

ICOMOS

2015

Addendum

Evaluations of Nominations of Cultural and Mixed Properties to the World Heritage List

ICOMOS Report for the World Heritage Committee
39th ordinary session, Bonn, June - July 2015

WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add



UNESCO

World Heritage Convention
World Heritage Committee

2015
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The Cultural Landscape of Maymand (Islamic Republic of Iran) No 1423rev

Official name as proposed by the State Party

The Cultural Landscape of Maymand

Location

Kermān Province, Shahr-e Bābak Township
Islamic Republic of Iran

Brief description

Maymand is an isolated semi-desert area at the head of a valley in the southern end of Iran's central range of mountains. Surrounding the village on three sides are dramatic mountain peaks rising to around 2,000 metres.

The people of Maymand are semi-nomadic agro-pastoralists herding sheep and cattle on the mountain pastures where they have temporary spring, summer and autumn settlements. Around the summer houses are pistachio orchards and terraced arable fields for wheat and barley.

During the winter months they live lower down in troglodytic houses carved out of soft *kamar* rock. These are reputed to have been lived in continuously for thousands of years.

In this extremely arid area, water for crops and animals was traditionally harvested from multiple sources: springs, rainfall tanks, a network of seasonal rivers and subterranean pools channelled along 51 underground qanats. Many of these have now been supplanted by small reservoirs and pipes.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2013) paragraph 47, it is also a *cultural landscape*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

9 August 2007

International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund for preparing the Nomination

None

Date received by the World Heritage Centre

30 January 2012

29 January 2015

Background

This is a referred back nomination.

At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee adopted the following decision:

Decision 37 COM 8B.27:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-13/37.COM/8B, WHC-13/37.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC-13/37.COM/INF.8B4,*

2. *Recognizing the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, refers the nomination of the Cultural Landscape of Maymand, Iran (Islamic Republic of) back to the State Party, in order to allow it to set the property into its wider agro-pastoral context, and demonstrate in which way the site is an outstanding reflection of transhumance in its geo-cultural region;*

3. *Requests the State Party and the Advisory Bodies to continue to work closely on the nomination dossier as well as with the other States Parties, especially those in the region, to promote the concept of Desert Cultural Landscape;*

4. *Also requests the State Party to develop a land-use strategy that integrates traditional agro-pastoralism into an economic development strategy.*

ICOMOS had a meeting with the State Party during the 37th World Heritage Committee session and a note was sent in August 2013 to the State Party on the nomination responding to the World Heritage Committee's decision 37 COM 8B.27. No further dialogue has had since that time.

In January 2015, the State Party submitted additional complementary information which included reports on nomadism in Maymand, description of Maymand's agro-pastoral lifestyle, and history and archaeology of Maymand.

Consultations

ICOMOS consulted its International Scientific Committees on Cultural Landscapes and Vernacular Architecture and several independent experts.

IUCN provided comments on this cultural landscape on 19 December 2012. The information was carefully considered by ICOMOS in reaching its final decision and recommendation in March 2013, and IUCN has also reviewed the presentation of its comments as included in the report by ICOMOS in 2013.

Technical Evaluation Mission

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property from 5 to 11 November 2012. Since the 37th World Heritage Committee session, there have been no further missions.

Additional information requested and received from the State Party

The State Party submitted Additional Information on 29 January 2015 under the referral process.

This provided complementary information to the original nomination dossier on the following main aspects: Nomadism, Sustainable Management of the Maymand Landscape, History and Archaeology of Maymand, and Augmented Comparative Analysis.

These included much more specific details than in the original nomination dossier on the history of the area and on the socio-economic system of agro-pastoralism that shaped the landscape.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 The property

Description

Maymand is a south facing valley within the arid chain of Iran's central mountains.

The villagers are agro-pastoralists and practice a distinctive type of transhumance which involves moving with their animals to different pastures, traditionally four, and more recently three, times a year.

In the exceptionally arid climate, traditionally every drop of water needed to be collected from a variety of source to provide enough for the animals, orchards and small vegetable plots.

The community is said to have a strong bond with the natural environment that is expressed in social practices, cultural ceremonies and religious beliefs.

Although communities in other neighbouring valleys practice very similar livelihoods, in the Maymand valley there is one difference: the winter housing is troglodytic, carved out of a particular soft stone in one part of the mountain chain. These troglodytic houses are said to have been lived in for thousands of years.

In response to what are seen as deteriorating climatic conditions in the valley, which are impacting adversely on farming, the villagers have initiated creative strategies to improve their living standards. Among these are more modern methods of water storage using small dams, concrete pipes and tanks.

The strong social structures are also beginning to weaken as people move into the valley from other areas such as Kerman and Yazd and others move out to the nearby town. These changes are starting to impact on the pattern of seasonal movements which have in recent years been reduced from four to three a year and on the full time occupation of the valley. In winter although some people

stay in the troglodytic houses during the cold winter months, many others move to nearby towns.

The nominated property covers an area of 4,985.85 hectares and the buffer zone covers an area of 7,024.65 hectares.

The property consists of the following:

Houses and animal shelters

There are traditionally four types of houses that relate to the traditional four phase seasonal migrations. These are: *Sar-e-Āghol*, *Eshām*, *Sar-e-Bāgh* and the *Kiches*, the troglodyte houses of Maymand. Three of these are temporary houses, while the fourth, the troglodytic houses, are permanent. The second type, *Eshām*, is the one that now has very limited use.

Sar-e-Āghol are settlements used from the end of winter until late spring and are on the southern fields. They consist of houses and shelters for animals. The houses come in two different types. *Markhāneh* are circular houses, semi-underground to shelter them from the wind, with low dry stone wall and a roof covering of wood and thatch of wild thistles. *Mashkdān* houses are above ground and built with dry stone walls and a conical roof of branches.

Some of the buildings for cattle are much more substantial and have barrel vaulted brick or stone roofs. There are also stone lined *Kūz* and *Darkūz*, underground chambers for lambs, and enclosures for animals, that come in three types: *Talgard*, constructed of stones, wood and branches, and *Jirehdān* and *Zendān*, both built with stone.

Eshām houses were used for a short period in early spring at places where wild almonds could be collected. Traditionally the houses were tents of goat hair or shelters of brushwood. This is the second of the four stage transhumance that has almost disappeared.

Sar-e-Bāgh houses are used during summer and early autumn. The groups of houses are sited near seasonal rivers. When the weather is hot the structures are light. Dry stone walls support a roof structure of vertical and horizontal timbers covered with grass thatch. In inclement weather more substantial houses are constructed with taller stone walls and a conical roof. When the houses are un-occupied the roof covering is removed.

Cattle are collected in roofless stone enclosures.

Near seasonal rivers around these summer villages are terraces for growing wheat and barley, and the remains or now ruined water-mills (of which one has been restored). Pits for boiling and straining grape juice are still in use as are *Kel-e-Dūshāb* which are used to contain the resulting *Dūshāb* or syrup of grapes.

The troglodyte houses of Maymand are used during the late autumn and winter. Carved out of the soft rock on both sides of a shallow valley, they are constructed in layers of up to five houses in height. The houses are connected by very narrow paths, some with stone stairs.

Around 400 *Kiches* or houses have been identified. Each house has between one and seven rooms. Traditionally these were used for living, and storage. Most rooms have only one opening, the door, but a few have skylights. The entrance doorways were embellished with a variety of different types of carved arches.

123 units are intact but only around 40 still inhabited. Other *Kiches* are used as a management centre, guest house, restaurant, handicraft shop, workshops, child centre, etc.

In the centre of the village is an open central space used for ceremonies and meetings and now also for shopping. There is also a mosque, former bath house, former school (now a cultural centre) and a possible fire temple.

New buildings have also been built in the village such as a large laboratory, and an interpretation centre, both built in the 1960s. These are being remodelled, to allow them to fit in better with the traditional buildings.

The nomination dossier contains detailed photographs and survey drawings of all aspects of the various types of traditional dwellings.

Water collection

Traditionally water was gathered from all available sources such as rivers, springs and subterranean pools and collected in reservoirs or channelled through underground *qanats* to the fields and village.

Although no detailed information has been provided in the nomination dossier on the layout, or construction of the 51 *qanats* mentioned in the nomination dossier, a research project has identified the *qanats*, and well and set out remedial proposals for their problems. It is understood that currently only two are still working.

The village has now a public water system that has been built in recent years to assure a regular distribution of water for irrigation even in times of severe drought. Small dams have been constructed, and some water is also now provided by water tankers.

As a result stone reservoirs for drinking water have largely been abandoned.

Agro-pastoral systems

This nomination is based on the agro-pastoral transhumance system of moving flocks of sheep and herds of cattle to different pastures following the new grass and other plants as they emerge in the spring and summer months. Near the summer pastures, terraced fields grow crops of wheat and barley.

In its first evaluation, ICOMOS noted that although very detailed information is provided for the various types of houses, almost no information is given on the agro-pastoral system. Are the farmers self-sufficient or do they sell some of their animals for meat? How is the sheep wool used? Do the arable crops just feed the families? Have numbers of animals increased in recent years? How are grazing ground allocated? And who decides or how grazing lands are apportioned and when families will move from one grazing ground to the next? The supplementary information provided has begun to address these issues.

First it defines the agro-pastoral system as a special type of nomadism where there is an internal migration (i.e. within the territory of the community) performed three times a year, between three fixed settlement areas, and where it is the people who move rather than people and animals.

Rock Art and other archaeological sites

The nomination dossier refers to various rock art sites scattered across the area, and other evidence of pre-historic and early historic activities such as *Dezhs* (forts) and pre-Islamic graves. However few details are provided as to the location of these sites, or of research associated with them.

History and development

The additional information provided shows that although fragments of pottery attest to some sort of habitation in the Maymand area between 6th and 4th century BC and specifically in the Caste area around 2,000 years ago, there is no direct evidence of settlement in Maymand before the Islamic era. Before that time, the area could have been used for temporary, nomadic habitation as indicated by remains of stone for weighting tent structures.

The permanent settlements developed sometime before the 16th century. The cave houses together with the castle on the highest point provided defence for communities living in the valley. Two other villages in the vicinity also show evidence of defensive cave houses: LaKhorrin and Pish Esta, but these are now abandoned.

Maymand gained importance in the late 17th century when it became an economic and cultural centre. It was a source of livestock but also the target for invaders and refugees. Its trade brought prosperity and this led to an increase in population and the development of satellite villages in the hinterland where, although the houses were not rock cut, they followed a similar layout. Over the next century new land was cultivated as a result of agricultural prosperity, water mills increased, as did the construction of cemeteries.

By the late 18th century, the security of the area came with wider control and the castle was abandoned. By the mid-19th century, security had deteriorated and the area appears to have been subject to raids which had a

detrimental impact on agricultural production bringing about a gradual decline in the population of the area.

In modern times, during the 1950s, an increase in population led to the development of new houses in the village constructed out of bricks. Around 44 still exist. Even more recently, materials such as iron and glass have been used to a limited degree but are said to have impacted on the overall unity of the village.

3 Justification for inscription, integrity and authenticity

Comparative analysis

The initial comparative analysis was divided into two parts. The first dealt with comparison of troglodyte rock cut dwellings while the second part considered sites reflecting transhumance.

For Troglodyte dwellings, comparisons were made with sites in Iran including the villages of Kandovān, Hīlehvar, Sevar, Qorveh, and Vīnd, the underground town of Nūsh Ābād, Karaftū Cave and the following sites: Chelleh Khāneh in Būshehr, Zoroastrian (Gabrī) grottoes in Khārk Island, Tamīn village in Sīstān and Balūchestān province, Zoroastrian (Gabrī) houses around Tabas, and similar sites near Ābesk.

Some of these sites have much grander examples of troglodytic architecture, comparable to some extent to that of Cappadocia, particularly Kandovān. However, this village is said to be compromised by tourism and inappropriate conversions. Hīlehvar has been abandoned; Sevar could have been developed for animals rather than humans. While Qorveh village has similarities, it has been abandoned and new houses constructed. And none of these sites are said to be associated with three phase transhumance.

The underground town of Nūsh Ābād was built below the existing town for defence purposes. Therefore it was never lived in full time except in times of siege. Karaftū Cave because of its pictographs and dated potsherds is important but not a residential unit.

Outside Iran, Maymand was compared with a selection of rock-cut structures in Cappadocia, Matera, Syracuse, Petra, Santorin, Greece, Bamiyan Valley, and Huang Ho (Yellow river) in China, with caves and grottoes in India, and with villages in Tunisia.

ICOMOS noted that these comparisons are interesting but rather too broad. Several millions of people live in rock cut and underground houses in China; and the ceremonial sites of Petra and India are hardly comparable in terms of function. The conclusion drawn is that the rock in Maymand is different from elsewhere in terms of geology, spatial organization, landscape and continuation of life. But what has not been demonstrated is that the troglodytic dwellings on their own are

exceptional for the way the ensemble has been created out of the soft rock.

For transhumance, Maymand is compared mainly with other societies in Iran. It is noted that there are broadly two types of nomadism, fully nomadic and partly nomadic. The Maymand community comes into the latter category, moving seasonally from a fixed base. It is further noted that no common view exists of the delineation and boundaries of nomadic groups of people in Iran. The comparison suggests that Maymand is the only place where three phase migrations take place in association with troglodytic dwellings.

The supplementary information provided on comparative analysis is based on a survey undertaken of the Maymand valley and its adjacent regions where there is a similar climate and similar cultural conditions. This survey considered the troglodytic settlements in their wider landscape context, lining them to their productive heartland. The survey included field visits, surveys and interviews as well as a literature search. This survey has provided much more details on the overall Maymand system and this is reflected in the description section.

Comparisons were also widened to consider the dry, desert agro-pastoral system with those of other similar dry desert areas.

What has not been considered in detail is the precise relationship to other areas in the wider region through collaboration with other countries, as suggested by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 37 COM 8B.27.

Nevertheless, based on the decision of the World Heritage Committee to acknowledge Outstanding Universal Value, it should be assumed that Maymand is considered exceptional as an agro-pastoral landscape in a dry desert environment that reflects a three phased approach involving the movement of people rather than animals.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis, and the additional research undertaken by ICOMOS, have illustrated that the Outstanding Universal Value identified by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 37COM.8B.27, can best be related to the idea of Maymand as a very specific manifestation of a three phase agro-pastoral system of transhumance in a dry desert environment that involves the movement of people rather than animals to three defined settlement areas, one of which is cave dwellings.

Justification of Outstanding Universal Value

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- Maymand is an outstanding example of a three-phased transhumance system of agro-pastoralism that still continues to be practised.
- The landscape displays a great diversity of different types of shelter for both humans and animals and of water collection methods such as wells and *qanats*.
- The focal point of the landscape is the troglodytic village that provides winter accommodation.
- The various house forms are completely organic and vernacular in form and use virgin materials.
- The whole life cycle (including food and medicine as well as architecture) is guided by wisdom and knowledge of nature.

ICOMOS considers the additional information has shown that Maymand is not exceptional in global terms as an example of an agro-pastoral system or of an exceptional landscape that reflects an agro pastoral system.

It can however be seen as an important and very specific manifestation of a three phase agro-pastoral system of transhumance in a dry desert environment that involves the movement of people rather than animals to three defined settlement areas one of which is cave dwellings.

It is thus a specific regional variation of agro-pastoral transhumance that has persisted.

Maymand is not an extensive area, nor does its agro pastoral system appear to be of great antiquity; rather it is a small scale response to a harsh environment which, through adequate defence arrangements, allowed the community to flourish for several centuries.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

All the components of the landscape reflecting the agro-pastoral system and permanent and seasonal dwellings are within the boundaries as are various pre-historic elements such as rock art, and more recent historic structures such as forts.

