study of the Mtskheta Cultural Landscape (2014), the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (2016), and the use of GIS tools.

ICOMOS acknowledges that the modified buffer zone is a major improvement compared to the existing situation, and should enable the protection of the property.

The modified buffer zone strengthens the multi-stakeholder, integrated management of the property introduced through the Site Management Plan. However, no additional management instruments are proposed, and the inter-ministerial committee led by the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia will manage the modified buffer zone in accordance with the Site Management Plan.

The proposed buffer zone does not have a single character, including as it does both old and new town areas, as well as rural areas. In order to effectively manage the buffer zone, specific provisions are required to address the different areas. This should be undertaken as part of the elaboration of the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan. For example, in the case of the historic town, provisions might address future building activity relating to height, mass and materials, as well as future uses, areas where new construction is prohibited, archaeological zones, and rehabilitation areas. Measures might be specified for the future rectification of existing buildings, which are inconsistent with the protection of the property.

In addition, the medium to long term future social and development aspirations within and outside the historic town should be considered and properly planned within the context of protection of the property.

The Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia adopted by decree the Unified Visual Protection Area (Buffer Zone) of the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta in 2016. This is as an Individual Visual Protection Area under the national Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage (2007). It is intended this will provide an additional layer of protection, promote rehabilitation of degraded parts of the landscape, and prevent inadequate interventions. All intervention proposals within the buffer zone are to be forwarded by the local municipality to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia for consideration and approval.

While this additional layer of protection is welcome, it also appears to leave in place the other protective instruments and mechanisms. This creates the possibility that protection may not be fully integrated. Consideration should be given to harmonising the range of instruments and mechanisms to ensure integrated and comprehensive protection.

The protection and management of the property requires close monitoring at least when the new buffer zone is implemented.

ICOMOS considers the modified buffer zone is adequate and appropriate for the protection of the property. However, the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan needs to be elaborated through specific provisions to address the management of different areas. The range of protective instruments and mechanisms should also be reviewed to ensure integrated and comprehensive protection, and the protection and management of the property should be closely monitored, at least for an initial period.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, Georgia, **be approved**.

Additional recommendations

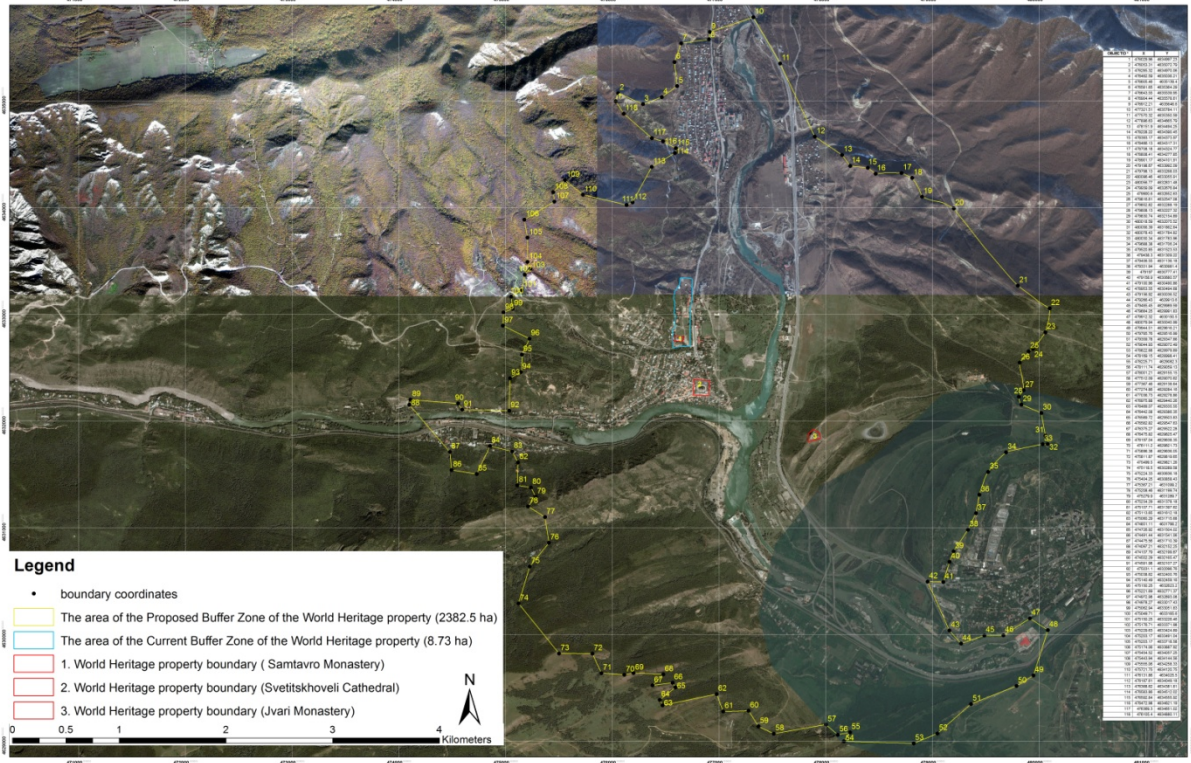
ICOMOS recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:

- a) Elaborating the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan through specific provisions to address the management of different areas,
- b) Reviewing the range of protective instruments and mechanisms to ensure integrated and comprehensive protection;

ICOMOS recommends, if a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission is organised, to assess the effectiveness of management of the modified buffer zone.

ICOMOS recommends also the State Party be requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2018, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

Proposed Buffer Zone of the World Heritage property. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta



Map showing the proposed buffer zone

