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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June - 10 July 2019

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

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/43COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports are available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

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

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

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

1. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

ASIA-PACIFIC

2. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) (N 917)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Potential extension of a mining lease (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/>

Current conservation issues

In recent years, particularly 2018 and 2019, the World Heritage Centre received various third party information raising concerns about development proposals in the vicinity of the property and their potential threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly the construction of the Western Sydney Airport, the Bylong Coal project, the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall and a high-speed transit tunnel.

On 20 December 2018, the State Party responded to letters from the World Heritage Centre and, on 11 April 2019, submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/documents/>, which provides the following information:

- There is no mining within the property and all mining projects located outside the property have been or are being assessed for their potential impacts on the property under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act);
- The Bylong Coal Project had been previously assessed and was considered unlikely to have significant impacts on the OUV of the property. This decision was recently reconsidered by the Minister of the Environment, based on newly available information, and it was reaffirmed that the project would not result in significant impacts on the OUV of the property;
- In July 2015, coal fines from the Clarence Colliery collapsed into the Wollangambe River, resulting in pollution within the property. The mining company was prosecuted and requested to pay an environmental compensation, in addition to covering clean-up works. The State Party investigated the incident and remediation works, and concluded that there have been no long-term impacts on the OUV of the property;
- The proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall by 14 meters for flood mitigation purposes is being assessed under the EPBC Act and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to fully assess potential impacts on the OUV. The State Party reported that the raising

of the wall is expected to increase the frequency and extent of temporary inundation upstream of the dam;

- In October 2018, the New South Wales (NSW) Parliament passed an amendment to the Water NSW Act 2014, exempting the Warragamba Dam from the prohibition to increase temporary inundation in a national park provided for by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. However, this amendment on its own does not constitute an approval for raising of the Warragamba Dam;
- A Strategic Management Framework is being developed and should replace the existing Strategic Plan for the property, as an integrated management instrument;
- In 2016, the construction of the Western Sydney Airport was approved, following the conclusions of the EIS that significant impacts on the OUV of the property were unlikely, but that there might be “some noise impacts on amenity within the property”, which should be minimized through the airspace and flight path design. The latter will be subject to a separate assessment under the EPBC Act, expected to be released for public comment in 2021.

Regarding a high-speed transit tunnel project, the State Party provided information to the World Heritage Centre on 15 January 2019 that it was not aware of any serious discussions on the matter and has not received a referral for this proposal under the EPBC Act. The State Party will therefore inform the Committee of any action that may significantly impact the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation provided by the State Party that the EIS for the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam wall will fully assess all potential impacts on the property's OUV and its other values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, is welcomed. However, it is noted with concern that both the State Party and the information received by the World Heritage Centre from different third party sources confirm that the raising of the wall will result in the increase of the frequency and extent of temporary inundation in the property. Such inundation of any areas within the property is likely to impact on its OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that, in line with its commitment, all potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in detail by the EIS, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any final decisions regarding the project. The Committee may also wish to recall Decision **40 COM 7**, para.17, in which it considered that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and urged States Parties to “*ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value*”.

While the State Party's confirmation that no mining occurs within the property and that all mining projects in its vicinity have been or are being assessed for potential impacts on the property is noted, it is of concern that several mining projects exist in the vicinity of the property and that some mining activities have resulted in impacts on the property, as evidenced by the incident at the Clarence Colliery. While the confirmation that no long-term impacts on the property from the incident are expected is noted, it needs to be stressed that, for some projects mentioned in the information submitted by the State Party, such as the Airly Mine Extension Project, potential risks to the OUV have been identified, and the approvals for these projects included conditions that have to be fulfilled in order to minimize risks, such as implementation of a site water management system. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties.

For the South Bates Extension project, the report states that, since the property is not inscribed for its geological values, potential cliff instability resulting from the mining activities would not affect its OUV. However, it should be recalled that the Statement of OUV of the property specifically notes the importance of the geology and geomorphology for providing the physical conditions that support its biological values recognized under criteria (ix) and (x). While some mines were in existence near the property at the time of inscription, it will be important to consider whether the number of mining projects and activities in the vicinity of (or even adjacent to) the property might cumulatively result in any significant impact on its OUV. It should be recalled that this property does not have a formal Buffer Zone, increasing its vulnerability to edge effects. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the

State Party to undertake an assessment of potential cumulative impacts of existing and planned mining projects in the vicinity of the property.

The information provided by the State Party regarding the Western Sydney Airport is noted, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the EIS detailing the anticipated airspace and flight path operations, once available, for review by IUCN.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that potential threats to the property from activities outside its boundaries, particularly mining, are fully considered in the development of the Strategic Management Framework.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.15, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Notes with concern that the State Party recognizes that the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall is expected to increase the frequency and extent of temporary inundation of the property upstream of the dam;*
4. *Considers that the inundation of areas within the property resulting from the raising of the dam wall are likely to have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, recalls Decision 40 COM 7, in which it considered that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, and urged States Parties to “ensure that the impacts from dams that could affect properties located upstream or downstream within the same river basin are rigorously assessed in order to avoid impacts on the OUV”, and requests the State Party to ensure, in line with its commitment, that the current process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposal fully assesses all potential impacts on the OUV of the property and its other values, including Aboriginal cultural heritage, and to submit a copy of the EIS to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any final decisions regarding the project;*
5. *Also notes with concern that several mining projects exist in the vicinity of or adjacent to the property, and that some mining activities have resulted in impacts on the property, as evidenced by the incident at the Clarence Colliery, and also requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of potential cumulative impacts of all existing and planned mining projects in the vicinity of the property through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a similar mechanism;*
6. *Reiterates its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement to not undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;*
7. *Notes the information provided by the State Party regarding the Western Sydney Airport proposal and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the EIS for the anticipated airspace and flight path operations, once available, for review by IUCN;*

8. *Welcomes the development of a Strategic Management Framework for the property as a new integrated management instrument and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that potential threats to the property from activities outside its boundaries, particularly mining, are fully considered in the development of this management framework and that the EIS required are carried out in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project(s) on the property's OUV;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

3. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2008)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 32,590 from Switzerland following a Special Appeal by the Sector for External Relations of UNESCO; 2017: USD 32,527 from the UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for technical support to the Sundarbans World Heritage property