The components are however vulnerable, in relation to the resilience of the transhumance systems. This continues for the present, with a decreasing population. Although the small irrigated fields survive in outline they no longer are used to grow staple crops for self-sufficient families.

Improved communications, such as with nearby towns means that people can look after their animals and vegetable plots in different ways than previously.

As a result far fewer people are over-wintering in the troglodytic villages than a generation ago and there are far fewer families using the seasonal settlements.

Only around 90 out of 400 of the troglodytic dwellings are inhabited during the winter. A few more of them are

inhabited only during weekends, when people return from the nearest town to where they have moved.

The number of *Āghols* has reduced in the last few years due to the decreasing numbers of pastoralists. In the nominated property there remain at least 8 *Āghols* that are still living and used by families who have sufficient cattle to ensure their survival. There are two others that are abandoned.

Most of the seasonal buildings are largely re-constructed each season and are therefore a reflection of a traditional practice that has persisted for generations. But this is a practice that could disappear within a generation if the pastoral way of life is not attractive to the younger generation.

Authenticity

There is little doubt of the authenticity of most of the components of the property, in terms of the landscape itself and the traditional practices that interact with it, as reflected in troglodytic houses, seasonal shelters and water structures. Some of the latter have been adapted in recent decades and only two of the *qanats* survive. The troglodytic structures have undergone extensive restoration over the past ten years and unfortunately ICOMOS notes that no details have been provided to set this work into context such as data on the village before work commenced, on the degree of intervention or on the conservation approach adopted.

Authenticity is also vulnerable to a weakening of traditional practices which could lead to a reduction in the size of the community that manages the landscape, to more families only living in the valley during the summer months, and to the impacts of tourism in particular on the troglodytic dwellings, as has happened in Kandovān.

As so little information is provided on the pastures, it is not clear how healthy these are.

ICOMOS considers that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met. Overall both integrity and authenticity are highly vulnerable to socio-economic changes and to the pressures of tourism.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (iii), (iv) and (v).

Criterion (iii): bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Maymand bears an exceptional testimony to the evolution of a traditional way of life in close interaction with nature, reflecting significant social, economic and religious activities from ancient times. The landscape comprises a range of troglodyte villages,

mountain villages, gardens, and spring-time shelters on the plains (*Sar-e-Āghol*) reflecting seasonal requirements.

ICOMOS considers that as a landscape that reflects transhumance Maymand is interesting for the way it is connected with troglodytic winter quarters. The overall system of transhumance and troglodytic structures is found in one small valley and is sustained by a very small community of some fifty families. It is difficult to say that this highly specialised adaptation to agro-pastoralism in a very small area can be considered as a reflection of a cultural tradition or civilisation.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

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;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Maymand illustrates significant stages in the development of human habitat based on transhumance that dates back initially to the Parthian and early Sassanid periods, c 3rd century BC to AD 3rd century. The troglodyte residences of *Maymand* illustrate the evolution of such habitat from the use of natural caves to more elaborate spaces for a diversity of purposes, including residences, religious spaces, mosques, baths, and schools. The landscape also includes pools, water tanks, wells, and underground water canals (*Qanāts*), as well as graveyards (Pre-Islamic and Islamic), providing the framework for living in different seasons.

ICOMOS considers that the lack of available historical information on the development of the troglodytic dwellings in association with agro-pastoral traditions and water management systems, means that so far it has not been demonstrated how this small valley illustrates a significant stage in human history.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has not been justified.

Criterion (v): be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that Maymand reflects transhumance that is the seasonal and daily movements of people with their livestock over relatively short distances, typically to higher pastures in summer and to lower valleys in winter, based on an excellent knowledge of nature and an

ingenious use of natural resources, scarce water and herbal plants and wild almond trees.

ICOMOS considers that Maymand reflects a traditional three phase transhumance system with unusual troglodytic winter housing in a dry desert environment. It is a small mainly self-sufficient community within one large valley. It is a good example of a system that appears to have been once more widespread and now only survives in small areas, and involves the movement of people rather than animals to three defined settlement areas one of which is cave dwellings.

ICOMOS considers that this criterion has been justified.

ICOMOS considers that that the conditions of integrity and authenticity have been met, although both are highly vulnerable to socio-economic changes and to pressures of tourism, and that criterion (v) is best suited to justify the Outstanding Universal Value recognized by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 37COM.8B.27.

4 Factors affecting the property

The largest threat to the overall agro-pastoral landscape is its vulnerability as a result of decreasing population through migration to nearby towns.

In the past century the population has decreased from 3,000 inhabitants to the current 850. In the village, during the winter, the current population is 145 people in 58 families with the rest of the population living in the nearby town of Shar-e-Baback and some working in the nearby copper factory (see below). It is easy to understand the migration way from the area over winter, when temperatures fall to low levels and there are few modern amenities (only communal toilets for instance). Nevertheless, the population increases during the week ends, when many of the owners return from the nearby town. Also for the past three years the population has very slightly increased, possibly due to governmental initiatives such as tax exemptions, etc.

In the medium and longer term, sustainability of this overall landscape system – the troglodytic village as part of the agro-pastoral transhumance system – will only be possible if support, through grants and subsidies, is available to the farmers to allow them to earn a reasonable income when combined with benefits from tourism.

In other parts of the world support for marketing produce has proved beneficial when the food the farmers grow is in some ways special or scarce and can command a higher value than similar food from elsewhere. In the case of Maymand, that does not seem to be a possibility, as the flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are apparently not distinctive. And also the basic agro-pastoral system was geared toward self-sufficiency rather than producing

a surplus for trade as an increase in stock number could upset the balance with nature and lead to over-grazing.

An overall plan for the sustainability of Maymand would need to address the rising expectations of people living in the valley. Education and transport and electricity and water are already provided. How individual *Kiches* can be bought up to date in terms of services needs to be addressed – perhaps looking at what has been achieved in other troglodytic areas.

In the first evaluation, ICOMOS questioned whether their size would allow this, whether the size of the overall socio-economic unit – based on only 58 families – is adequate if in the future agro-pastoral activities in the neighbouring valleys do not survive, and whether this small island of traditional transhumance would be viable.

ICOMOS noted that the State Party was aware of this danger and has set forth a series of initiatives in order to attract the population back again to the site, with good results, as since 2005, the population has risen in the village from 114 to 154 inhabitants. This increase does not however seem to be reflected in a comparable increase in families involved in pastoral activities.

The additional information provided sets out the results of documentation of the agro-pastoral system, the results of a series of workshops to encourage communities to preserve their traditional lifestyle, and the activities that flowed from these.

Examples of supportive intervention include the dredging of existing *qanats*, encouragement for tree planting to reverse decline in grazing land, and the construction of dykes to prevent run off of water. This has had the effect of persuading young families to return.

Some of these have also branched out to develop traditional activities such as bee-keeping, and harvesting wild pistachio and almond. Support is being given to other activities such as a research project to explore the potential for oil extraction from local seeds, and encouragement to the growing of high value spices and herbs in fields previously used for staple food crops. This latter is leading to the development of a small museum of local herbs.

The troglodyte village is a main tourist attraction and on certain days in each of the past few years, the number of visitors has exceeded the appropriate limit. There is currently strong control of the number of visitors by special “ecological” police, who are being helped by the army in the task of visitor control and also by local guides and even the local community. Nevertheless there remain concerns over the negative impact of large numbers of visitors on these fragile buildings.

As well as the loss of vitality of the agro pastoral system, there is also the threat that the village could become a set piece for tourists, where activities such as weaving

and embroidery are demonstrated in a way that is unrelated to traditional activities.

Electricity poles in the village impact on the overall visual integrity of the open almost treeless landscape. The State Party has already implemented initiatives to bury more than 3m of electrical infrastructure.

It is crucial that the excavation work that this will require should be subject to adequate research and analysis before it commences and during the work.

Another threat to visual integrity is the large communications antenna. Although there have been some attempts to hide it, there is still no solution.

The tarmac road to the village passes over the old village baths, and this presents a threat to its structure. To counteract major damages caused by entry of heavy machinery or intense traffic on certain days, a guardsman has been appointed to control the situation.

The Khatun Abad Copper factory, located to the south, outside the buffer zone, was a menace in the past due to the air pollution and soil and water contamination. Filters have now been installed to minimize the problem. Currently, the Managers of the Copper Factory are funding some of the projects carried out in Maymand. The factory attracts the young population and is also seen as an important part of the strategy to revitalise the region. It is a satellite of a huge mining complex located some 150 km away, being one of the main resources for development in the whole Kerman province.

Another kind of pollution is related to the seasonal migrations. When the seasonal *Ābādīs* are abandoned at the end of summer, much waste is left behind. ‘Traditional’ waste was biodegradable, but current waste includes plastic bottles, tires, etc. ICOMOS considers that this issue needs to be addressed in the Management Plan.

The decrease in rainfall and in water levels of seasonal rivers is resulting in changes to crops. Also the increasing desertification threatens the overall pastures.

Humidity has affected some of the *Kiches*, but ceilings have been rebuilt and dehumidifiers have been used experimentally. A new mason (traditional master) has also carried out some experiments in the last year, using traditional materials (calk and mortars) that seem to have had good results.

ICOMOS considers that there are two main threats to the property. The first is the vulnerability of the transhumance system related to the small size of the socio-economic unit which supports it, which means that overall the property has weak resilience. The second threat relates to the troglodytic village becoming a museum where the spirit and feeling of a living settlement – that is part of the agro-pastoral system – no longer exists.

5 Protection, conservation and management

Boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone

All elements necessary to express the values of the property are included within the boundaries of the nominated area.

The buffer zone is merely a protection area that does not apparently include any important elements relating to the overall value.

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

Ownership

The ownership varies for different areas. The pasture lands are in public ownership but traditional local ownership that allocates pastures to different families according to customary practices is respected in Iranian law.

Ābādīs, *Āghols*, arable areas, water mills, and village *qanats* are privately owned and managed traditionally. Some of the *qanats* and springs are also public property.

The troglodyte village houses are all in private ownership of different families. Other elements such as local toilets, parking, archaeological remains, pre-Islamic graves and petroglyphs are considered public property. The only state ownership in the village is the new school, post office and health centre. The authorities have preferred not to purchase any property in the village, so as to not alter the prices; places such as the project headquarters, the documentation centre, etc. are leased on a long-term basis.

Protection

The troglodyte village is registered in the National Heritage List, and is protected under the Historical Monument's Protection and Conservation Law. However the overall landscape is not protected, nor does the buffer zone have any protection.

It would be appropriate for the whole nominated area to be registered and protected by the same Law. It was suggested to the ICOMOS mission that if the site is inscribed, the whole property will become immediately registered, as happened with all other Iranian World Heritage inscriptions.

Currently the site is protected by other cultural and natural Iranian laws, such as the Iranian Civil Law that forbids transferring the ownership of public monuments and prohibits private ownership of significant cultural property.

The Islamic Penal Law also protects the site, as no restoration, repair, renovation, transfer, or change of functions, etc. of registered monuments can be done

without the approval of the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO).

The area is also under regulation concerning natural heritage protecting the natural environment.

The Management Plan includes regulations for the nominated area and buffer zone but does not specify under which laws they are established. Furthermore it is not clear what function the buffer zone might provide as it is stated that there is no presumption within it against large scale development. It is stated that such large scale plans that may include industrial complexes and development projects such as highways, etc. in the buffer zone must be agreed by ICHHTO.

ICOMOS considers that the legal protection in place needs to be extended to cover the landscape, as is envisaged if the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Conservation

For some elements of the property a great deal of inventory and research work has been carried out while for others there is still much to do.

The first nomination stated that the troglodyte village has been the focus of much of the attention and all the *Kiches* are inventoried with exhaustive documents and plans. The different architectural typologies, in the village, *Āghols* and *Ābādīs*, have been researched and there are detailed descriptions, including location, number, state of conservation, building techniques, etc. in the archives at the Maymand Cultural Heritage Base (MCHB).

The village has also been the subject of much restoration work which led to it being awarded the Melina Mercury Prize in 2005. The additional information reports that out of the total of 115 houses, 75 have been restored with active participation of Maymand Heritage Base, 25 by the owners and residents and 15 have been repaired by local craftsmen for non-resident owners.

Similarly, local flora and fauna have also been studied and researched quite exhaustively as have local handicrafts, language and traditional medicinal knowledge.

Petroglyphs have not been fully recorded and studied and neither have archaeological remains. Such work could enrich the understanding of the site, especially in relation to its history and origins that are still subject to discussion. The MCHB is currently developing new studies in this direction that are included in the Management Plan.

Furthermore, an overall landscape study that mapped all the evidence in spatial terms would be very helpful in implementing new protective or development initiatives.

The landscape appears to be in good heart although over-stocking is an issue that is being addressed.

The traditional infrastructures are kept in a good state, except for the water mills, old stone reservoirs and *qanats* that have been abandoned as they are no longer used.

The conservation of the temporary settlements can be considered good only insofar that many of these constructions are constantly renewed due to the decay of the materials with which they are built (bushes, wood, thistles, etc.).

It is impossible to know if the troglodyte village has been very much altered as there is a lack of any graphic documentation before the 60s. During the 60s some new buildings and facilities were built in the village. Some of these have been demolished or re-structured during recent years, including the Telecommunication building that was located in the entrance of the village.

There is also a shortage of information on the more recent conservation work that has been carried out.

Since the establishment in 2001 of the Maymand Cultural Heritage Base (MCHB), there has been an increase in conservation measures with the aim to protect both the physical and spiritual aspects of the property and its local sustainable development.

This work has been carried out with the benefits of sponsorship from a variety of organisations and with the support of the local community.

There has been demolition of non-adequate structures, modification of existing infrastructures (water, sewage), restoration of village's main pathways, development of necessary restrooms, cleaning, 1st phase of electricity networking, buffer zone marking, and construction of parking and a children playground. Ceilings have been restored, metallic doors replaced, *Āghols* and *Ābādīs* reorganized, a watermill restored, etc.

In summary, the general state of conservation of the built heritage is good.

ICOMOS considers that the overall state of conservation is adequate.

Management

Management structures and processes,
Including traditional management processes

The customary laws and traditional management are the most important management measures. The transmission of expertise and knowledge about cattle breeding, agricultural practices, the management of the hydraulic system, house building, etc. is still being practiced.

These traditional measures do however need to have a supportive framework at regional and national level.

In Iran it is necessary to have a Master Plan for the development of cities. Maymand was included in the Master Plan of Shahr-e Baback, the nearest town and in this plan it was considered as a tourist destination. The consequences of this definition are not explained in the dossier and need clarification.

The property is under the supervision of diverse organizations: Environment and Natural Resources, Police Forces, Government Office, Roads and Communication Authority, Water and Sewage, Electricity, Public Health, Communication and Education agencies and ministries.

These are drawn together through a management system that is based on the role of a "mayor" of the whole area. He is elected by the inhabitants and is the link with the regional government. He is a respected native of the village who studied away from his region and has returned to manage the site, in collaboration with the MCHB and the regional government. He maintains the traditional system of sharing the land for the grazing of the cattle, and all the hydraulic systems.

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

In the first evaluation, ICOMOS noted that the property had an adequate Management plan. However as IUCN noted, the main emphasis seemed to be on restoration, construction of tourist facilities, education and regulation of traditional styles. It was not clear how land use would be regulated, how much intervention into and regulation of economic activities would occur and, therefore, how much impact regulation would have on the incomes of local people. The long-term plans include "Economic development considering a home-oriented outlook" (p 520). It is not clear what this means, but it does sound as if objectives will be set by the MCHB.

The additional information submitted includes the structure of a Management Plan to achieve Sustainable Development of the property that was developed from a series of workshops involving local communities and experts in landscapes and land management. It is based on an understanding of both human and natural resources.

The Plan aims to encourage population growth and on the basis of awareness raising and recognition of the value of traditional processes and their outcomes for the landscape, encouragement to develop new sources of income based on traditional practices and some official support such as dredging *qanats* and vaccinating livestock.

Three other plans have also been developed by University Departments. These are: Evaluation of

Ecological Capabilities, Agro-Pastoral lifestyle description and comparative study, and Research project on the impact of Water Sources and Farming. In addition a local team is engaged in mapping the activities of the farming year.

There are currently adequate local resources for administration. Since 2001 the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICCHTO) has assumed responsibility for the site and a Maymand Cultural Heritage Base (MCHB) has been established, with close links to the Maymand village council and the Maymand village administration office. The staff includes a traditional master mason. The local council manages the day-to-day affairs in collaboration with the MCHB.

Although funds spent on conservation and other actions have been set out in some details, there is no detailed plan for future funds or any commitment for them. The authorities indicated that future funds would depend on the success of the nomination. A strong commitment on this issue is needed.

Involvement of the local communities

Although the nomination is in one sense celebrating the interaction of the local community with the Maymand landscape over time, ICOMOS noted in its first evaluation that it provided very little information as to how the community was involved in management. IUCN observed that the extent of consultation with the population is barely mentioned except in the most general terms and the extent of representation and influence on decision-making and objective setting is not at all clear. All this is potentially a matter of great concern as the impacts of regulations on dwellings buildings and (especially) land use are likely to be very significant, as are the likely numbers of tourists.

The additional information provided demonstrates that consultation with the local community is now actively taking place: workshops have been held at there is a sense of engagement over a vision for the valley.

ICOMOS considers that the management system for the property is adequate. ICOMOS recommends that further work be undertaken to develop the sustainable development framework and integrate it into the Management Plan through an agreed Action Plan with necessary resources.

6 Monitoring

A detailed system of monitoring has been put in place that addresses the static heritage, the agro-pastoral system and the people who maintain that system.

ICOMOS considers that the monitoring system is adequate.

7 Conclusions

The World Heritage Committee recognized the Outstanding Universal Value of the Cultural Landscape of Maymand in its decision 37COM.8B.27, although it did not articulate precisely what that Outstanding Universal was in relation to the criteria.

Maymand is an unusual property where an agro-pastoral system, based on a three stage system of transhumance is linked to a troglodytic village that traditionally provided the winter housing for the farmers.

The nominated property forms a discrete valley within which a small community of farmers still practice most aspects of the traditional agro-pastoral system, moving to different settlements three times a year to graze their animals, and growing wheat and barley on terraces near seasonal rivers at the summer settlements. The once crucial methods of harvesting and storing water have mostly been replaced by modern dams and water distribution systems. And in the winter some farmers no longer stay in the troglodytic village and live instead in the nearby town.

However, this tiny community is strongly committed to its traditions and is supported in its efforts by the local, regional and national authorities.

In the first evaluation ICOMOS considered that the key issues were how far this one variant of an agro-pastoral system can be seen as exceptional, secondly how far the local farmers will be prepared to continue their harsh and not particularly profitable lifestyle in the face of more lucrative opportunities in the towns, or nearby mines, and thirdly how tourism can be prevented from museumifying the village.

It is these three issues that the State Party has addressed in the additional information that has been provided.

The comparative analysis has shown that this small and relatively self-contained valley of Maymand provides a highly specific regional variation of agro-pastoralism that reflects a dry desert environment, and a three phase transhumance with farmers moving to three defined settlement areas that included fortified cave dwellings. ICOMOS considers that this should form the basis of the identified Outstanding Universal value.

The work done since the property was referred has opened up engagement between national and regional agencies and the local community to raise awareness of the legacy that they sustain and to begin to put in place a sustainable development framework based on support and encouragement for innovative ways to add value to local produce.

Although together these initiatives are a major step forward in engaging the local community in a dialogue on how to sustain the dynamic landscape practices,

there is nevertheless still concern that such a small community of some 70 families can form a sustainable and resilient unit that will keep this agro-pastoral system alive, even if in the future it does not survive in neighbouring valleys.

The additional information identified the various assets of the valley landscape in terms of its potential to offer tourist activities and attractions. However, no detailed plan or approach was drawn from the material to suggest how tourism might be managed in such a way that it supports rather than subtracts from local traditions and agro-pastoral activities.

8 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

Recalling decision 37COM.8B.27 of the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session which *'Recognizing the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, refers the nomination of the Cultural Landscape of Maymand, Iran (Islamic Republic of) back to the State Party, in order to allow it to set the property into its wider agro-pastoral context, and demonstrate in which way the site is an outstanding reflection of transhumance in its geo-cultural region,'*

and as the World Heritage Committee has already determined that the property has Outstanding Universal Value, it is the considered view of ICOMOS that this could now be justified only in relation to criterion (v).

Under these circumstances, ICOMOS recommends that the Cultural Landscape of Maymand, Islamic Republic of Iran, be inscribed on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (v)**.

Recommended Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Brief Synthesis

Maymand is a small and relatively self-contained south facing valley within the arid chain of Iran's central mountains.

The villagers are agro-pastoralists who practice a highly specific three phase regional variation of transhumance that reflects the dry desert environment. The year, farmers move with their animals to defined settlements, traditionally four, and more recently three, that include fortified cave dwellings for the winter months. In three of these settlements the houses are temporary, while in the fourth, the troglodytic houses are permanent.

Sar-e-Āghol are the settlements on the southern fields used from the end of winter until late spring. The houses come in two different types. *Markhāneh* are circular houses, semi-underground to shelter them from the wind, with low dry stone wall and a roof covering of wood and thatch of wild thistles. *Mashkdān* houses are above

ground and built with dry stone walls and a conical roof of branches. Some of the buildings for cattle are much more substantial and have barrel vaulted brick or stone roofs.

Sar-e-Bāgh houses are sited near seasonal rivers and used during summer and early autumn. When the weather is hot the structures are light: dry stone walls support a roof structure of vertical and horizontal timbers covered with grass thatch. In inclement weather more substantial houses are constructed with taller stone walls and a conical roof. Cattle are collected in roofless stone enclosures. Around these summer villages are the remains of terraces for growing wheat and barley, and the remains of mostly now ruined water-mills. Pits for boiling and straining grape juice are still in use as are *Kel-e-Dūshāb* which are used to contain the resulting *Dūshāb* or syrup of grapes.

The winter troglodytic houses are carved out of the soft rock, in layers of up to five houses in height. Around 400 *Kiches* or houses have been identified and 123 units are intact. Each house has between one and seven rooms, traditionally used for living, and storage.

In the exceptionally arid climate, traditionally every drop of water needed to be collected from a variety of sources such as rivers, springs and subterranean pools and collected in reservoirs or channelled through underground *qanats* to be used for animals, orchards and small vegetable plots.

The community has a strong bond with the natural environment that is expressed in social practices, cultural ceremonies and religious beliefs.

Criterion (v): The Cultural Landscape of Maymand, a small mainly self-sufficient community within one large valley, reflects a traditional three phase transhumance system with unusual troglodytic winter housing in a dry desert environment. It is a good example of a system that appears to have been once more widespread, and involves the movement of people rather than animals to three defined settlement areas, one of which is cave dwellings.

Integrity

All the components of the landscape reflecting the agro-pastoral system and permanent and seasonal dwellings are within the boundaries.

The components are however vulnerable, in relation to the resilience of the transhumance systems. This continues for the present, with a decreasing population. Although the small irrigated fields survive in outline they no longer are used to grow staple crops for self-sufficient families.

Improved communications, such as with nearby towns means that people can look after their animals and vegetable plots in different ways than previously. As a

result far fewer people are over-wintering in the troglodytic villages than a generation ago and there are far fewer families using the seasonal settlements.

Only around 90 out of 400 of the troglodytic dwellings are inhabited during the winter. A few more of them are inhabited only during weekends, when people return from the nearest town to where they have moved.

The number of *Āghols* has reduced in the last few years due to the decreasing numbers of pastoralists. In the nominated property there remain at least 8 *Āghols* that are still living and used by families who have sufficient cattle to ensure their survival. There are two others that are abandoned.

Most of the seasonal buildings are largely re-constructed each season and are therefore a reflection of a traditional practice that has persisted for generations. But this is a practice that is highly vulnerable and could disappear within a generation, if the pastoral way of life is not attractive or sufficiently viable for the younger generation.

Authenticity

There is little doubt of the authenticity of most of the components of the property, in terms of the landscape itself and the traditional practices that interact with it, as reflected in troglodytic houses, seasonal shelters and water structures. Some of the latter have been adapted in recent decades and only two of the *qanats* survive. The troglodytic structures have undergone extensive restoration over the past ten years.

Authenticity is also vulnerable to a weakening of traditional practices which could lead to a reduction in the size of the community that manages the landscape, to more families only living in the valley during the summer months, and to the impacts of tourism in particular on the troglodytic dwellings.

Requirements for Protection and Management

The troglodyte village is registered in the National Heritage List, and is protected under the Historical Monument's Protection and Conservation Law. It is understood that the whole property will be legally protected upon inscription in line with other inscribed properties in Iran.

The property is also protected by other cultural and natural Iranian laws, such as the Iranian Civil Law that forbids transferring the ownership of public monuments and prohibits private ownership of significant cultural property. The Islamic Penal Law also protects the property, as no restoration, repair, renovation, transfer, or change of functions, etc. of registered monuments can be done without the ICHHTO approval. The area is also under regulation concerning natural heritage protecting the natural environment.

Since 2001 the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICCHTO) has assumed responsibility for the property and a Maymand Cultural Heritage Base (MCHB) has been established, with close links to the Maymand village council and the Maymand village administration office. The local council manages the day-to-day affairs in collaboration with the MCHB. There are currently adequate local resources for administration

A Management Plan in the initial nomination set out regulations for the property area. For the buffer zone, large scale plans that may include industrial complexes and development projects such as highways, etc. must be agreed by the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation (ICHHTO).

Details of an augmented plan, arising from a workshop that aimed to encourage sustainable development for the local communities by opening up engagement between them and national and regional agencies, have been provided. This will focus on raising awareness of the legacy that the communities sustain, and put in place a sustainable development framework based on support and encouragement for innovative ways to add value to local produce, as well as some official support such as for dredging *qanats* and vaccinating livestock. This sustainable development plan has only recently been framed and clearly more work will be needed to translate it into an action plan with an agreed timescale and necessary resources.

Three other plans have also been developed by University Departments. These are: Evaluation of Ecological Capabilities, Agro-Pastoral lifestyle description and comparative study, and Research project on the impact of Water Sources and Farming. In addition a local team is engaged in mapping the activities of the farming year.

In spite of these initiatives and the engagement of the local community in a dialogue on how to sustain the dynamic landscape practices, there is nevertheless still concern that such a small community of some 70 families can form a sustainable and resilient unit that will keep the Maymand agro-pastoral system alive, even if in the future it does not survive in neighbouring valleys. Authenticity and integrity are thus vulnerable to a weakening of traditional practices.

Sustainable development will undoubtedly need to harness appropriate tourism opportunities. A plan is needed to set out how tourism might be managed in such a way that it supports rather than subtracts from local traditions and avoids museumifying the village and contributing to the demise of agro-pastoral traditions.

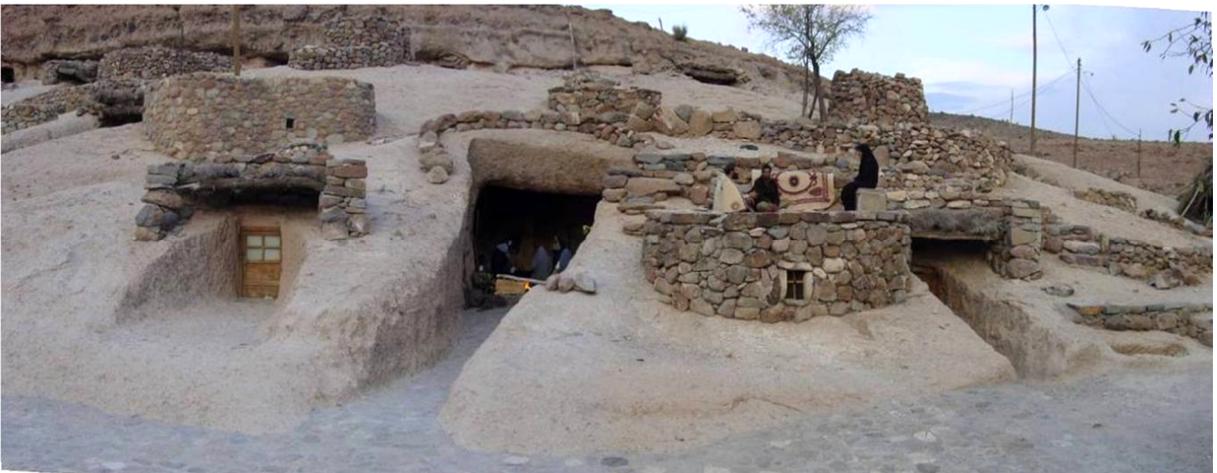
Additional recommendations

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

- Confirming that legal protection has been put in place for the whole property, in line with other inscribed properties in Iran;
- Undertaking further work to develop the sustainable development framework and integrate it into the Management Plan through an agreed Action Plan with necessary resources;
- Developing and implementing a cultural tourism plan that sets out parameters to ensure that tourism is managed to support rather than subtract from local traditions and agro-pastoral activities, and avoids museumifying the troglodytic village;
- Making available the outcomes of the specialised reports and research that have been undertaken into the Maymand landscape;
- Working closely with other States Parties, especially those in the region, to promote the concept of Desert Cultural Landscapes.



General view of the nominated property



Kiches



The former bath house



Sar-e-Āghol



Sar-e-Bāgh

Abbey Church of Saint-Savin (France) No 230ter

1 Basic data

State Party

France

Name of property

Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe

Location

Department of Vienne
Poitou-Charentes Region
France

Inscription

1983

Brief description

The Abbey-Church of Saint-Savin consists of a nave with nine bays and side aisles which is crossed by a transept with a chapel on each side and has a choir surrounded by an ambulatory and five radiating chapels. The construction of the church was initially begun in 1023. Because of its many beautiful 11th and 12th century murals which are still in a remarkable state of preservation is often referred to as the 'Romanesque Sistine Chapel'.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

The property was inscribed in 1983 with an area of 0.16 hectares and without any buffer zone, which was officially approved by means of a first minor boundary modification in 2007 (decision 31 COM 8B.66). The present boundaries of the property correspond exactly to the outer walls of the abbey church and encompass exclusively its architectural structure.

Modification

The property modification suggested in this minor boundary modification request proposes to extend the boundaries to encompass not only the architectural structure of Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe but the extent of the ancient abbey's property, which comprises parts of the convent structures and its gardens which have not yet been urbanized. Within an area of 1.61 hectares the modification adds most notably a strip of garden between the abbey and the river and the southern remains of the former abbey buildings including the

location of its cloister. Recent archaeological excavations undertaken in this area have illustrated the presence of medieval fortification structures which belonged to the abbey and contribute to the understanding of its Outstanding Universal Value. These allow recognizing the former location and arrangement of those parts of the abbey which are no longer preserved in their architectural remains.

In legal terms, three of the additional six parcels added are listed as historic monuments. These are the parcels (no. 368, 369 and 370) covering the remaining architectural structures of the convent.