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Pollution of marine waters
- Changes to oceanic waters (High level of salinity, sea level rise)
- Water infrastructure (Reduction in freshwater inflows, dredging of the Pashur River)
- Management systems/management plan (Overall governance and management of the property)
- Storms (Loss of monitoring capacity due to cyclone damage)
- Illegal activities (Tiger poaching)
- Forestry/wood production (Unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products)
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Thermal Power Plant project such as the Rampal power plant development project)
- The need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the entire property, in particular for the South-West region of Bangladesh

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

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/798/documents/>. The report notably provides the following information:

- No environmental clearance or permission has been given to any large-scale industrial projects adjacent to the property;
- An overview of current and future development plans until 2041 in the Southwest region of Bangladesh has been undertaken in preparation for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A consultancy firm to undertake the SEA was to be shortlisted in January 2019;
- An integrated freshwater inflow management plan is being implemented to maintain freshwater flow and improve water quality. Gorai River is dredged during the dry season to divert water to the Southwest region of Bangladesh. Several additional projects are underway in the region to dredge numerous other waterways;
- An India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Conservation of the Sundarbans (JWG) has been created, which has led to an agreement to conduct joint studies on the indicators to monitor the health of the Sundarbans ecosystem and the impacts of climate change, and to protect the Bengal Tiger;
- In June 2017, the Government of Bangladesh more than doubled the area of the three wildlife sanctuaries to cover the area beyond the property's boundaries, to prohibit resource exploitation;
- Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)-based patrolling is being implemented across the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF), which has led to a significant increase in the number of arrests made. In addition, following a successful operation by law enforcement agencies, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh declared the Sundarbans "pirate-free" on 1 November 2018;
- A 2018-2027 Tiger Action Plan has been finalized and a 2017-2022 National Tiger Recovery Program developed to accelerate the implementation of the Action Plan;
- A Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 has been adopted to give a hundred-year strategic pathway to protect and expand the Sundarbans;
- The draft 'National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan' (NOSCOP), which provides guidance to prevent, control and manage oil and chemical spillages, is undergoing stakeholder consultations;
- Any future dredging of the Pashur river will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including an assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The Mongla-Ghasiakhali channel is continuously dredged to act as the main transport route, which does not traverse the Sundarbans;
- Details are provided on mitigation measures that will be implemented for the construction of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (Rampal), including state of the art emission control techniques.

On 25 March 2019, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party, following the receipt of third-party information relating to the state of conservation of the property. On 22 April 2019, the State Party provided the following response:

- The Taltoli and Kolapara coal-based power plants on Payra River, approximately 20 km from the eastern boundary of the property, are being constructed following an EIA. No large-scale development is permitted within the SRF or its 10 km buffer zone (Ecological Critical Area – ECA);
- The State Party considers that Decision **41 COM 7B.25** did not include a request to put the construction of the Rampal Project on hold;
- As of April 2018, 190 industrial projects are approved in the ECA around Mongla Port (ca. 65km from the property), 154 of which are active and operating;

- Five consultancy firms have been shortlisted to undertake the SEA and are requested to submit a 'Request for Proposal' by 18 April 2019.

On 20 May 2019, the State Party submitted copies of EIAs for the Rampal project and Taltoli power plant to the World Heritage Centre.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Positive developments, such as the implementation of the integrated freshwater inflow management plan, the implementation of SMART, the development of the Tiger Action Plan and recovery programme, and the expansion of the wildlife sanctuaries are welcomed. The creation of the India-Bangladesh JWG is also welcomed, and such a collaboration should be encouraged for the long-term protection of the property. The confirmation that any future dredging of the Pashur River will undergo an EIA is appreciated, but it should be noted that this should apply to dredging of any scale. The Committee should remind the State Party that EIAs should be conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and include a specific section on the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property.

However, little progress has been achieved to address other significant threats to the property. Despite the Committee's requests, no serious consideration was given to possible alternatives to the construction of the Rampal power plant, and its construction is progressing. The Committee's concerns regarding the high risk of downstream impacts on the property arising from air and water pollution, a substantial increase in shipping and dredging, and an additional removal of freshwater from an already increasingly saline environment, were not properly addressed or assessed as part of the SEA, as was requested by the Committee, while the construction of the power plant proceeded. It should be reiterated that, in Decision **41 COM 7B.25**, the Committee requested the State Party to ensure that no "large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments" are allowed to proceed before the SEA for the Southwest region of Bangladesh, including the World Heritage property, has been completed. The Committee's decision does not make any exception for the Rampal Project and specifically requests that the State Party assess the various impacts of the project on the property as part of the SEA, as recommended by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission. In the absence of such an SEA, it is of particular concern that other coal power plants, Taltoli and Kolapara, are also being constructed on the Payra River, despite the Committee's requests. The Payra River ecosystem, in which these coal power plants are being constructed, opens out into the same bay as the property, which consequently could be affected by contaminated water and other threats. Furthermore, the 154 industrial projects around Mongla Port are expected to lead to a substantial increase in shipping and dredging, and the individual industries have the potential to multiply impacts on the OUV. The continuation of the construction of the Rampal power plant, as well as construction of two additional power plants on the Payra River, proceeding in the absence of the SEA, together with the numerous other industrial projects represent both an ascertained and potential danger to the OUV of the property and the ecological and hydrological dynamics which underpin the property's OUV and integrity, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assist the State Party with the preparation of a set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR).

Furthermore, it is regrettable that the National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan (NOSCOP) has still not been finalized, and that no details on financial and human resource allocation have been provided for its implementation. Data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents have also not been submitted, despite the Committee's request.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),

3. Welcomes the formation of an India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) of the Sundarbans and requests the State Party of Bangladesh to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the concrete actions and outcomes that arise from the JWG and how these will strengthen the long-term protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Appreciates the confirmation that any future dredging of the Pashur River will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), reminds the State Party that EIAs should be conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and include a specific section on the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any dredging within the property is conducted in compliance with strict conditions that safeguard the property's OUV;
5. Deeply regrets that the construction of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant (Rampal) is continuing, reiterates its concern about the likely environmental impacts of the Rampal power plant on the property's OUV, and urges the State Party to take all necessary mitigation measures to address the concerns previously expressed by the Committee and the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
6. Expresses concern that two coal-fired power plants (Taltoli and Kolapara) are being constructed on the Payra River, which flows into the same bay as the property, and that 154 industrial projects upstream of the property are currently active, despite the Committee's request to ensure that any large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments would not be allowed to proceed before the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Southwest region of Bangladesh, including the property, has been completed, and strongly urges the State Party to halt any such development activities, including for the Rampal power plant, until the SEA has been undertaken in conformity with international standards;
7. Considers that the continued construction of the Rampal power plant, the construction of two additional power plants on the Payra River and the numerous other industrial projects in different stages of activity, together with their respective associated activities such as dredging and shipping, all taking place in the absence of the SEA, represent both an ascertained and potential danger to the hydrological and ecological dynamics which underpin the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and **decides to inscribe The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to develop, in consultation with the State Party, a set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
9. Also regrets that the National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan has still not been finalized, and also reiterates its requests that the State Party ensure adequate provision of funding and human resources for the implementation of the plan once it is adopted, and provide further information and data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents involving spills of hazardous materials in proximity to the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