The other three parcels (no. 365, 366 and 367) cover the surrounding gardens which also belonged to the original property of the abbey. They are protected as an urban and landscape protection zone at the municipal level (ZPPAUP approved in 1995), which in ICOMOS' view is sufficient given the absence of specific historical structures. These latter parcels predominantly ensure preservation of the spatial relations between the abbey church and the river which are sufficiently protected through the construction prohibition derived from this legal status. These properties are pre-empted and will be acquired by the municipality only once the owners have consented to the sale.

The extension also includes the small road ruelle de l'église and well as parts of public spaces attached to road corridors. These likewise are included to allow for comprehensive spatial management approaches but as roads do not carry heritage designations. However, like the gardens these areas are protected as urban protection zones at the municipal level.

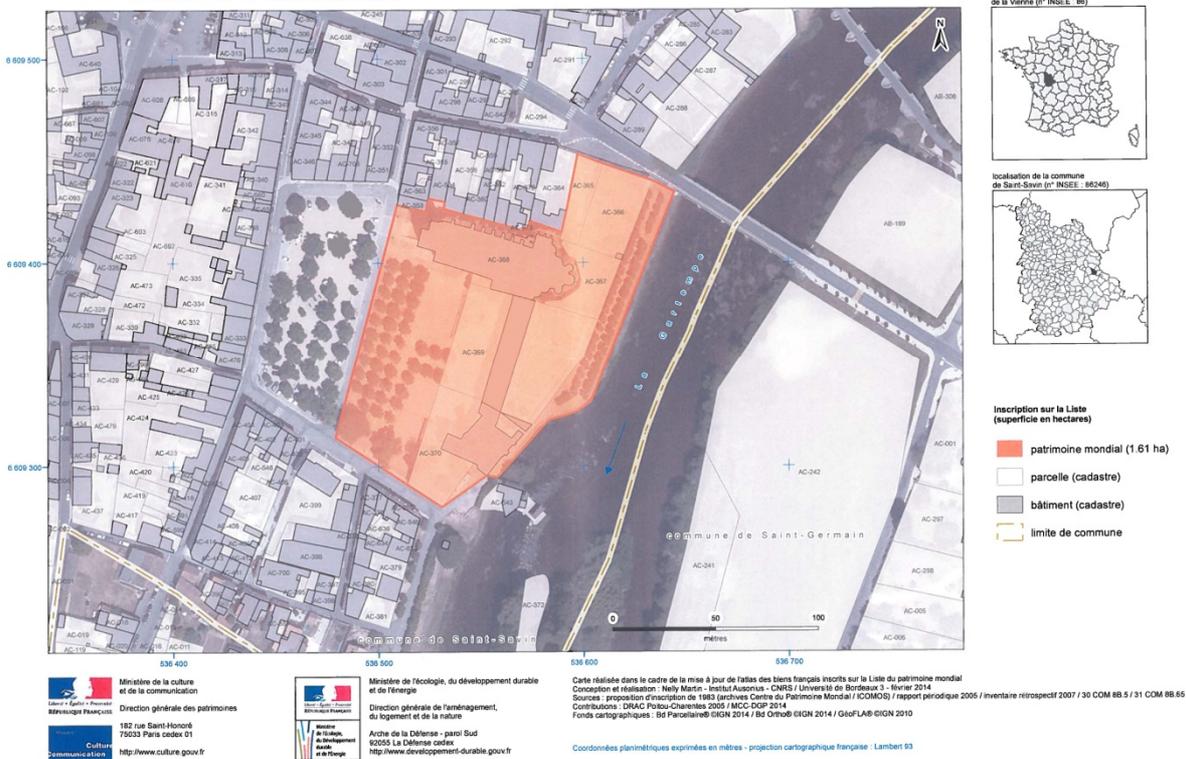
ICOMOS considers that the proposed extension is useful and will reinforce the integrity of the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe, France, be **approved**.

230bis - Abbatiale de Saint-Savin sur Gartempe : modification mineure des limites du bien inscrit sur la Liste en 1983



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Historic Centre of Rome (Italy/Holy See)

No 91ter

1 Basic data

State Party

Italy/Holy See (each according to its jurisdiction)

Name of property

Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura

Location

City of Rome
Holy See
Italy

Inscription

1980, 1990

Brief description

Founded, according to legend, by Romulus and Remus in 753 BC, Rome was first the centre of the Roman Republic, then of the Roman Empire, and it became the capital of the Christian world in the 4th century. The World Heritage site, extended in 1990 to include monuments of the Holy See, includes some of the major monuments of antiquity such as the Forums, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Hadrian, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column and the Column of Marcus Aurelius, as well as the religious and public buildings of papal Rome.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

The Historic Centre of Rome was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980 and extended in 1990 to include extra-territorial properties of the Holy See in the area west of the Tiber River as far as St Peter's Square. The property boundary in the west was recommended in the ICOMOS evaluations of 1980 and 1990 to extend to the walls built by Pope Urban VIII. An outline sketch of the western boundary accompanied the 1980 ICOMOS evaluation, but no other map was provided at that time. Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, upon the request of the World Heritage Centre to clarify the area of the property, Italy provided a map in 2009 (Map ITVA 91bis –item 62), acknowledged by decision 34 COM 8D (2010) of the World Heritage Committee and

subsequently posted on the World Heritage web site. This map, while showing the monuments added in 1990, did not show the extended boundary of the overall property along the line of the walls of Urban VIII to the west, but followed the line of the Aurelian wall. The property area of the Historic Centre of Rome (in Italy) was stated as 1446,2 ha. The property area of the Properties of the Holy See (in the Holy See) was stated as 38,9 ha. There is no buffer zone.

According to the current submission the area indicated in this map was not correct and the map did not take into account the previous recommendations, given at the time of the inscription (1980) and reiterated at the moment of the extension (1990). Therefore in the context of preparing the Management Plan for the inscribed property, it has become necessary to rectify the perimeter of the property.

Modification

The proposed modification extends the property boundary to the walls of Urban VIII in order to include the Gianicolo quarter, the Palazzo di Giustizia, the Bridges Margherita, Cavour and Umberto, essential achievements of the 19th century urbanism, as well as the bridge and the Castel Sant'Angelo.

ICOMOS notes that the proposed property boundary as shown on the maps now submitted is in accordance with the previous recommendations of ICOMOS (1980 & 1990) in that it follows the line of the city walls built by Pope Urban VIII along the western side of the city, but excluding Vatican City and runs along the south side and eastern curve of St Peter's Square, then follows the wall again around Castel Sant' Angelo. From this point the proposed boundary cuts across along the south-east side of Piazza Cavour (north-east side of Palazzo di Giustizia) to meet Via Vittoria di Colonna, where it turns east to the River Tiber. The boundary then follows the west bank of the river to Via Cola di Rienzo where it crosses with the bridge Regina Margherita and continues east along Via Ferdinando di Savoia before turning north along Via Principessa Clotilde to meet Via Luisa di Savoia and then east along this street to create the northern boundary, just north of Piazza del Popolo and continues on to join Viale del Muro Torto. San Paolo Fuori le Mura remains as a separate property component.

Map A shows this property boundary as a solid red line and shows the 2009 boundary as a dotted red line. The proposed modification as indicated by the difference between the new property boundary and the one shown on the map submitted in 2009 is the inclusion of areas between the previous boundary and the line of the walls of Urban VIII, including the Gianicolo quarter, the Palazzo di Giustizia, the Bridges Margherita, Cavour and Umberto, and Castel Sant'Angelo and its bridge.

ICOMOS notes however that the new property boundary is drawn along the south side of the bridge Regina Margherita, so would appear not to include the bridge.

This map (Map A) also indicates the exclusion of a few blocks between Via Luisa di Savoia and Via Ferdinando di Savoia east of the river, immediately north-east of the Piazza del Popolo.

The property area is now stated to be 1430,8 ha. ICOMOS notes that it is not stated whether this is the overall property area including San Paolo Fuori le Mura.

ICOMOS notes that while the proposed boundary follows almost entirely the location previously recommended in ICOMOS evaluations, no explanation has been given as to why the small area near Piazza del Popolo is now to be excluded. However ICOMOS considers the amended boundary would be adequate provided the boundary is intended to include the bridge Regina Margherita.

According to the submission the proposed amendment will enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee decisions and as already taken into account in the Retrospective Statement of OUV recently approved; the proposed amendment does not imply any difference to the legal protection, since the whole area is under protection of the same laws and regulations. The 'Historic City of Rome', which includes all the World Heritage Area except San Paolo Fuori le Mura (the Basilica of St Pauls outside the Wall) is protected by the Town Planning Scheme. According to the Periodic Reports of 2006 and 2014, the New Town Planning Scheme extending the area of the Historic City from 1500 ha to 6500 ha protects a wider area surrounding the walled city.

Individual contexts and monuments within and outside the Historic City are protected by Legislative Decree no. 42, 22 January 2004, 'Cultural Heritage and Landscape Code'. The Vatican properties are protected under the Law for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage no. CCCLV, 25 July 2001. Other protection instruments within the City of Rome are resolutions nos. 139, 1997 and 187, 2003 concerning the protection of historic shops; the General Urban Traffic Plan, June 1999; Law no. 183, 1989 "Provision for functional reorganisation to preserve the territory", for the prevention measures against the risk of flooding by the Tiber River; and Executive Decision no. 786, 25 September 2002, which established the Urban Décor Organisational Unit.

According to the submission, the management plan for the property, drafted but not yet submitted, already takes into account the amended boundaries.

ICOMOS notes that the management plan was being prepared at the time of the Periodic Report in 2006 and a preparatory study was completed in 2008. An ad hoc commission was set up in 2009 to draft the management plan. It is not clear whether this includes the Vatican properties.

ICOMOS considers that the total area of the property needs to be clarified, as does the property boundary in

relation to the bridge Margherita. It would be helpful to also show the boundary of the area protected under the New Town Planning Scheme.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

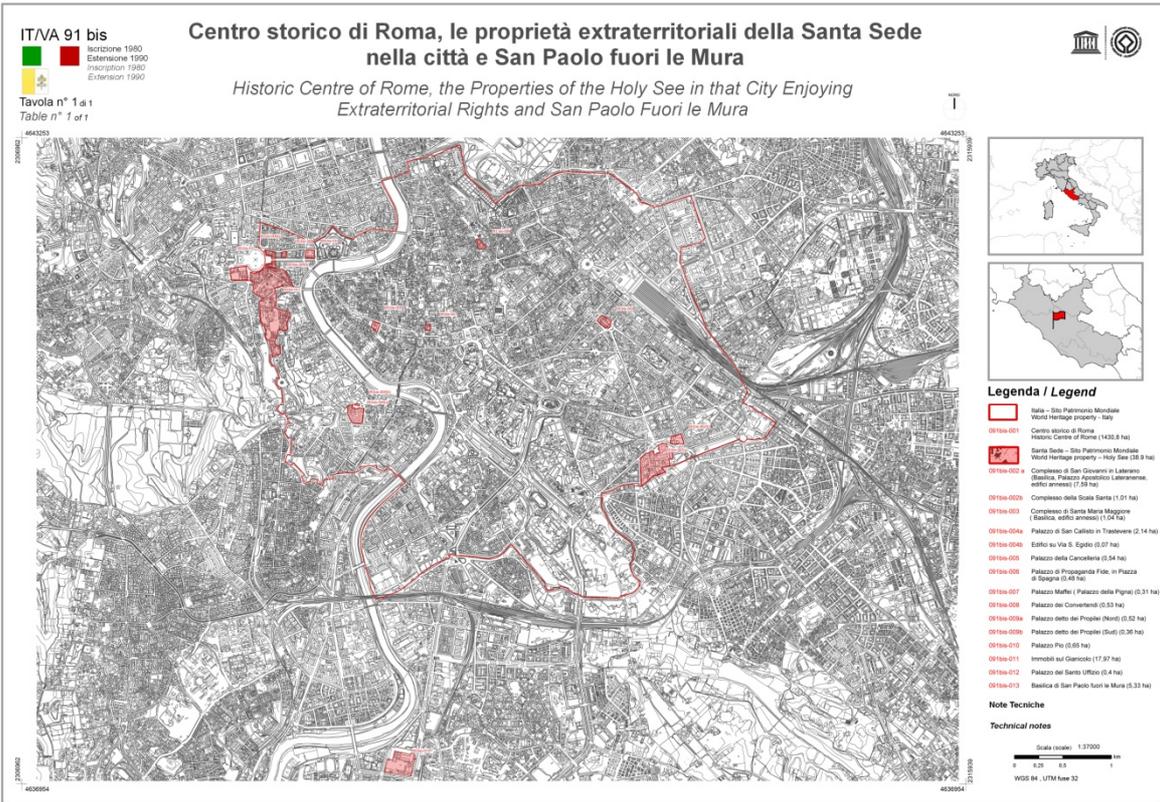
Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Holy See and Italy, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party submit, by 1 December 2015, an amended map to the World Heritage Centre showing clearly that the bridge Regina Margherita is included within the property boundary and clarifying the total area of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The map should also show the boundary of the area protected by the New Town Planning Scheme.

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party be encouraged to finalise the management plan.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the property

Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro)

No 125bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Republic of Montenegro

Name of property

Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor

Location

City of Kotor and its surrounding territory

Boka Kotorska

Montenegro

Inscription

1979

Brief description

In the Middle Ages, this natural harbour on the Adriatic coast in Montenegro was an important artistic and commercial centre with its own famous schools of masonry and iconography. A large number of the monuments (including four Romanesque churches and the town walls) were seriously damaged by the 1979 earthquake but the town has been restored, largely with UNESCO's help.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2. Issues raised

Background

The property was originally nominated as a natural site but was inscribed only for its cultural values. Its title reflects these values in terms of the integral relationship of the buildings and monuments around the harbour to their natural setting. The property boundary as shown in the nomination document and the 2007 Management Plan encompassed all the nominated settlements including Kotor, Risan, Perast, Prčanj, Dobrata, Morinj and also their steeply rising natural backdrop around the harbour, coinciding with the crests of the natural sinkhole formation. According to the 2007 Management Plan the property totalled 14,600 hectares comprising 12,000 hectares of land and 2,600 hectares of sea area. The property is bordered to the north and south-east by national parks, and by the Gulf of Tivat which formed the outer harbour and approach to Kotor from the south-west.

The property was initially included on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1979 because of extensive damage

to the cultural heritage caused by the earthquakes that occurred six months prior to inscription. Following restoration and consolidation of the monuments with UNESCO's assistance, and following a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission the property was removed from the Danger List in 2003. The mission recommended that a buffer zone be defined around the nominated area of the property. The 2007 Management Plan did not include a buffer zone. The Periodic Report of 2005 noted uncontrolled urbanisation; poor protection of the cultural landscape and smaller settlements, and poor quality and planning of the new architecture in the protected area.

In 2008 a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was invited to consider the State Party's proposal to locate a bridge across the entrance to the inner harbour at Veriges as part of the bypass road. The mission recommended the definition and delineation of a buffer zone around the nominated area of the property as requested since 2003 to enhance protection in accordance with paragraphs 103 to 107 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*; the mission urged the authorities to clearly define such a buffer zone for the protection of the World Heritage property and take into account the integral aspects of the whole Boka Kotorska, noting that this region has an overall cohesion integrating cultural and natural aspects into a cultural landscape. A buffer zone was subsequently defined following a workshop partly funded by UNESCO that involved key stakeholders and expert consultants and was approved in 2012 by the World Heritage Committee Decision 36 COM 8B.58 (St Petersburg, 2012).

The property area delineated on the map showing the buffer zone did not accord with that approved by the World Heritage Committee in 1979 and shown in the 2007 Management Plan. In the absence of explanation or information on this, the Decision 36 COM 8B.58 (2012) referred back the examination of the proposed minor modification to the property boundary to allow the State Party to provide justification and detailed information on the proposed variations to the original 1979 property boundary.

Decision 36 COM 8B.58:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B.Add and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, Montenegro, back to the State Party in order to allow it to provide justification and detailed information on the proposed variations to the original 1979 property boundary;
3. Approves the proposed buffer zone for the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, Montenegro;
4. Recommends that the State Party establish as soon as possible a coordination of the Management Plan with the municipal urban

planning documents to include controls applicable to development and infrastructure within the buffer zone. Such controls on development and infrastructure need to recognise the components necessary to the visual integrity of the property, including vistas and visual accents, horizontal and vertical relationships, materials and form of new construction, and must be integrated with the individual municipal plans in order to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Modification

In response to Decision 36 COM 8B.58, the State Party has provided a series of maps showing the property boundary enclosing the area as originally specified for the nominated property land area: 12,000 ha. The boundary appears to follow the same line as shown in the 2007 Management Plan and as inscribed in 1979. The buffer zone remains as approved in 2012. No additional information or explanation has been provided.

ICOMOS concludes therefore that the State Party no longer proposes to modify the boundary of the property as inscribed in 1979.

3. ICOMOS Recommendations

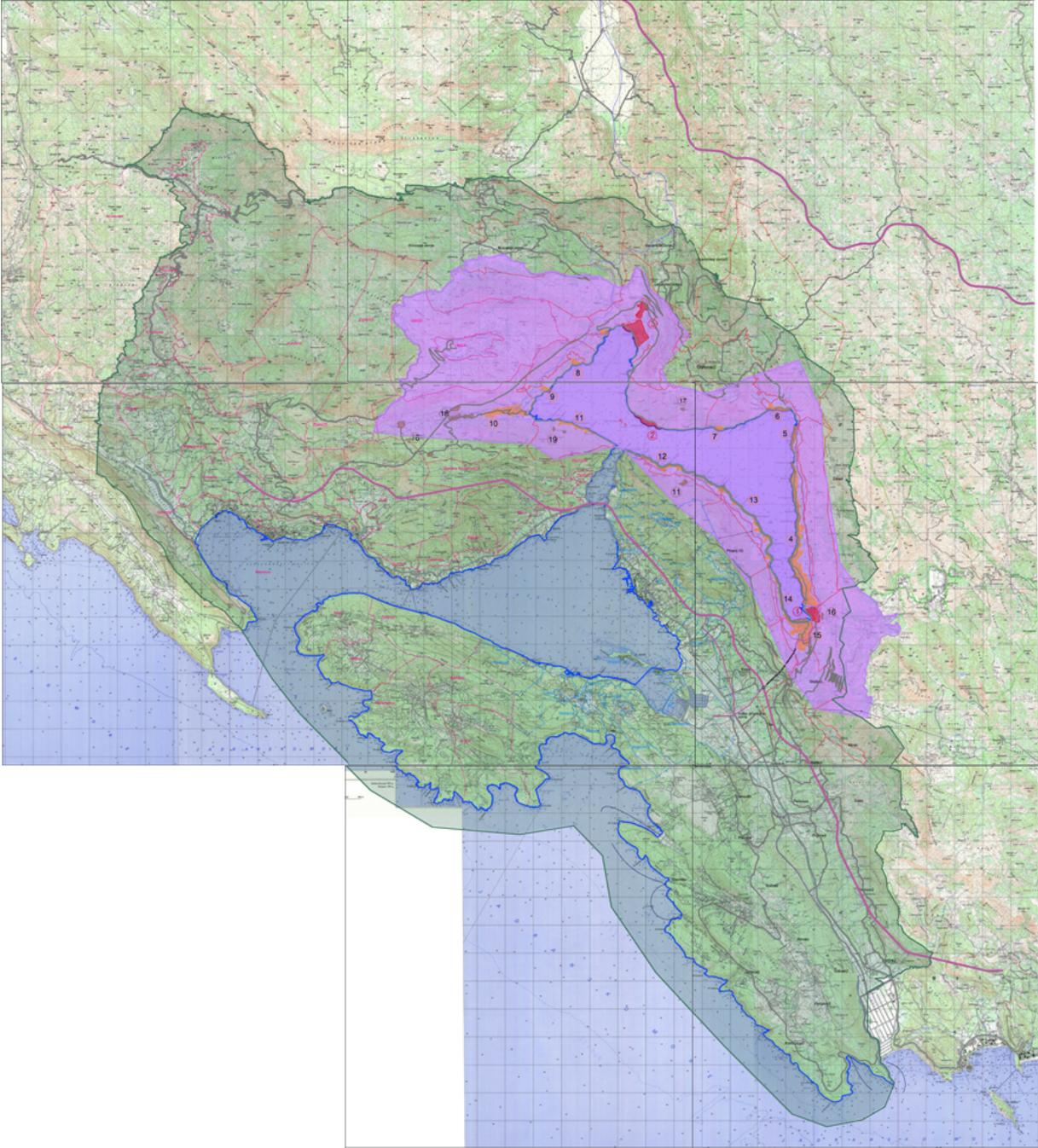
Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, Montenegro, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS recommends that the State Party ensure that the Management Plan incorporates the correct property boundary as inscribed in 1979.

ICOMOS further recommends that the Management Plan should integrate the relevant municipalities with responsibilities within the property area and buffer zone and coordinate their activities in relation to protection mechanisms and local traffic networks which link the main transport corridors.



Map showing the boundaries of the property

Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville (United States of America) No 442bis

1 Basic data

State Party

United States of America

Name of property

Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville

Location

Virginia, Piedmont Region

Inscription

1987

Brief description

Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), author of the American Declaration of Independence and third president of the United States, was also a talented architect of neoclassical buildings. He designed Monticello (1769–1809), his plantation home, and his ideal 'academical village' (1817–26), which is still the heart of the University of Virginia. Jefferson's use of an architectural vocabulary based upon classical antiquity symbolizes both the aspirations of the new American republic as the inheritor of European tradition and the cultural experimentation that could be expected as the country matured.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987 on the basis of criteria (i), (iv) and (vi). According to the 1986 nomination dossier the area of the property comprised 11.3312 hectares of the University of Virginia and 768.9027 hectares of Monticello, to give a total area of 780.2339 hectares for both sites. However, the initial boundary map submitted for the Monticello component of the World Heritage nomination in 1986 was inaccurate. It included parcels that the Thomas Jefferson Foundation has never owned and furthermore it did not include another parcel that the Thomas Jefferson Foundation owned. It also inaccurately drew the boundary in the south western corner of the property. In 2013 the State Party submitted the revised map to the World Heritage Centre as part of the Retrospective Inventory.

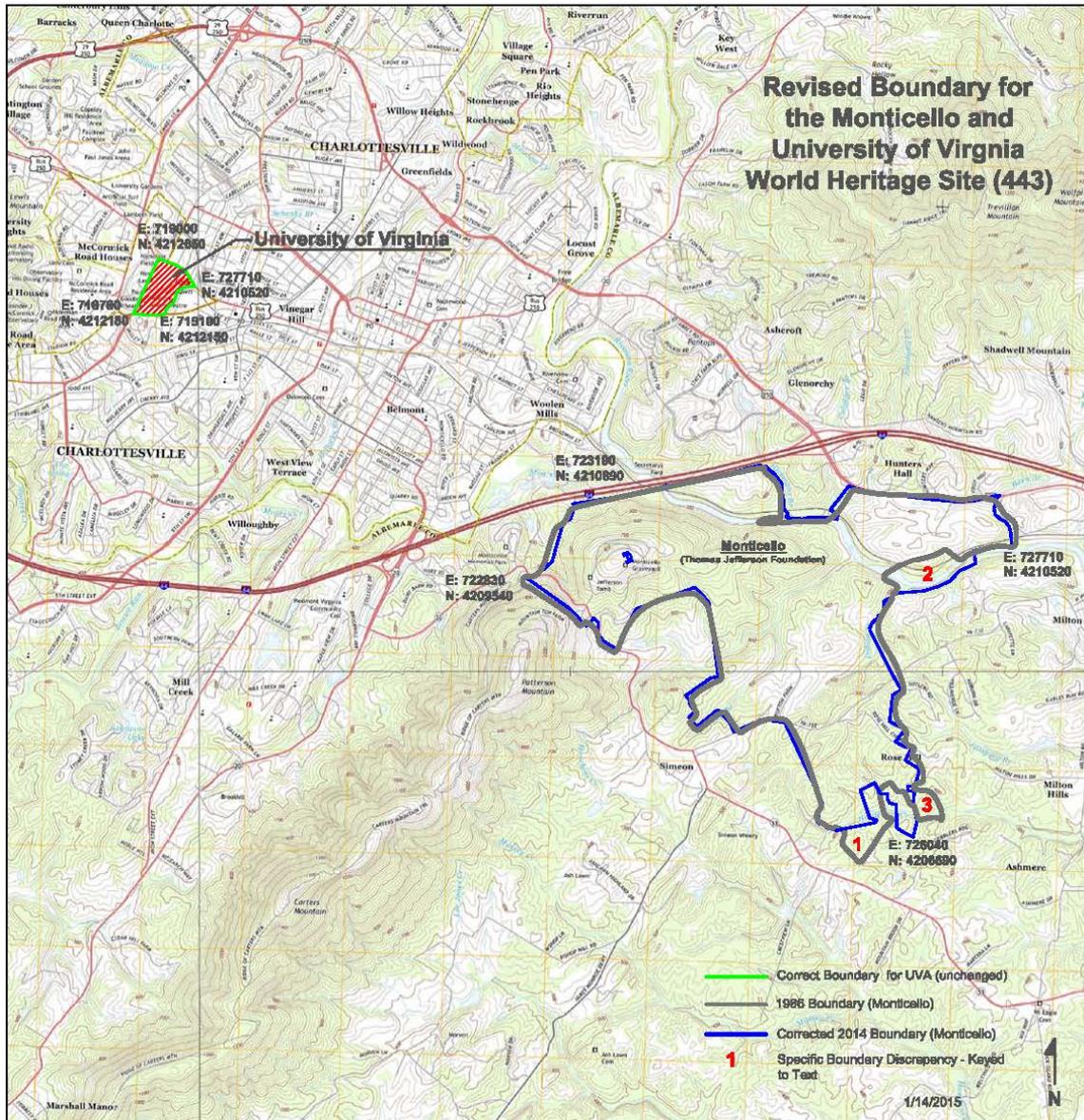
Modification

The proposed revised boundaries presented in the minor boundary modification request accurately reflect the land that was owned by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1987. The corrected number of hectares for the property is 784.63 hectares of Monticello and 11.33 hectares of University of Virginia, to give a total area of 795.96 hectares. As clearly stated, this correction of the boundary, which affects only the Monticello component of the World Heritage property, makes no change to the management, or to the legal protection, or to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, United States of America, be **approved**.



Map showing the revised boundaries of the Monticello component

Historic Centre of Florence (Italy) No 174bis

1 Basic data

State Party
Italy

Name of property
Historic Centre of Florence

Location
City and Province of Florence, Tuscany Region

Inscription
1982

Brief description
Built on the site of an Etruscan settlement, Florence, the symbol of the Renaissance, rose to economic and cultural pre-eminence under the Medici in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its 600 years of extraordinary artistic activity can be seen above all in the 13th-century cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), the Church of Santa Croce, the Uffizi and the Pitti Palace, the work of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report
12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background
When the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, in 1982, it encompassed the historic city centre and the settled area on the other side of the river Arno enclosed by the former 16th century city walls (505ha) but no buffer zone was proposed.

Taking into account the progressive expansion of the contemporary city and the increasing pressures which its historic part and the inscribed property may be prone to, the Municipality of Florence promoted and developed a study so as to define a buffer zone for the Historic Centre of Florence.

This research was carried out according to three main lines of approach: the inventory of the public views and vistas in the surrounding hills from which the historic centre can be seen; the identification of the requirements for the safeguarding of the inscribed property; the definitions of strategic projects/plans for promotion and communication to sustain the qualifying features of the inscribed property.

The preliminary study for the buffer zone was based on a multidisciplinary and multi-scalar approach. This examined different cultural maps that allowed identification of a variety of settings, differing in scale and profile. The analysis was developed at a regional scale – considering the wider settlement system of historic towns of which also Florence is part; at a provincial scale related to the broad belvedere basin of the city; and at a municipal scale – related to the skyline of the city and to the multiple layers of historical and cultural relationships among the components of the inscribed property and of the property within its setting.

The proposed buffer zone was based on the results of the study and covers 10,480 ha, encompassing the hillsides surrounding the city of Florence to the north, south and east, and the plains to its north-west. The municipalities responsible for the various portions of the buffer zone approved the boundaries in 2013. The proposed buffer zone was examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), and was referred back to the State Party (Decision 38 COM 8B.52).

Decision 38 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*

2. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the Historic Centre of Florence, Italy, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*

- a) Explain in detail the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, also through graphical and photographic documentation, and its relation to the results of the preparatory study,*
- b) Clarify and illustrate through cartographic and visual documentation the relevant views, vistas and belvederes worthy of protection, including those from inside the inscribed property towards the outside hillsides,*
- c) Explain in detail how the protection and management systems function in practice,*
- d) Clarify how and by when the management system/plan submitted in 2006 will be amended so as to include the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the buffer zone to effectively act as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,*
- e) Adopt and approve the urban regulations concerning the respecting of belvederes and views in any future planning and building decision.*

Modification

In response to the World Heritage Committee decision, the State party has now addressed these requests as follows:

1. A descriptive report extracted from the preparatory study has been provided together with related graphic tables illustrating the rationale for the buffer zone.
2. Maps and photographic documentation have been provided which illustrate relevant views from 18 points inside and outside the property.
3. A detailed description of how the protection and management system functions in relation to control of

skyline transformation has been provided. The system enables graphic insertion of new development proposals in order to determine what impact they may have on the skyline. The system has already been used successfully in relation to control of construction of a new stadium.

4. The new Management Plan to be drawn up by the Historic Centre of Florence UNESCO Office is aimed at promoting sustainable development of the Historic Centre of Florence while safeguarding the urban skyline, in turn directed at maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property. The Management Plan will include the buffer zone in the strategic part of the document, highlighting how proposed landscape changes will be controlled through application of local and State legislation for protection of views from the established viewpoints.
5. Development within the four local municipalities whose jurisdiction covers part of the buffer zone is already controlled by Local Plans. However all 18 viewpoints are located within areas protected by State Regulations and control of the inscribed property and skyline is effectively covered by the Municipality Structure Plan (approved 22.06.2011). A variation to the Structure Plan approved 31.12.2014 controls the 18 viewpoints and related visual axes. The new Town Planning Regulations of the Municipality of Florence (also approved 31.12.2014) state that outside the historic city centre “the transformation interventions that modify the existing skyline must be subject to verification of correct insertion having as reference the key viewpoints identified in the Structure Plan”.

ICOMOS notes that the successful application of this requirement will depend on adequate communication between the relevant municipal planning bureaucracies.

ICOMOS considers that the information set out above responds adequately to the requests made by the World Heritage Committee.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Historic Centre of Florence, Italy, be **approved**.

Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) (Italy) No 826bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Italy

Name of property

Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)

Location

Province of La Spezia
Liguria Region

Inscription

1997

Brief description

The Ligurian coast between Cinque Terre and Portovenere is a cultural landscape of great scenic and cultural value. The layout and disposition of the small towns and the shaping of the surrounding landscape, overcoming the disadvantages of a steep, uneven terrain, encapsulate the continuous history of human settlement in this region over the past millennium.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

When the property was nominated, the State Party had not proposed a buffer zone. It was also not recommended by ICOMOS or requested by the World Heritage Committee. Subsequent to its inscription, the site gained further legislative and policy regulations, which provided overlapping layers of protection for the inscribed property. These included the establishment of the Cinque Terre National Park in 1999 and the Regional Natural Park of Porto Venere in 2001. Furthermore, territorial planning regulations such as the Plan for the National Park (adopted in 2002) or the Plan for the Regional Park of Porto Venere and the Islands (approved in 2007) were at the centre of conservation and management of the property. In July 2007, an Inter-institutional Guarantee Technical Committee was set up through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by a number of important role players, for the elaboration and implementation of a management plan for the property. In 2012, a joint WHC/ICOMOS Advisory Mission provided several

recommendations and, at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the World Heritage Committee adopted the Decisions 37 COM 7B.78, which includes the request to "Define a buffer zone for the appropriate protection of the wider landscape and officially submit the proposal to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2015, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines".

Modification

Since there was no buffer zone to begin with, the process of identifying which areas to include in order to create a fully inclusive buffer zone, was extensive. The inclusion criteria acknowledged the existence of adequate and effective protection under the current legislation, considered significant historical landscapes and sites, and encouraged the adoption of a visual protection through identifying ridges as some boundaries for the buffer zone. To this effect, the proposed buffer zone has been designed to potentially alleviate adverse visual impacts from human activities.

The proposed buffer zone is 10.780 hectares (5.607,5 on land and 5.172,5 on sea).

The proposed buffer zone is clearly delineated on the map provided by the State Party. To the north, the property is protected with a wide area in the territory of Levanto, including areas up to the ridgeline to visually screen built up areas from the property. To the east, an Apennines wooden area is included in the buffer zone and to the south the numerous inlets within the territory of Portovenere facing the Gulf of La Spezia, including the Roman settlement of the Old Varignano are added. The western ocean buffer includes wide marine strips already inserted within the Cinque Terre Protected Marine Area.

The proposed buffer zone thus includes significant features such as protected natural marine areas, existing landscape protection areas, sites of community importance, ecological corridors, islands, significant bays and ridgelines, forests and municipalities.

ICOMOS notes a discrepancy in the inclusion of marine areas associated with the property in that in the Northwest part, the buffer zone includes the boundaries of the Cinque Terre Protected Marine Natural Area while in the Southwest part only a small protected zone was included. This limited zone comprises the area of the Portovenere Regional Natural Park and the Portovenere Bay Respect Area, including only the zone between the Island of Palmaria and the continent. Therefore, most of the marine zone of the Southeastern and the Eastern coast of the Island of Palmaria are not protected, even though it is considered equally valuable to the included areas.

The formal establishment of the buffer zone will be implemented by the relevant regional and municipal institutions and will be incorporated into the new (under development) Regional Territorial Plan. This plan affects the provisions of municipal master plans by involving agents of administration through a process of awareness-

building of their role in the protection and management of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that it is not clear which organisation or body will be responsible in terms of management in relation to the property and buffer zone. According to the minor boundary modification proposal, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, specifically the Regional Directorate of Liguria for Cultural and Landscape Property is tasked to issue their advice in relation to the possible adverse impacts of plans and programs that could impact on the property and its buffer zone. Furthermore, proposed development in these areas should present impact assessment to the Ministry of Environment and Protection of Territory.

It is however still unclear which will be the authority responsible for the implementation of the regulations within the buffer zone and how this authority will coordinate with the body responsible for the inscribed property.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone has the potential to significantly contribute to the protection of the property. The procedure involves local governments and communities and this process will increase awareness about their responsibilities in the protection and management of the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value. The multiple layers of protection will enable all involved parties to consider the importance of the wider setting of the property and support its protection.

Additionally, the proposed buffer zone will include a number of additional significant sites and landscapes and provide protection for the valuable coastline and marine areas. These previously unrecognised areas have similar values and functional links to that of the inscribed property, though with a minor degree of authenticity and integrity. By including these in the buffer zone, continuity with the characteristics of the protected property is achieved on a larger scale.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

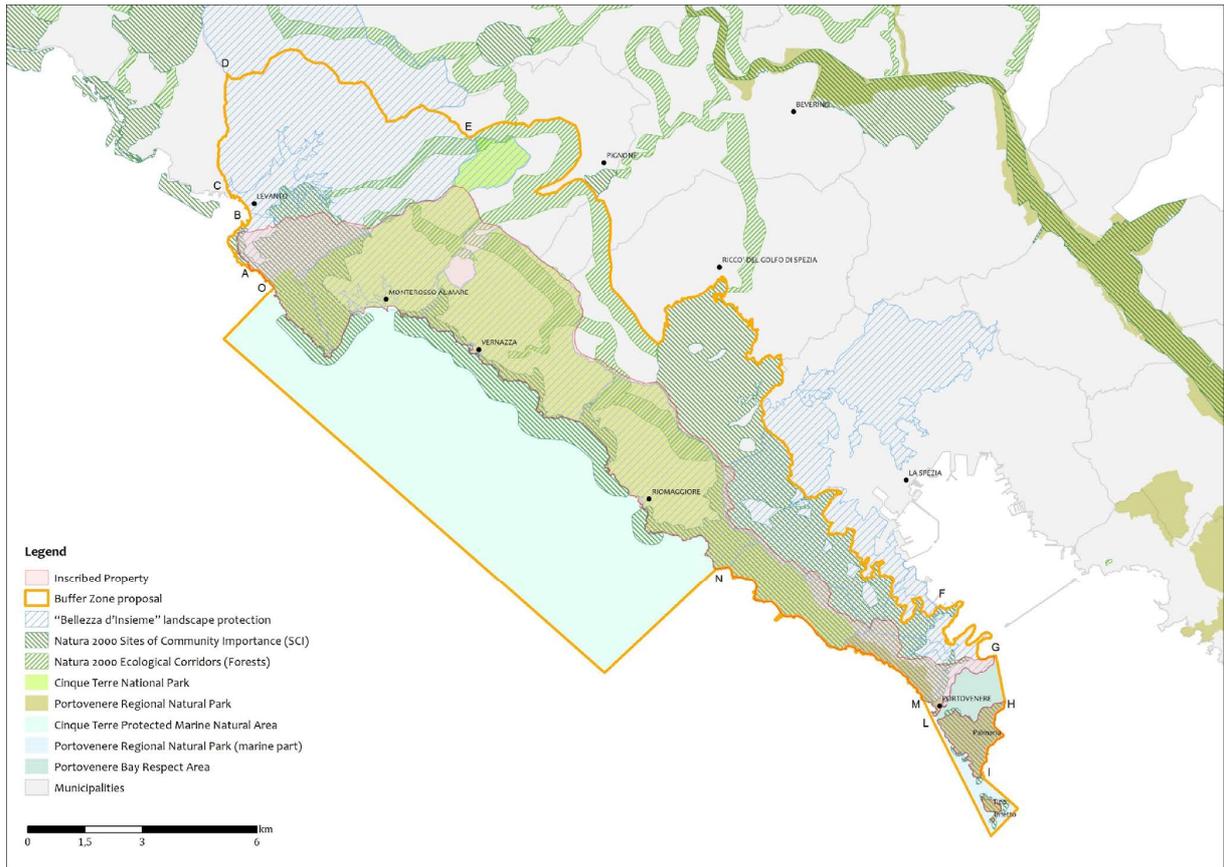
Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Italy, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Consider the possibility to extend the boundaries of the marine areas in the South-eastern part of the buffer zone to increase the protection around the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto;
- Explain in detail how the management system function in practice and clarify the implementation and management of the buffer zone in terms of the

responsible agents and in relation to the inscribed property;

- Provide a timetable for the official approval and implementation of the Regional Territorial Plan;
- Finalize the management plan.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) No 132bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Malta

Name of property

Megalithic Temples of Malta

Location

Islands of Malta and Gozo

Inscription

1980

Brief description

Seven megalithic temples are found on the islands of Malta and Gozo, each the result of an individual development. The two temples of Ġgantija on the island of Gozo are notable for their gigantic Bronze Age structures. On the island of Malta, the temples of Hagar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien are unique architectural masterpieces, given the limited resources available to their builders. The Ta'Hagrart and Skorba complexes show how the tradition of temple-building was passed down in Malta.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory exercise (May 2005), the State Party was requested to indicate the size in hectares of the six component sites of the property and the size of the buffer zone around Hagar Qim and Mnajdra. The State Party submitted revised maps in November 2005.

These showed buffer zones for the six components of the property which were recognised nationally but had not been officially adopted as World Heritage buffer zones by the World Heritage Committee.

Following a request made by the World Heritage Centre in September 2012, the State Party submitted a minor boundary modification concerning the establishment of buffer zones for the serial property in accordance with Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines.

These minor modifications were proposed to support the following components of the inscribed serial property.

Components of the inscribed property (in hectares):

#	Name of component of the property	Size
1	Ġgantija (132-001)	0.715 ha
2	Hagar Qim (132-002)	0.813 ha
3	Mnajdra (132-003)	0.563 ha
4	Ta' Hagrart (132-004):	0.154 ha
5	Skorba (132-005):	0.103 ha
6	Tarxien (132-006)	0.807 ha

Due to the proximity of Ta' Hagrart and Skorba, and of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, the establishment of the buffer zones included locating each of the above-mentioned pairs of sites in a single buffer zone. Therefore, the allocation of buffer zone sizes for the components of the Megalithic Temples of Malta are provided in the table below.

Areas of the proposed buffer zones (in hectares):

#	Name of component of the Megalithic Temples of Malta	Size of proposed buffer zone
1	Ġgantija (132-001)	33 ha
2	Hagar Qim (132-002) and Mnajdra (132-003)	63 ha
3	Ta' Hagrart (132-004) and Skorba (132-005)	60 ha
4	Tarxien (132-006)	11 ha

ICOMOS noted that the material submitted by the State Party consisted of the same plans as were submitted in 2005 with the exception of Ġgantija, where the proposed buffer zone was larger than that previously proposed in 2005.

ICOMOS noted that although the above areas are clearly identifiable on the maps provided, no textual descriptions nor detailed justification for the precise lines of these buffer zones were provided.

ICOMOS also noted that while information was provided on protection legislation for the inscribed properties and buffer zones, no information was given relating to management arrangements for the buffer zones.

ICOMOS considered that this might be an issue where the buffer zones included areas where development is permitted, since the 2012 ICOMOS comments on the approved Management Plan for the Megalithic Temples of Malta made reference to a review of Local Plans in order to amend development criteria to ensure better protection of the buffer zones and contentious developments in the buffer zones. In this context, ICOMOS also recommended that details of all these contentious proposals should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre together with the outcomes of the review of the Local Plans.

The World Heritage Committee has adopted the following decision 38 COM 8B.53 (Doha, 2014):

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-14/38.COM/8B.Add, and WHC-14/38.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zones for the Megalithic Temples of Malta, Malta, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Provide a textual description and detailed justification for the precise lines of the buffer zones of the component sites of the serial property;
- Provide information on the management arrangements in place for the buffer zones;
- Strengthen the site-specific development limitation (particularly height limitation) measures within the buffer zones and provide information on the outcomes of the review of the Local Plans.

3. Encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed of any development projects within the vicinity of the property in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Modification

In response to Decision 38 COM 8B.53, the State Party has responded that:

The buffer zone boundaries are based on a minimum 100 m radius around the component sites and are then extended further to include other minor archaeological or cultural heritage sites in their vicinity. The boundaries follow natural contours and areas that are within a development zone and which could potentially have an impact on the component sites, have been included in the buffer zones so as to ensure additional control.

The buffer zones include Development Zones, Green Areas, Commercial Zones, Village cores, sites of ecological importance as well as other sites of archaeological value, depending on the location of the component site. Management arrangements for controlling development in these zones are covered by the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands (second document, ARC Policies: pp 113-115) and the relevant Local Plans.

Height limitations are specified for all zones in the Local Plans. Feedback to the review of Local Plans has included a submission from Heritage Malta regarding the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development being drawn up by the Malta Environment & Planning Authority (MEPA) with the aim of ensuring that UNESCO World Heritage Sites and sites on the World Heritage Tentative List and their viewsheds are protected from the adverse impact of future development. Both the revision of the Local Plans and the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development are currently underway by MEPA.

ICOMOS considers that the requirements of Decision 38 COM 8B.53 (a) and (b) have been met.

With regard to (c), ICOMOS considers that the State Party should provide a report to the World Heritage Centre when the review of the Local Plans and the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development are completed, explaining how the UNESCO World Heritage Sites and sites on the World Heritage Tentative List and their viewsheds are protected from the adverse impact of future development.

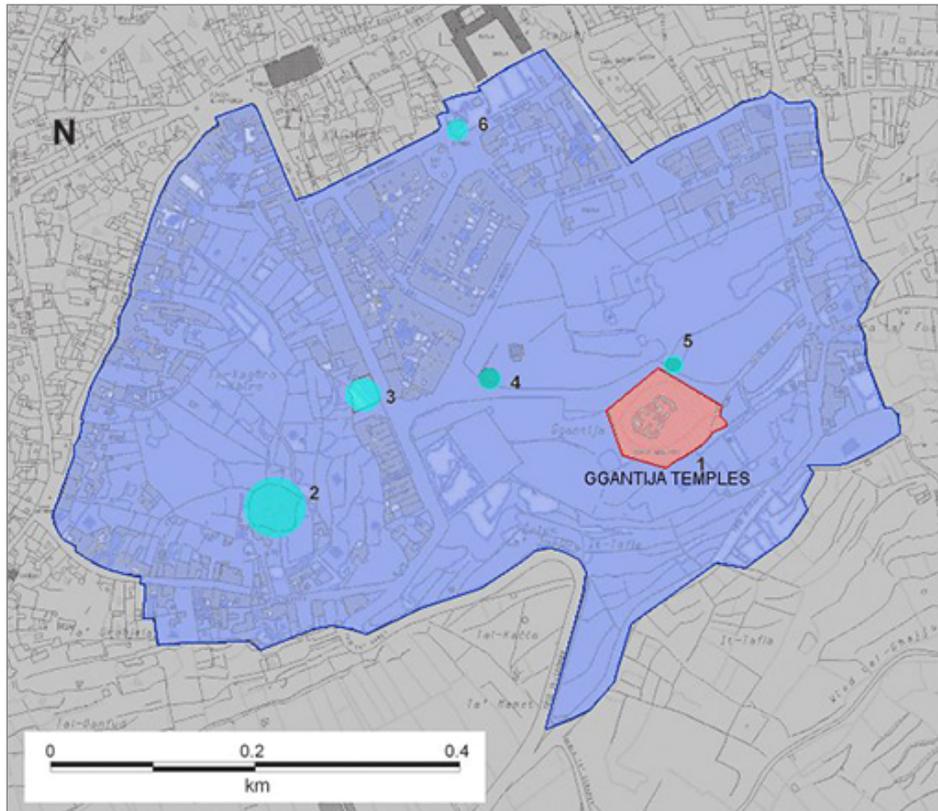
3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

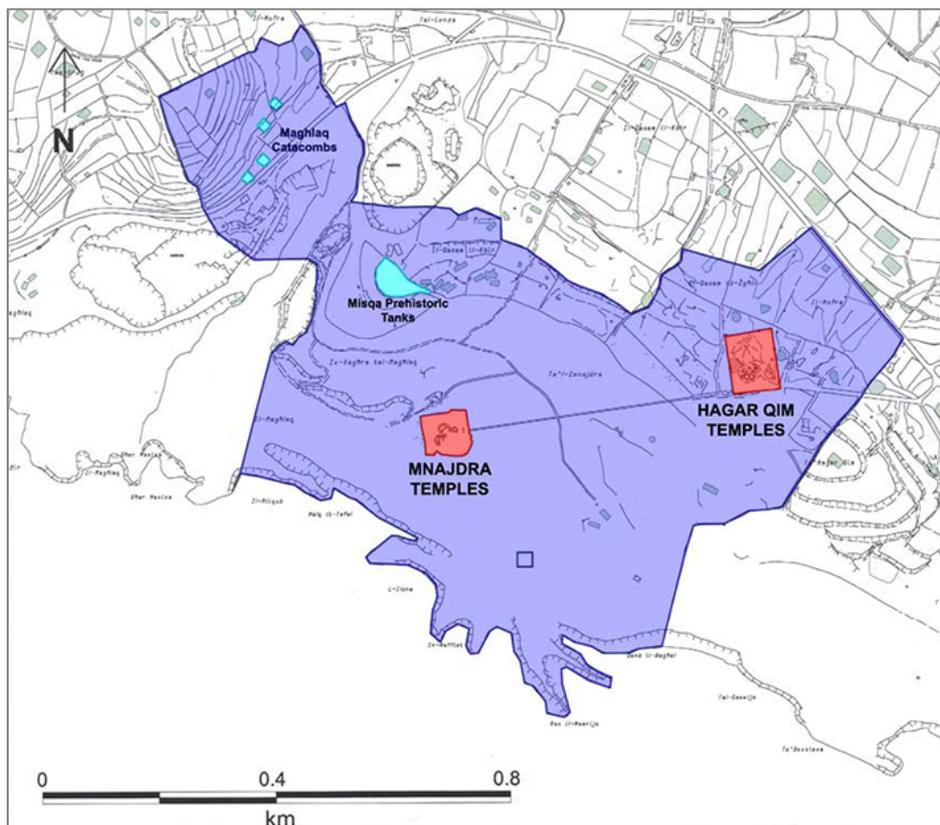
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zones for the Megalithic Temples of Malta, Malta, be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

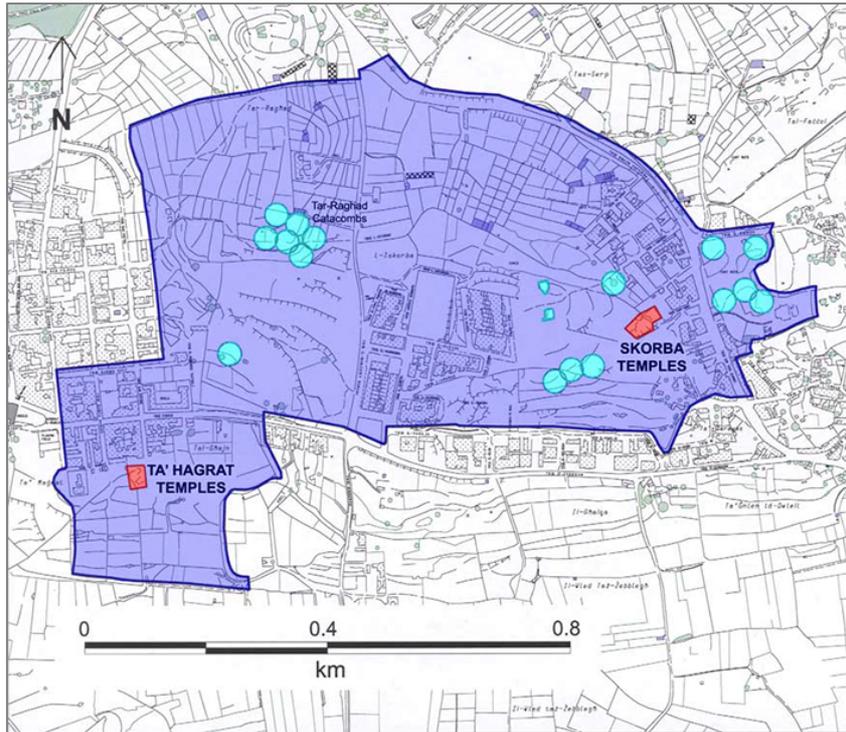
ICOMOS recommends that the State Party submit a report to the World Heritage Centre when the review of the Local Plans and the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development are completed, explaining how the UNESCO World Heritage Sites and sites on the World Heritage Tentative List and their viewsheds are protected from the adverse impact of future development, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.



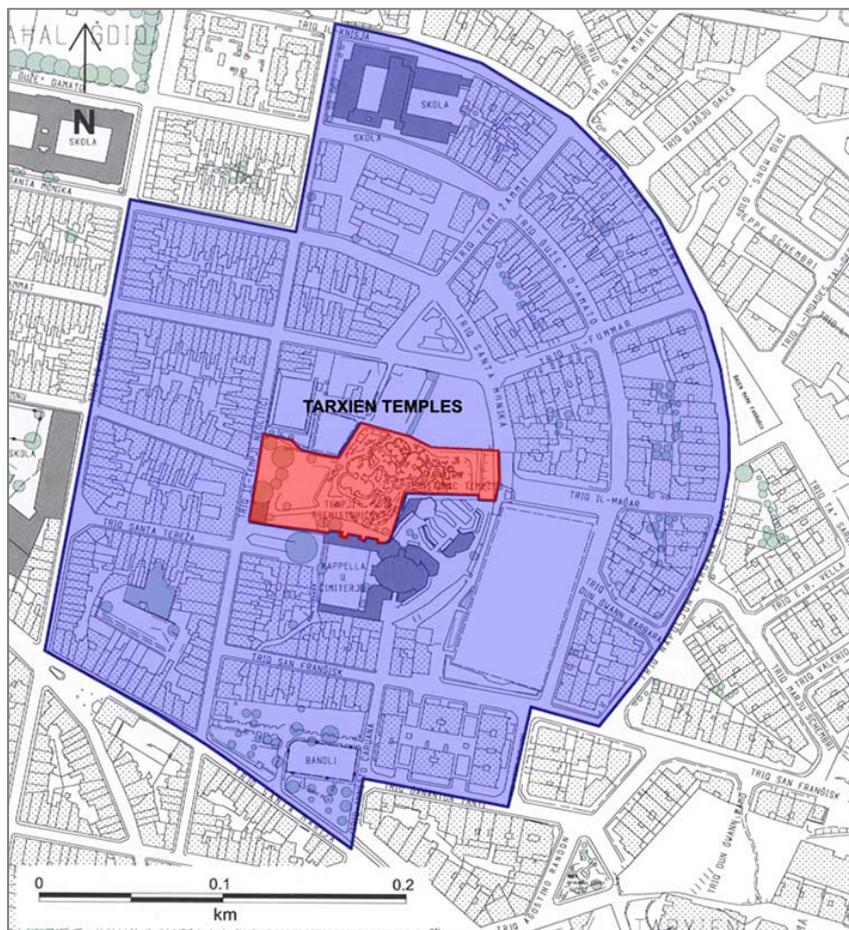
Ggantija – map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Hagar Qim and Mnajdra - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Ta' Hagraat and Skorba - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Tarxien - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct (Spain) No 311bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Spain

Name of property

Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct

Location

Autonomous community of Castile-Leon

Province of Segovia

Spain

Inscription

1985

Brief description

The Roman aqueduct of Segovia, probably built c. A.D. 50, is remarkably well preserved. This impressive construction, with its two tiers of arches, forms part of the setting of the magnificent historic city of Segovia. Other important monuments include the Alcázar, begun around the 11th century, and the 16th-century Gothic cathedral.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

Records held by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS show that no boundary for the entire World Heritage property was provided when the revised nomination was submitted in 1985. Within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory Project the State Party provided maps showing the property (Central Area) and buffer zone including the line of the Aqueduct for its full length in several sheets (Plano UNESCO 1 – 8).

The property area of 134,28 ha including the aqueduct to a length of 16,23 km and variable width as shown in the maps of a minimum of 10m either side of the axis of the Aqueduct path, was approved by Decision 36COM 8D (Saint Petersburg, 2012).

The proposal for the creation of a buffer zone submitted in 2012, which did not form part of the 1985 revised nomination, was referred back to the State Party by the World Heritage Committee in its decision 36 COM 8B.62 (Saint Petersburg, 2012).

Decision WHC 36 COM 8B.62:

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/8B.Add and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B1.Add,*
2. *Refers the examination of the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, Spain, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:*
 - o *Provide a textual description and justification of the buffer zone boundary. This should consider views to and from the property and include an appropriate analysis;*
 - o *Provide detailed information regarding the protection afforded the buffer zone by the Special Plans for the Historical Areas of Segovia (PEAHIS), and on how the loop of aqueduct and buffer zone outside the Special Plan area (Plano UNESCO 8) will be protected.*

Modification

The minor boundary modification request now submitted is for a buffer zone of 401,44 ha surrounding the entire property including the full length of the Aqueduct to a variable width as shown on the maps attached to Annexes 1-7 to the submission extending a minimum of 50 m from the property boundary. The buffer zone incorporates all the declared Historic Areas (from 1941 to 1978) and the Pintoresque Landscape (declared in 1947) and takes into account a number of viewpoints:

- Panoramic from the Alcazar's gardens viewpoint;
- Panoramic from the Canaleja's viewpoint;
- Views up to San Justo and El Salvador churches (Postigo del Consuelo Viewpoint);
- Historic Area for the Aqueduct safeguard (300 m from the monument onto the San Ildefonso and Boceguillas Roads);
- Picturesque landscape of poplar avenues and groves of Segovia's Town;
- Historic buildings group of Santa Eulalia's Square.

ICOMOS notes that no view analysis has been provided but considers that the photographic coverage is adequate.

The property and buffer zone are protected by the Special Plans for the Historical Areas of Segovia (PEAHIS). According to Spanish cultural heritage legislation the PEAHIS are directed at maintaining "the urban and architectural structure and landscape silhouette (of the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct) as well as the general characteristics of their environment and the values that determined their statement (of OUV)". Where the Aqueduct loops outside the PEAHIS boundary the property and buffer zone are protected by National Parks (Guadaramma Mountains) and Biosphere Reserves (Royal Site San Ildefonso - El Espinar) legislation.

ICOMOS commends the intention of the PEAHIS but notes that no details have been provided on how they protect the buffer zone in terms of height controls and protection of viewsheds.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed buffer zone is adequate but that more detail is required on how it will be protected.

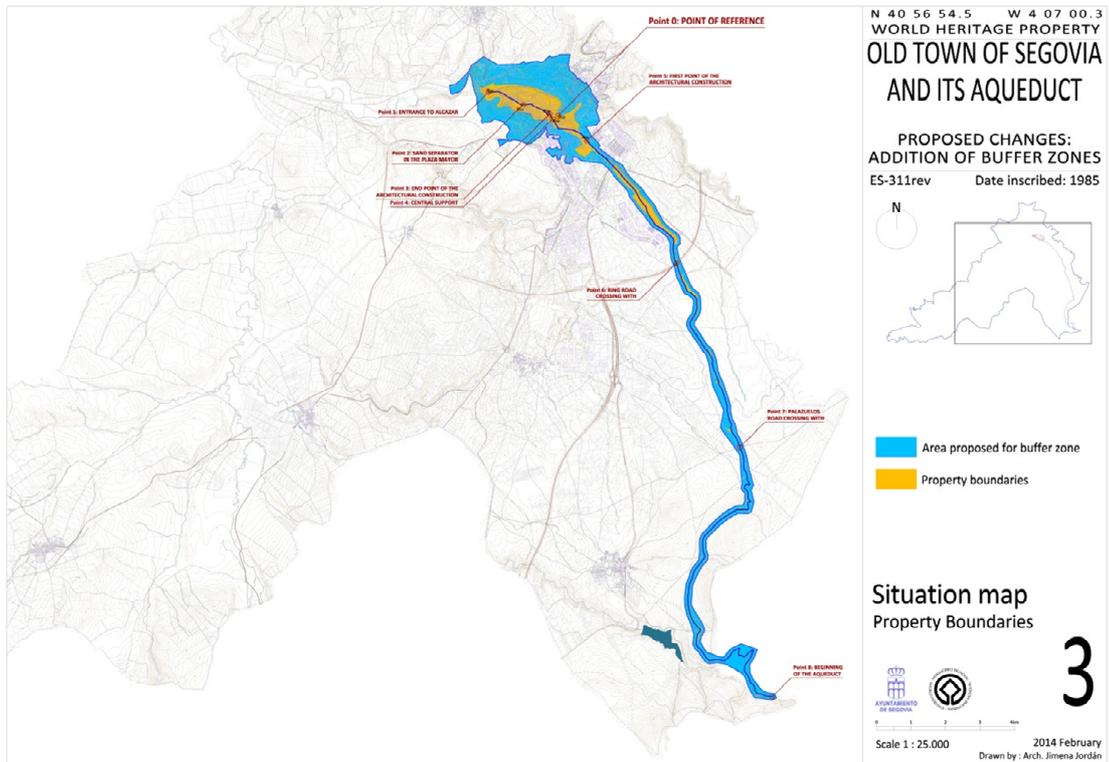
3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for the Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, Spain be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS also recommends that the State Party submit, by 1 December 2015, a report to the World Heritage Centre outlining in detail how the buffer zone will be protected in terms of height controls and protection of viewsheds for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

Old Town of Cáceres (Spain)

No 384bis

1 Basic data

State Party

Spain

Name of property

Old Town of Cáceres

Location

Province of Cáceres, Autonomous Community of Extremadura

Inscription

1986

Brief description

Cáceres is an outstanding example of a city that was ruled from the 14th to 16th centuries by powerful rival factions: fortified houses, palaces and towers dominate its spatial configuration. This city in Extremadura bears the traces of highly diverse and contradictory influences, such as Islamic arts, Northern Gothic, Italian Renaissance, arts of the New World, etc. The walls of the city bear exceptional testimony to the fortifications built in Spain by the Almohads. The Torre Desmochada in Cáceres is part of an ensemble of walls and towers which is representative of a civilization and which has been largely conserved.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

The Old Town of Cáceres was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 1986 on the basis of criteria (iii) and (iv). The property covers an area of 9 hectares, an area referred to in the minor boundary modification proposal as "intramural". The property had no buffer zone at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List. In 1990 the City Council of Cáceres adopted the Special Plan of Protection and Revitalization of Architectural Heritage of the City of Cáceres (also referred to as the Special Plan) with a territorial scope of 60.63 hectares surrounding the property, counted from the external limits of the boundary of the World Heritage property. In 2012 the World Heritage Committee (Committee Decision 36 COM 8D) took note of the clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the State Party in response to the Retrospective Inventory.

Modification

The proposed buffer zone occupies the exact territorial scope of the 1990 Special Plan of Protection and Revitalization of Architectural Heritage of the City of Cáceres, an area referred to in the proposal as "outside the walls". Overall the World Heritage property and its buffer zone have a total of 69.63 hectares.

The general reasons for establishing a buffer zone for the Old Town of Cáceres have been clearly explained and the motivations for this are sound. For instance, the minor boundary modification proposal indicates that the list of sites of cultural interest in the City of Cáceres includes buildings outside the scope of the World Heritage property, but within the territory of the Special Plan, such as the Oratorio-Infirmery of San Pedro de Alcántara and the Palace of Camarena. In addition, the area of intervention of the Special Plan has been regulated by a succession of state, regional and local rules: the Law 16/1985 on Spanish Historical Heritage; the Law 2/1999 on the Historic and Cultural Heritage of Extremadura; Cáceres General Urban Planning Scheme of 1998 (currently under revision); and the Comprehensive Restoration Zone, regulated by Decrees 47/97 and 48/97, which apply to historical sites declared to be of Cultural Interest under the terms of the agreement signed between the City Council of Cáceres and the Government of Extremadura. However the proposal fails to explain the rationale behind the definition of the limits of the buffer zone.

Furthermore, ICOMOS also notes that the proposed buffer zone is based on the area of intervention of the Special Plan, which is old and out-dated in some aspects and requires a comprehensive review. In fact, as clearly stated by the State Party, a future revision of the Special Plan could modify its territorial scope, including or excluding areas of protection, such as the Ribera del Marco, which could affect, in turn, the buffer zone. In 2013 the Consortium "Cáceres, Historic Town" was created to act as a coordination body for all the plans, projects, actions, programmes regarding World Heritage. The Consortium integrates the Regional Government of Extremadura, the Provincial Council and the Municipality of Cáceres. A Working Group was also created in the same year at a Municipal level to develop a three-phase Management Plan of the Old Town of Cáceres. Although it is stated that the Management Plan will have the same territorial scope of intervention as the Special Plan and use the same mechanisms for managing the buffer zone as those of the Special Plan, the proposal does not provide a detailed explanation on how this would work.

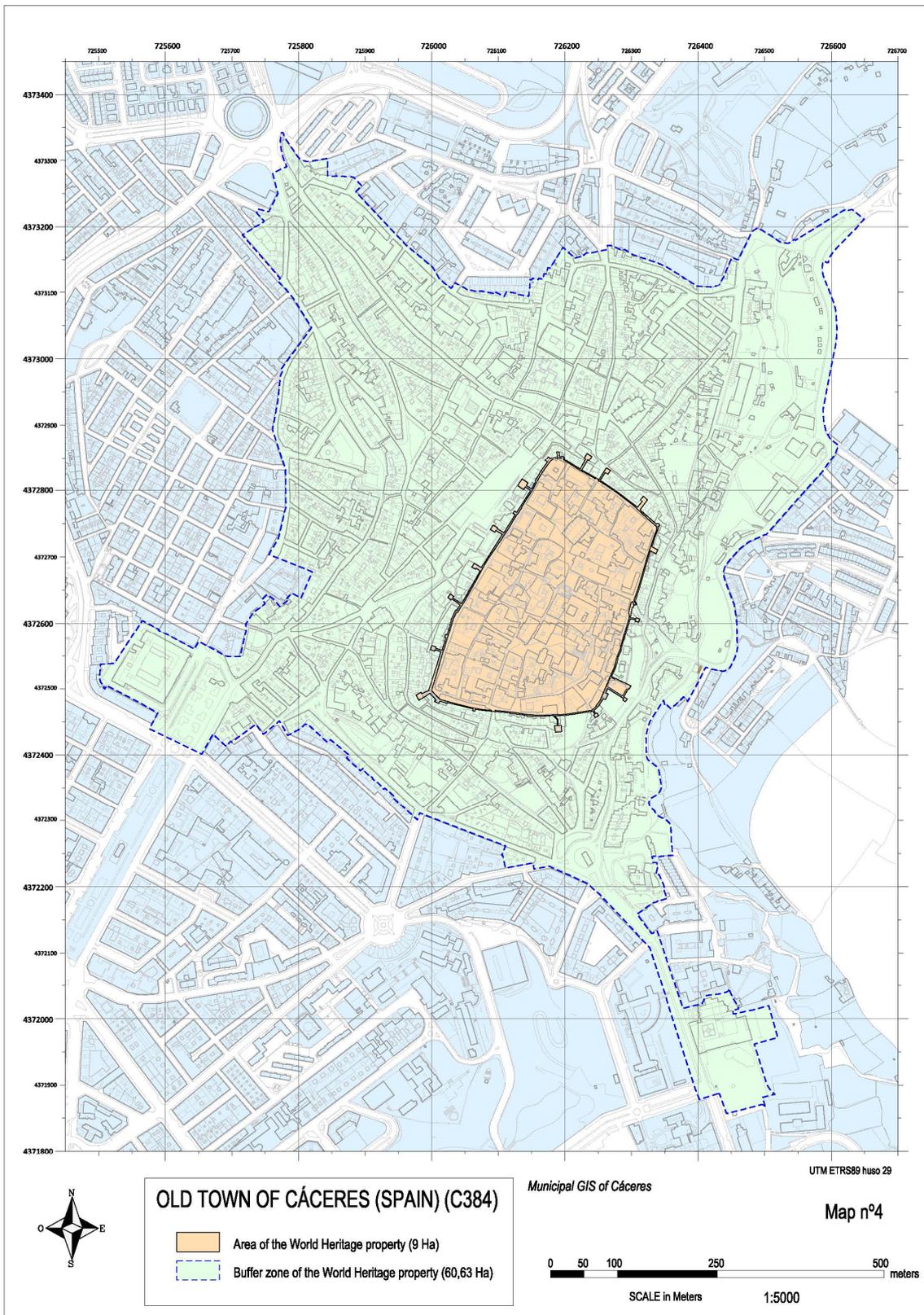
Nonetheless, it would be desirable that the delineation of the buffer zone for the property be defined within the framework of the on-going preparation of the management plan (as indicated in Section II of the Periodic Report of 2014), in order to ensure that the buffer zone is able to provide an effective safeguard for the Outstanding Universal Value of the inscribed property.

3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendation with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the proposed buffer zone for Old Town of Cáceres, Spain, be **referred back** to the State Party in order to allow it to:

- Provide further explanation of the rationale chosen for the proposed limits of the buffer zone in relation to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- Provide information on the management arrangements in place for the proposed buffer zone;
- Provide a timetable on the preparation of the Management Plan of the Old Town of Cáceres and finalize it.



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney (United Kingdom) No 514bis

1 Basic data

State Party

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Name of property

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney

Location

Mainland Orkney, Scotland

Inscription

1999

Brief description

The group of Neolithic monuments on Orkney consists of a large chambered tomb (Maes Howe), two ceremonial stone circles (the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar) and a settlement (Skara Brae), together with a number of unexcavated burial, ceremonial and settlement sites. The group constitutes a major prehistoric cultural landscape which gives a graphic depiction of life in this remote archipelago in the far north of Scotland some 5,000 years ago.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

12 March 2015

2 Issues raised

Background

The settings of the both two groups of monuments: Brodgar-Stenness and Skara Brae are significant, not only in terms of their meaning, but also in terms of their experience. Brodgar-Stenness is located in a topographic bowl with interconnected ridgelines and expansive views across the undeveloped landscape. These views allows for visual connections to the larger archaeological landscape, with a number of sites located within the proposed buffer zone. The high concentration of contemporary burial and occupation sites in the buffer zone presents a valuable relict cultural landscape that supports the value of the main sites.

Skara Brae constitutes the remains of a domestic site and is located within a working pastoral landscape. The site is visually but also experientially different from Brodgar-Stenness in that it is geographically confined, has a strong connection with the sea and is well defined.

The landscape and monuments are fragile and vulnerable to increased visitor impacts such as footfall and incremental developments. Coastal erosion is also a concern. The current buffer zone does not consider these impacts, nor does it serve to support the broader context of the monuments, which are essential in their comprehension and Outstanding Universal Value.

Part of the landscape is covered by a two-part buffer zone, centred on Skara Brae in the west and on the Mainland monuments in the central west. Two layers of buffer zone were proposed for the site in the nomination dossier of 1998:

- 1) an Inner Buffer Zone (IBZ); and
- 2) an Outer Buffer Zone (OBZ).

The inner buffer zones were very tightly drawn around the monuments and were mainly aligned with existing cultural and natural heritage designations. The outer buffer zone of the Brodgar-Stenness group includes a broad area around the inner buffer zone; however, the Skara Brae outer buffer zone only includes a limited area around the site.

Modification

The proposed new buffer zones around Skara Brae and Brodgar-Stenness includes a much broader area around the sites themselves. The proposed revision to the buffer zone aims to firstly unify the myriad of buffer zones presented in the nomination dossier and 2001 Management Plan, and also the Zones of Visual Influence contained within the previous Local Development Plan. The proposed buffer zone also strives to ensure consistency between the buffer zone, the present Management Plan, the Orkney Local Development Plan and recently adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (2011) for the World Heritage Site. The Management Plan for 2014-19 draws on the work that has already been delivered through previous Partnership Management Plans and specifically builds upon the work of the 2008-13 Management Plan and also contains guidelines for the new buffer zone.

The proposed buffer zone introduces a Sensitive Area that creates a wide area around the sites and their associated buffer zones where the outstanding universal value and the setting need to be considered as part of any proposed developments. It serves to highlight areas where policies relating to the potential affects on the World Heritage Site and its setting should be taken into account. The revised buffer zone and sensitive area thus serve to protect the context of the sites and the key visual connections between the Brodgar-Stenness group of monuments. Protection is afforded in the Supplementary Planning Guidance through the identification of 'sensitive ridgelines' within the Sensitive Area and guidelines in terms of avoiding the approval of large-scale developments in the area. The overarching goal is protection of the OUV of the site as a whole.

According to the Supplementary Planning Guidance (2011), management of the site and its buffer zone will be the responsibility of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site (HONO WHS) Steering Group, which comprises representatives of the four Partner organisations: Orkney Islands Council, Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The Steering Group includes a Development Management Officer and together with the County Archaeologist or the Conservation and Heritage Planning Policy Officer, all new development proposals should be reviewed.

ICOMOS considers that the proposed amendment to the buffer zone of Skara Brae in the west and the central west monuments of Brodgar-Stennes, will help to protect the relationships and linkages between the monuments and the wider open landscape. The buffer zone will also serve to protect the monuments that comprise the Property and those in the area outside it that support the outstanding universal value.

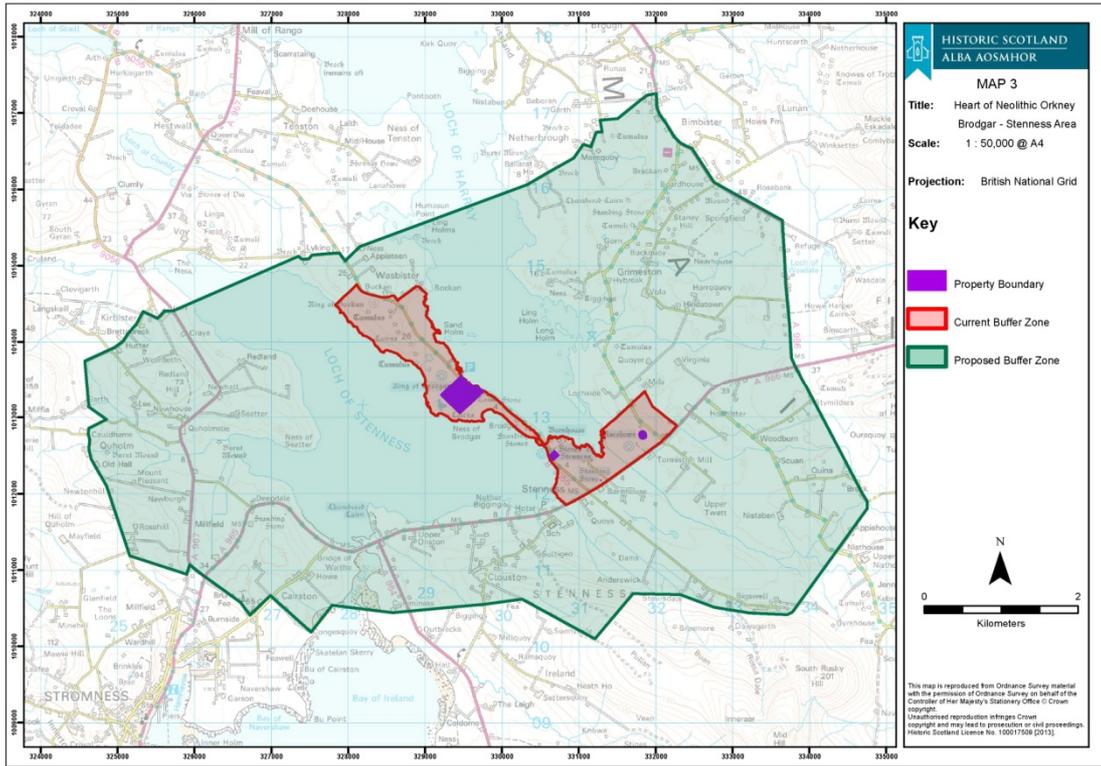
3 ICOMOS Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

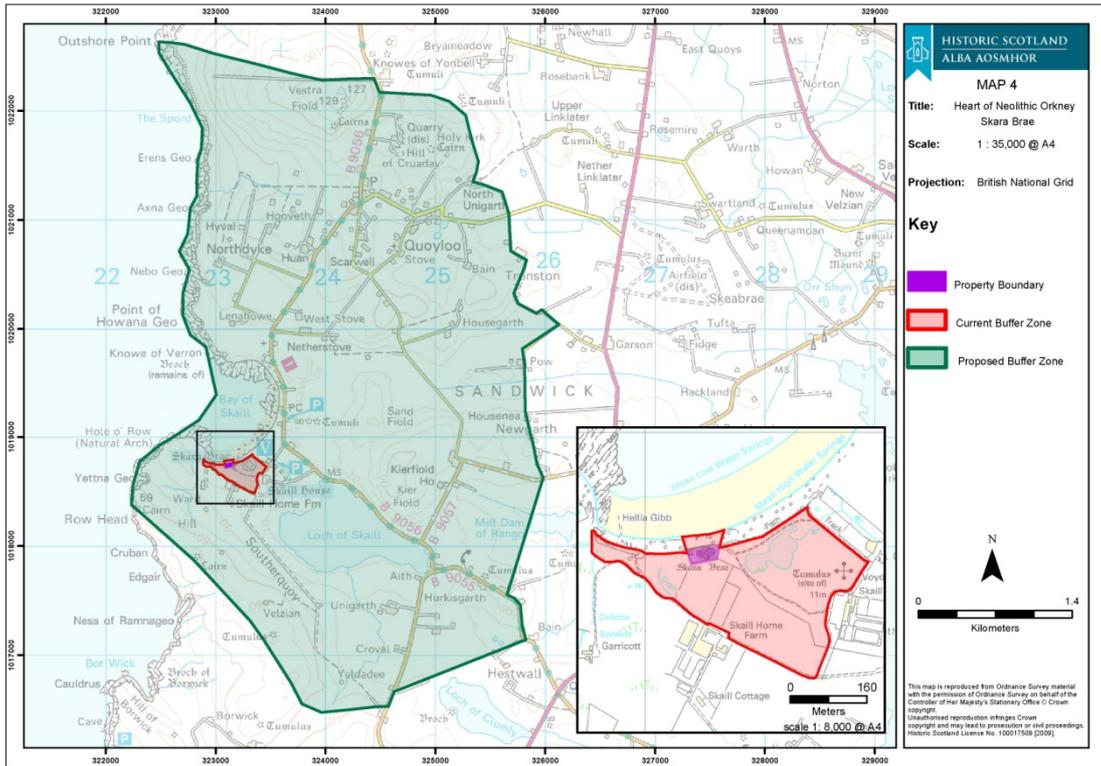
ICOMOS recommends that the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of The Heart of Neolithic Orkney, United Kingdom be **approved**.

Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party ensure that the revised buffer zones are included in the revised management plan 2014-2019 as announced and that the supplementary guidance for wind energy is approved.



Brodgar – Stenness Area - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone



Skara Brae - map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone