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

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

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2004)

Total amount approved: USD 20,100

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Planned Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/documents>. This report highlights progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous session, as follows:

- Improved coordination of management systems for the property, specifically through the *2015 Protection and Administration Coordinating Committee of South China Karst (SCK)* and *2016 Conservation and Management Plan of SCK World Natural Heritage Site (CMP-SCK)*;
- Substantial progress in addressing and mitigating impacts from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development as a result of implementation of the CMP-SCK and efforts of the national, provincial and site administrations ;
- The renovation and expansion of the two existing roads crossing Shilin Karst and its buffer zone, potentially negatively impacting the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), has been abandoned, with only maintenance works to be carried out;
- The annexed EIA report of the planned Guiyang-Nanning High-Speed Railway, which would cross the Buffer Zone of Libo Karst, concluded that the project would not affect the OUV of the property, with only some influences on the environment in the Buffer Zone, to be managed through mitigation measures and an environmental management plan;
- Detailed information was provided on the relocation processes for Wukeshu Village, including the compensation and resettlement agreement between relocated villagers and the local government, reference to principles of consultation and voluntary relocation, funding for the construction of the new village, and a statement by the villagers confirming voluntary relocation. Following a 2-year public consultation process with local villagers (2007-2009), 92.6% of 422 households had signed the voluntary relocation agreement by July 2018, with 31 families remaining in the old village.

Further to addressing the issues raised within the Committee Decision, the State Party also stated its willingness to comply with the appropriate processes required for a boundary modification of Wulong

Karst, in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in January 2017.

In response to media articles that report the construction of the Guiyang-Nanning High-Speed Railway project appears to have started in 2016, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 29 April 2019, requesting verification of this information. On 24 May 2019, the State Party responded to the letter confirming construction has proceeded in line with the commitment to conserve and protect the OUV of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's progress towards establishing an integrated, coordinated management system for the serial components of the property, particularly through implementation of the 2016 CMP-SCK, as well as ongoing progress in addressing impacts from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development, is welcome.

Various measures put in place to monitor upstream water pollution and agricultural activities, and the reported gradual improvement in water quality, are noted. The reported progress on managing tourism impacts is welcome, however it remains unclear how the effectiveness of these management measures is being monitored.

The State Party's decision to abandon the renovation and expansion of the two existing roads crossing Shilin Karst and its buffer zone, along with its overall commitment to preserving the OUV, is appreciated.

The confirmation that the high-speed railway project is under construction is noted, along with the conclusion of the EIA that the project will not affect the OUV of the property, despite some environmental impacts in the buffer zone. The environmental management plan should ensure that any negative impacts are addressed, and the plan should include appropriate measures to prevent the accidental introduction of invasive alien species that could impact native endangered flora inside the property. Noting that one of the main objectives of the railway is to improve accessibility to the property, the potential for further construction of local tourism facilities to distribute the pressure resulting from increased visitation is of concern. Such increases in tourism pressure and infrastructure could have potential adverse impacts on wildlife habitats in the buffer zone and the property. The Committee should request the State Party to assess, monitor and manage the potential long-term cumulative impacts of increased tourism pressure on the OUV of the property, in alignment with the overall tourism strategy.

The relocation of Wukeshu Village is reported to have been consultative and voluntary and to have included: a 2-year consultation process; the relocation of many households that signed the Compensation and Resettlement Agreement; financial compensation from government; sustainable energy facilities; support for housing and indigenous cultural practices; and employment opportunities. Any relocation programmes should be in line with the policies in the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*, in particular the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and relevant international standards. Recalling the Committee's previous concerns about general tourism impacts on this property, and noting that tourism is the main source of income for Wukeshu, it is critical that ongoing development balances the importance of sustainable, tourism-based livelihoods for local people against the potential for negative impacts on the property's OUV associated with tourism.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.26, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's progress towards an integrated, coordinated management system for the property, including the ongoing implementation of the 2016 Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst World Natural Heritage Site (CMP-SCK);*
4. *Notes with appreciation the continued progress in addressing impacts from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development through the implementation of the*

CMP-SCK, and urges again the State Party to closely monitor the effectiveness of measures taken;

5. Also notes with appreciation the State Party's decision to abandon the renovation and expansion projects of the two existing roads crossing Shilin Karst and its Buffer Zone, which may have a negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and its commitment to report any future developments to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Acknowledges the reported assessment of environmental impacts of the Guiyang-Nanning High-Speed Railway, which commenced in 2016 and crosses the buffer zone of Libo Karst, concluding that the project would not affect the OUV of the property, but requests however the State Party to address any impact on the buffer zone, any potential impact of invasive alien species on the property, and that it assess, monitor and manage the potential long-term cumulative impacts of increased tourism pressure on the OUV of the property;
7. Further notes with appreciation the information provided about the relocation processes followed for Wukeshu Village, in particular to ensure that the relocation was carried out with the consent of the population concerned, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any such relocation programmes are in line with the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and relevant international standards;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

5. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Area (China) (N 1083bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: UNESCO/IUCN joint Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (major hydropower development on all main rivers and related infrastructure)
- Mining (in and near the property)

- Management systems/management plan (absence of overall serial property-wide management system and plan including tourism planning; unclear property boundaries and absence of demarcation)
- Major visitor accommodation and associate infrastructure (tourism infrastructure conflicting with conservation objectives)
- Commercial hunting (apparent decline in wildlife populations suspected to be a result of trade in wildlife and wildlife derivatives)

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents>, and responds to Committee Decision **41 COM 7B.27** (Krakow, 2017), as follows:

- All mineral exploration and extraction has been terminated, including illegal mining and quarrying, and all permits inside the property and in the buffer zone suspended;
- Envisaged ecological restoration of mining sites is hampered by the absence of clear technical guidance and responsibilities and is relying on natural restoration processes;
- Commitment to monitoring landscape connectivity and wildlife between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain components where active mining continues;
- A 2016 draft of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) focusing on mining, hydropower and associated infrastructure requires additional work due to limited experience and guidance available, the scale and topographic complexity of the property, as well as paucity of data. A summary of the draft SEA was annexed to the report;
- All hydropower projects planned or under construction are located outside the property and its buffer zone and therefore considered to have no direct impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). While no hydropower development is reported on the Nujiang River, several projects have been completed on the Lancang and Jinsha Rivers. The impacts of the power transmission lines and transformation facilities on the OUV of the property will be assessed;
- Acknowledgement that both the SEA and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) need to be improved, and assistance of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN will be sought;
- Impacts of the Dianzhong Water Diversion Project at the Shigu section of the Jinsha River are negated on the grounds of the selected location outside of the property and its buffer zone, and the water quantity to be removed (8% of the water flow);
- Acknowledgement of the need for systematic Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) after current institutional reform since 2018;
- In 2018, Yunnan Province ratified an “Ecological Conservation Redline”, which prohibits all development inside the property and its buffer zones;
- Elaboration of both a Strategic Master Plan for Regional Development and Conservation Management Planning for the property is underway;
- A pilot programme to initiate a “National Park” category in China is expected to reach conclusion in 2020;
- Numerous ecological research projects are on-going;
- Rural poverty is suggested to be the main factor threatening heritage protection. The State Party is making efforts to alleviate poverty in the property area by engaging local communities including indigenous peoples in park management and tourism services. Some villages have been or are going to be relocated upon consensus by the residents to improve their living conditions as well as heritage protection.

On 25 March 2019, the State Party submitted additional information on the EIAs of four ongoing power transmission projects involving the property and its buffer zones upon request of the World Heritage Centre. The information is under technical review by IUCN.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation of the closure and termination of mines inside the property and its buffer zones, as a follow up to previous commitments to consider the whole area off limits, is welcomed. The overdue closure of active mining and permanent suspension of all permits should be followed up by site restoration to mitigate impacts and risks. In order to prevent any illegal mining activities, continued monitoring and law enforcement will be required. It is welcomed that monitoring is foreseen between the Hongshan and the Haba Snow Mountain components, an area excised from the property in 2010.

Follow-up on the SEA and the objective to increase EIA standards are similarly welcomed. It is noted that the main conclusion of the draft SEA is that the general state of conservation of the property is good; however, the primary objective of an SEA is not to assess conservation status. It is recommended that the SEA be further revised, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment; the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are available to provide guidance to the State Party to identify opportunities to cooperate on the elaboration of the SEA and EIAs.

Further completion of hydropower developments on the Lancang and Jinsha Rivers and the physical location of all hydropower infrastructure outside the property and its buffer zone are noted. However, the modification of entire river systems inevitably comes with major changes of aquatic systems beyond the visible physical footprint. It is well documented that hydropower development can also result in disturbance, loss of connectivity, improved road access facilitating illicit activities and species invasions on land. Furthermore, it is noted with concern that some power transmission lines also cross the property, as confirmed by the State Party in the additional information it submitted. From the brief summary of the EIAs developed for the transmission lines, submitted by the State Party, it appears the EIAs do not specifically assess potential impacts of such infrastructure on the OUV of the property, particularly on its values recognized under criterion (vii). Such a specific assessment will therefore need to be developed in order to understand the level of impacts on the property resulting from the construction of the power lines.

It is noted that, although hydropower development on the Nujiang River has repeatedly been suspended in the past, a decision in favour of such development appears to be pending still. Considering that the Nujiang River is now the only river – out of three that gave the property its name – which retains its relatively natural state, it is important that the State Party continue to protect its natural flow. The State Party should also ensure that no further development is considered until the SEA for the property and buffer zone has been completed.

The State Party's engagement with local communities including indigenous peoples to alleviate poverty is welcomed. The reported institutional reforms can positively enhance the management coherence across the vast serial property under the leadership of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration. The Strategic Master Plan for Regional Development and the Conservation Management Plan for the property should be harmonized, fully taking into account the evolving management framework.

Finally, the Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) initiative offers a proven model for promoting sustainable development near and within World Heritage sites, while engaging indigenous and local communities in conservation and governance of these properties. Building on this experience, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the World Heritage Centre propose a joint Asia-Pacific COMPACT capacity-building workshop in the region to extend the COMPACT model. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to organize this activity in Yunnan Province prior to the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nation's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Yunnan in October 2020. This will allow to present the GEF SGP project sites around World Heritage properties in connection with the workshop.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.27, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*

3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to consider the property and its buffer zone entirely off limits with regard to mineral exploration and extraction, and in particular:
 - a) The permanent closure of active mining operations and the commitment to ecological restoration of mining sites,
 - b) The permanent suspension of all mineral exploration and extraction permits, including in the buffer zone,
 - c) The focus on addressing illegal small-scale mining and quarrying,
 - d) The monitoring of actively mined areas between the Hongshan and the Haba Snow Mountain components;
4. Strongly encourages the State Party to finalize adequate guidance and to clarify institutional responsibilities on ecological restoration in post-mining sites;
5. Notes with concern that the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and urges again the State Party to further elaborate the SEA while strengthening technical expertise and capacity in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
6. Also welcomes the evolution of the overarching institutional and planning framework under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, including the elaboration of Conservation Management Plan for the property and a Strategic Master Plan for Regional Development beyond the property, and also strongly encourages the State Party to consider both the SEA findings and the changing institutional framework when elaborating these plans;
7. Further encourages the State Party to take advantage of the improved coordination measures for the property to continue the implementation of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, and in particular the establishment of an overarching Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system;
8. Reiterates its concern that the increasing change in views and beauty of all three river valleys and the impacts of the hydropower and related infrastructure projects on connectivity between component parts of the property are likely to have a direct negative impact on the property's OUV and strongly urges the State Party not to consider any further development until the SEA for the property and buffer zone has been completed, and ensure that the last remaining free flowing river Nujiang is not altered by hydropower development;
9. Encourages furthermore the State Party to organize a joint World Heritage Centre/GEF SGP Asia-Pacific Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) capacity-building workshop in the property, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, to extend the COMPACT model to the Asia-Pacific region;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/assistance>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September/October 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Existing and planned hydroelectric dams, including Site C
- Alberta oil sands mining
- Climate change
- Lack of adequate and comprehensive environmental monitoring
- Lack of engagement with First Nations and Métis in monitoring activities and insufficient consideration of traditional ecological knowledge
- Cumulative impact

Illustrative material see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a progress report on 1 February 2018, a state of conservation report of the property on 30 November 2018 and the final Action Plan on 1 February 2019, all of which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/documents/>. A draft version of the Action Plan had previously been submitted for technical review by IUCN. Through regular correspondence, the State Party also informed the World Heritage Centre about the proposed Horizon North Pit Mine Extension Project, engagement with First Nations and Métis, and the creation of a protected area complex through the designation of provincial parks, partly adjoining the property. On 5 June 2018, the State Party also submitted the final Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which assessed the cumulative impacts of industrial developments on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The State Party's report responds to Committee Decision **41 COM 7B.2** as follows:

- The elaboration of the Action Plan was based on a participatory, multi-jurisdictional cooperation between the federal and provincial governments, Indigenous partners and other stakeholders, and on the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2018 SEA. 27.5 million Canadian dollars (approximately USD 20.6 million) has been allocated in the federal budget over five years to support the Action Plan;
- An Imminent Threat Assessment is being undertaken for the Ronald Lake Bison Herd, which could lead to an issuance of a federal emergency protection order;

- A proposed new federal legislation (Bill C-69), if approved, would strengthen the impact assessment processes of future project proposals that may impact on national parks;
- The State Party commits to consider incremental and cumulative impacts of any future hydroelectric development projects upstream of the property on its OUV in line with the IUCN Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, to the extent possible. The understanding of the impacts of hydropower developments on the Peace River has enhanced through multi-stakeholder work on environmental flows, hydrology and through the SEA. The proposed Amisk hydroelectric project on the Peace River has been referred to an independent review panel and an Environmental Impact statement is due in 2020;
- Assessment of the proposed Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project will include cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, including on the Peace Athabasca Delta (PAD). The report of the Joint Review Panel (JRP) is expected in spring 2019. Implementation of Alberta's Tailings Management Framework for the Mineable Athabasca Oil Sands aims to reduce the risks from potential seepage or breach of fluid tailing ponds.

In response to various third party information, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre on 6 and 7 May 2019 that it focuses, *inter alia*, on detailed implementation planning of the Action Plan, including the identification of additional funding as well as commitments currently under negotiation.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The SEA and Action Plan constitute a systematic framework and swift follow-up to the Committee's requests and mission recommendations. It is underpinned by a participatory analysis and demonstrates an improved involvement of indigenous peoples.

The creation of the protected area complex adjacent to the property, described as the largest contiguous protected boreal forest globally, is a commendable achievement and could serve as a basis for the designation of a buffer zone for the property. Adequate resourcing to enable effective coordination and management should be encouraged. Furthermore, it is encouraging that the proposed Bill C-69, if approved, would enable more rigorous assessments of development projects potentially impacting on national parks. The threat analysis for the Ronald Lake Bison Herd is welcomed, and the findings, once available, should be considered in the overall Species Recovery Strategy.

Whilst acknowledging these efforts, it is of serious concern that the SEA confirms the severity of the challenges and attests the downward trend of the indicators for the property's OUV, especially in the PAD. Considerably more effort will be needed to reverse the negative trends, at a time when climate change combined with upstream industrial developments and resource extraction are intensifying.

While studies on the impacts of hydropower development on the Peace River have been undertaken, a detailed response on the impact of Site C hydropower project on the property's OUV as requested by the Committee is missing. It is recommended that the State Party provide an update on the outcomes of the reported processes and initiatives related to environmental flows and hydrology in the Action Plan, given the potential impacts of the Site C hydropower project and other major dams on the Peace River on the OUV of the property.

It is noted that the JRP report for the Teck Frontier Oil Sands Mine project upstream of the property was not yet available at the time of writing of this report. However, it is of concern that the project would move the oil sands development closer to the southern boundary of the property. It is appreciated that the Alberta tailings management framework is implemented and that the risk assessment of the tailings ponds is foreseen in the Action Plan. Nevertheless, it is noted that 47 further oil sands projects are being considered, besides the 37 already operating facilities, whose current and potential cumulative impacts on the OUV are of serious concern. It is recommended that the risk assessment be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once it is available.

In order to avert further deterioration of the property's OUV, which could eventually lead to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is important that the SEA's recommendations are fully considered in future Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and decision-making on relevant developments and that the Action Plan is implemented in a timely manner with adequate funding. While the funds assigned to the Action Plan above and beyond the property's current budget are significant, more funding will likely be needed given the size of the property and complexity of issues to address, as already acknowledged in the Action Plan as 'strategies to seek new resources will be developed in 2019'. The pending preparation of the next Management Plan for the property is an opportunity to further substantiate and amend the valuable

information generated by the SEA and Action Plan processes and link action with adequate governance and resource allocation, including effective sharing of governance and management with indigenous peoples inside and outside of the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.18** and **41 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for having developed a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an Action Plan to underpin and guide an adequate management response for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its conditions of integrity;
4. Also commends the State Party for its efforts and renewed commitment to fair, transparent and meaningful involvement of all legitimate stakeholders and rights-holders, including First Nations and Métis, in line with the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples;
5. Welcomes the creation of a protected area complex next to the property through the designation of provincial parks, and also encourages the federal and the provincial governments to allocate adequate resources to enable effective coordination and management for the property and the new protected areas, and to consider the designation of a buffer zone for the property;
6. Also welcomes the threat analysis undertaken for the Ronald Lake Bison Herd, and requests the State Party to fully consider the findings of the ongoing assessment in the overall Species Recovery Strategy;
7. Noting with concern the continued threat the Site C hydropower project and other major dams on the Peace River pose on the OUV of the property, also requests the State Party to provide a detailed update on the progress towards undertaking an environmental flow and hydrology assessment as recommended in the 2016 mission;
8. Appreciates that the Alberta's tailings management framework is implemented and that a systematic risk assessment of the tailings ponds of the Alberta Oil Sands region is foreseen by the Action Plan, but notes with serious concern the potential and current cumulative impacts of 47 oil sands projects being considered besides the 37 already operating facilities;
9. Also requests the State Party to conduct a systematic risk assessment of the tailings ponds of the Alberta Oil Sands as a matter of priority, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also notes with serious concern the downward trend confirmed by the SEA of the indicators for the property's OUV, considers that continued deterioration of the OUV could eventually constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, therefore further requests the State Party to ensure that the SEA's recommendations are fully

considered in future Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and decision-making for relevant developments and that the Action Plan be implemented in a timely manner with adequate funding, in order to avert continued deterioration of the property's OUV;

11. Further welcomes the significant funding already assigned to the implementation of the Action Plan, but also considers that more funding will likely be needed given the size of the property and complexity of issues to address;
12. Further encourages the State Party to take advantage of the pending Management Plan review for the property to further substantiate and amend the valuable information generated by the SEA and Action Plan processes and link action with adequate governance and resource allocation, including effective sharing of governance and management with indigenous peoples inside and outside of the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including detailed information on the outcomes of continued assessments, mitigation and compliance measures, in relation to potential impacts of the Site C hydropower project and of other major dams on the Peace River on the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

19. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1981-1988)

Total amount approved: USD 117,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 40,000 by UNESCO Venice Office; USD 50,000 under the Participation Programme

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2005: joint UNESCO / IUCN missions; November 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Proposed dam development on the Tara River) (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure (Ski development in the Zabljak area)
- Boundary issues
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/>

Current conservation issues

In November 2018, the State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to the property to review a potential boundary modification and to assess its overall state of conservation. The mission's findings are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/documents>, and can be summarized as follows:

- The area of the Durmitor National Park was reduced in 2013 to exclude a strip between the villages of Zabljak and Provalija at the foot of the "Savin Kuk" peak due to presumed degradation of the area's natural qualities caused by illegal constructions. The State Party plans to align the boundaries of the World Heritage property with the new boundaries of the National Park and to add a Regional Park in the south of the property as compensation;
- Tourism development has resulted in visitation and development pressures around Black Lake as well as in the planned significant expansion of a ski-centre inside the World Heritage property, including a 6.5 km water pipeline already being built through the property to the karst lake Modro Jezero;
- A planned upgrade of an existing transmission line on which the State Party regularly reported in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* crosses the Tara River in zone III of the National Park and represents the best possible option for minimizing impacts;
- The construction of a highway bridge across the Tara River, located inside the Tara River Biosphere Reserve and upstream of the property, has devastated the Tara riverbed at and around the construction site. Potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are currently unclear.

In response to and based on these findings of the mission, it was decided that a report on the state of conservation of the property would be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session, of which the State Party was informed on 26 February 2019. On 11 April 2019, the State Party provided clarifications in response to third party information on logging activities in the proximity of Black Lake, transmitted by the World Heritage Centre via letters on 25 March, and 1 April 2019. It confirmed that it initiated the revocation of the Plan of Temporary Structures for the area around Black Lake, following opposition from civil society.

As the State Party provided substantial information to the mission and in response to the correspondence, a separate State Party report was not considered necessary at this stage.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Regarding the planned boundary modification, the 2018 mission noted that while the area excluded from the National Park has been impacted by uncontrolled developments, it could still remain part of the property. It should be recalled that the boundaries of the property had already been modified in 2005 to exclude the town of Zabljak. However, the 2018 mission highlighted that, despite the recommendations of the 2005 mission, this exclusion has not been compensated yet, and further exclusions from Durmitor National Park have not been halted. The 2018 mission recommended to re-consider the boundary modification proposal against the background of the 2005 mission recommendations, and to consider reinstating the boundaries of the national park to their configuration prior to the 2013 exclusion to ensure that the entire property benefits from an appropriate legal protection regime. Furthermore, the mission recommended to designate a buffer zone with the primary objective to protect the property from anthropogenic pressures, taking into account ecological and visual considerations.

The 2018 mission noted that plans are being considered for a significant expansion of the existing small-scale ski-centre located within the property that pre-dates its inscription. The mission noted with particular concern that the construction of a water pipeline had already commenced to connect the karst lake Modro Jezero to a 50,000m³ reservoir next to the ski-centre, which would be used for artificial snow generation. It is considered that an expansion of ski infrastructure developments inside the property would constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to unequivocally abandon any further plans and developments of new ski infrastructure inside the property. For the pipeline, the 2018 mission recommended to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, to include consideration of the impacts on the karst flow regime, prior to any operation of the pipeline. In general, the mission recommended prioritizing

a low impact tourism strategy for the property and highlighted the possibility to consult the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Regarding the transmission line crossing part of the property, it should be acknowledged that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party kept the World Heritage Centre informed about the project, outlining the reasons for choosing the currently proposed route as the best possible option in terms of minimizing impacts. It is nevertheless recommended that the Committee request the State Party to apply strict environmental safeguard standards to carefully monitor, reduce and mitigate any potential impacts during construction and maintenance works.

Regarding the bridge across the Tara River, the mission noted severe impacts on the Tara riverbed from the construction of the motorway and its access road. This is of concern since the construction site is located upstream of the property. Consequently, the mission recommended that the State Party assess and closely monitor the downstream impacts of the motorway crossing on the OUV of the property as a matter of urgency, and provide the findings to the World Heritage Centre, including a confirmation of the status of the endangered Danube salmon, which is part of the property's OUV. An EIA should take into account all potential downstream impacts on the OUV, which should be mitigated by an Environmental Management Plan.

Regarding ongoing and planned developments around Black Lake, it is recommended to commend the State Party for swiftly initiating the revocation of the Plan of Temporary Structures around Black Lake, as this could alleviate additional pressures in an already highly frequented area.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 32 COM 7B.19, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Notes the conclusions of the November 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission, which reviewed a potential boundary modification and the state of conservation of the property, and encourages the State Party to implement all mission recommendations, particularly to:*
 - a) *Re-consider the boundary modification proposal for the property so as not to propose any further exclusions from the property and to implement recommendations of the 2005 mission to compensate for areas excluded at that time,*
 - b) *Launch a process to designate a buffer zone for the property with the primary objective to protect it from anthropogenic pressures, taking into account ecological and visual considerations;*
4. *Notes with utmost concern that the area of the property excluded from Durmitor National Park in 2013 is no longer subject to a national park-level protection regime, and therefore urges the State Party to reinstate the boundaries of the National Park to their configuration prior to the 2013 exclusion to ensure the entire property is effectively protected, to not proceed with any further development plans in this zone, and to continue preventing such developments in future;*
5. *Also notes with utmost concern the 2018 mission findings that plans are being considered for a significant expansion of the existing small-scale ski centre within the property, which pre-dates its inscription, and that the construction of a water pipeline from the karst lake Modro Jezero to a newly built water reservoir in the Savin Kuk ski zone has already commenced;*

6. *Considers that an expansion of ski infrastructure developments inside the property would constitute an ascertained danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore also urges the State Party to unequivocally abandon any such plans and developments, and to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the constructed water pipeline is undertaken, including impacts on the karst flow regime, in line with the IUCN Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, prior to any operation of the pipeline;*
7. *Acknowledges that the State Party kept the World Heritage Centre informed about the upgrade of an existing transmission line which crosses part of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests the State Party to apply strict environmental safeguard standards during construction and maintenance works;*
8. *Noting the severe impacts on the Tara riverbed from the construction of a new motorway crossing located upstream of the property, expresses its concern about potential downstream impacts, and thus also requests the State Party to carefully assess any impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including on the endangered Danube salmon, and to submit the findings to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
9. *Also noting the pressures from increasing visitor numbers and tourism development in the property, commends the State Party for initiating the process of revoking the Plan of Temporary Structures around Black Lake, and also encourages the State Party to consult with the Sustainable Tourism Programme of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the property;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Illegal activities
- Serious concerns about the imminent extinction of an endemic porpoise species (vaquita) and over the conservation status of a marine fish (totoaba)
- Illegal fishing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents>, providing the following information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2018 mission:

- The surveillance operation in the Upper Gulf of California, including permanent presence of patrol vessels and surveillance camps on the coast, has continued as a coordinated effort by various governmental agencies;
- Alternative fishing gear is reported to be available to initiate a transition period to gillnet-free fisheries in the Upper Gulf of California, which would require participation of fishermen and relevant governmental agencies. An assessment of the efficiency of developed “suripera” nets for shrimp fishing was undertaken in 2018-2019. Development and testing of alternative gear for corvina fishing is ongoing;
- The Agreement issued by several Secretaries of State, which bans gillnet fishing in the Upper Gulf of California, already represents a legally-binding provision and does not require enactment of an additional law;
- In April 2018, the refuge area for the protection of the vaquita was extended by a Secretarial Agreement;
- Various measures were undertaken to strengthen capacity to prevent, detect and intercept illegal international trafficking of wildlife products by PROFEPA (the Attorney’s General Office), Federal Police and the Mexican Navy;

- The study on the current status of totoaba and vaquita, requested at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) in 2016, has not yet commenced due to financial constraints, as was communicated by the CITES Executive Secretariat to the State Party. A paper was prepared for consideration at CITES COP18, scheduled for May 2019;
- An update is provided on the implementation of other mission recommendations, including further development and implementation of community engagement and compensation programmes and the continuation of the ghost nets retrieval programme. Development of a “Shared Vision of the Gulf of California” is underway, and aims to develop management and legal instruments to strengthen cross-sectorial cooperation;
- The proposed new Biodiversity Law was discussed by the Mexican Congress, but was not approved.

On 24 April 2019, the State Party submitted additional information, including a summary document of the Initiative for the Sustainability in the Northern Gulf of California.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continuation of the surveillance operation in the Upper Gulf of California, involving several governmental agencies, as well as measures aimed to further strengthen law enforcement capacity to prevent and intercept illegal international trafficking of wildlife products should be commended. The reported progress in implementing other key recommendations of the 2018 mission is also noted, particularly the development of alternative fishing gear, which is reported to be available to start transition away from gillnet use. It is important to ensure that the necessary resources and inter-institutional support are available to initiate as a matter of urgency the transition to fishing gear that does not endanger vaquita, with full engagement of local communities.

Unfortunately, these efforts appear not to have significantly reduced the pressures on the property from illegal fishing of totoaba, nor prevented the further decline of the vaquita population. The report of the 11th meeting of the *Comité Internacional para la Recuperación de la Vaquita* (CIRVA) held from 19-21 February 2019 has concluded that an estimated 10 vaquitas remained as of summer 2018 prior to the current fishing season, compared to the previous CIRVA population estimate of 30 animals. The acoustic monitoring programme further indicates that the few remaining vaquitas inhabit a very small area, approximately 24 x 12 km, most of which lies within the Vaquita Refuge. However, CIRVA noted that high levels of illegal fishing for totoaba continue to occur in this area. It should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, deciding that it was too early to determine whether the efforts undertaken by the State Party had averted the risk of extinction of the vaquita, postponed its decision on the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to be able to consider the data from the 2018-2019 season in order to assess if the vaquita decline had been halted. The conclusions of CIRVA and the information at hand makes it clear that despite the continuation of the unprecedented inter-institutional efforts, illegal fishing of totoaba has continued or even escalated in the Upper Gulf of California, causing further decline of the vaquita population and posing a significant threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the integrity of the property.

It is clear that the longer-term protection of the property’s OUV will not be possible without both significantly increasing efforts to tackle international trafficking of wildlife products, which underpins illegal fishing in the Upper Gulf of California, and by developing solutions for sustainable livelihoods for local communities. In this respect, it is regrettable that the study on the current status of the totoaba and vaquita, and information on illegal trade and markets in totoaba requested by the CITES Standing Committee, could not yet be undertaken due to financial constraints. However, in the short-term, it will be crucial to ensure that surveillance and enforcement measures are further strengthened in the Vaquita Refuge area, where the remaining individuals are most likely concentrated, to ensure that this area remains completely gillnet-free. In this regard, it will be also important to continue the illegal net retrieval programmes.

Given the evidence above and sense of urgency, and in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is therefore recommended that the Committee inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and request the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), focused on the measures needed to address the issue of illegal fishing and to enable the necessary regulatory and operational reforms for legal fisheries to ensure that they

are sustainable and do not cause bycatch of marine mammals, sharks and turtles, in order to guarantee the long-term protection of the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the ongoing surveillance efforts by the State Party undertaken in the Upper Gulf of California, as well as measures to prevent illegal international trafficking of totoaba products, but expresses its utmost concern that despite the significant efforts, illegal fishing of totoaba has continued and even escalated in the Upper Gulf of California resulting in a threat of imminent extinction of the vaquita population, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California, and considers therefore that illegal fishing represents an ascertained danger to the OUV and integrity of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. **Decides to inscribe the Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
5. Takes note of the reported progress made with the development of alternative fishing gear and urges the State Party to ensure that the necessary resources and inter-institutional support be available to start without further delay the transition to fishing gear that does not endanger vaquita and other non-target marine mammals, turtles and sharks, with full engagement of local communities;
6. Taking into account the recommendations of the Comité Internacional para la Recuperación de la Vaquita (CIRVA) to avoid the imminent extinction of the vaquita, also urges the State Party to further strengthen its enforcement and surveillance activities to ensure that the area where the last remaining individuals of vaquita are concentrated remains completely gillnet-free and to ensure that illegal net retrieval programmes are continued;
7. Reiterates its calls to the States Parties that are transit and destination countries for illegal trade in totoaba swim bladder to support the State Party of Mexico to halt this illegal trade, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
8. Also takes note that the study requested by the CITES Standing Committee on the current status of totoaba and vaquita, and on the illegal trade and markets, has not been undertaken yet, and also reiterates that, once available, this study will be key in mapping trafficking routes and in identifying appropriate strategies to combat illegal trade in totoaba products, which will require a concerted effort between the States Parties of Mexico, China and the United States of America;
9. Requests the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Measures aimed at removing feral livestock from Coiba Island were continued in 2018. Absence of cows and horses could be confirmed and the remaining population of buffaloes is reported to be very low. It is expected that it will be possible to declare the property free of livestock by 2019;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be developed for the property. The terms of reference have been approved and note that it will need to consider potential coastal development in the area opposite the property, fishing and visitation. It is expected that the SEA will outline preferred options for sustainable economic development in the property and ensure the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Decisions to implement any infrastructure proposals included in the property's Public Use Plan (PUP) are expected to depend on the outcome of the SEA;

- Terms of reference were issued for development of “Guidelines for the Management of Visitor Flow for the Coiba National Park”, which is expected to serve as a baseline for a participative tourism monitoring programme in the framework of strengthening low-impact and ecotourism initiatives. A Visitation Monitoring Programme is also included in the framework of the PUP. The development of a biosafety plan is envisaged to prevent introduction of invasive species by visitors;
- For 2019-2020, rehabilitation projects are expected to be undertaken to improve access roads to natural attractions, the visitor center and the signalling and interpretation in all trails as part of the Inter-American Development Bank loan;
- Regulations for fishing activities in the Special Zone of Marine Protection of the property (SZMP) were approved in January 2018. The SZMP was subdivided into three sub-zones: Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, Montuosa Island Marine Reserve and the Resource Management Zone, the latter covering the majority of the SZMP. Fishing is completely prohibited only within the Montuosa Island Marine Reserve. Commercial fishing is allowed in the two other sub-zones;
- Further specific regulations outlined include seasonal bans on fishing of certain species (snapper and dorado), and restrictions on fishing gear and size of boats. A comparison of existing fishing regulations between the Coiba National Park and the SZMP is provided;
- Existing fishing monitoring and enforcement programmes in the Coiba National Park are reported on, as well as the intention to expand such programmes to the SZMP with the support from the Coiba Fund and a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank.

Prior to the state of conservation report, on 28 August 2018 the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the rehabilitation of the Central Camp Landing Strip on Coiba Island. In response to comments provided by IUCN on the HIA, the State Party provided further clarifications on 25 October 2018, confirming that in June 2018 a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was developed for the project, which aims to ensure the necessary safety requirements for the landing strip used mainly by staff involved in monitoring and patrolling the property, and does not foresee any modifications to the frequency of flights to the island.

On 3 May 2019, the State Party submitted complementary information on the state of conservation report, and included several technical reports on conservation of specific corals, marine turtles and fish species, among other annexes.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation that removal of feral livestock from Coiba Island has continued and nearly been completed is welcomed. The intention of the State Party to undertake an SEA for the property is also welcomed, and it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to develop it as a matter of priority, ensuring that it fully considers any potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of possible infrastructure or other development initiatives on the OUV of the property, and not to approve any such projects within the property, including those contained in the PUP, until the SEA has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

Further clarifications provided by the State Party regarding the rehabilitation of the Central Camp Landing Strip, and the confirmation that the project would only involve upgrading of the facilities to meet safety requirements and would not result in any modifications to flight frequency, are noted. However, it is recommended that this project also be considered by the above-mentioned SEA, as per the above procedure.

Concerning the regulations of fishing within the property, the 2014 and 2016 Reactive Monitoring missions both concluded that development and implementation of adequate fishing regulations for the SZMP was crucial for the long-term conservation of the OUV of the property. While some recommendations of the missions were reflected in the regulations adopted in January 2018, such as designation of the Montuosa Island Marine Reserve as a no-take zone and establishment of seasonal closures for dorado and snapper, the regulations appear to be significantly weaker than those in place in Coiba National Park, particularly since they allow commercial fishing in almost 98% of the SZMP, including in the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone considered as one of the priority conservation areas by the 2014 mission. Therefore, in order to prevent the decline of populations of critical species that sustain the OUV of the property, it will be essential to further revise the regulations for the SZMP in line with the recommendations of the 2016 and 2014 missions. Such revisions should include re-consideration of the approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP, in line with the regulations in place for the Coiba National Park, and declaration of additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank,

to achieve at least a similar percentage of area covered by no-take zones as within the Coiba National Park.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure that necessary resources are available for the enforcement of fishing regulations throughout the property. It is noted that a monitoring system is envisaged for the SZMP that would allow monitoring of fishing activities and the population dynamics of key species, as confirmed by the State Party in the additional information provided. It will be important that such a system is put in place as a matter of priority, and that it is aligned with the existing monitoring activities within the Coiba National Park, particularly in terms of key indicator species, so as to cover the entire property. In the absence of a substantial regulatory and management response by the State Party to address these pending issues, it is recommended that the Committee consider the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 44th session.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the confirmation that eradication of feral livestock from Coiba Island has significantly advanced and is expected to be completed in 2019;*
4. *Also welcomes the decision of the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property, requests the State Party to suspend the implementation of any new tourism infrastructure or other development projects within the property, including those envisaged in the Public Use Plan, until the SEA has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
5. *Takes note of the confirmation provided by the State Party that the rehabilitation of the Central Camp Landing Strip would only involve upgrading of the facilities to meet the safety requirements and would not result in any modifications to flight frequency, also requests the State Party to ensure that this project is also considered by the SEA in light of the above indications;*
6. *Notes with utmost concern that while some recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions were reflected in the fishing regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) approved in January 2018, overall the regulations appear to be insufficient to prevent the decline of critical species that sustain the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from unsustainable commercial fishing and therefore, urges the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the SZMP, in line with the recommendations of the missions, by:*
 - a) *Establishing additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, considering the significantly larger percentage of area covered by no-take zones within the Coiba National Park,*
 - b) *Reconsidering the current approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP in line with regulations in place for Coiba National Park, in order to further reduce pressures from fishing on the property;*
7. *Also urges the State Party to ensure the provision of adequate resources for the efficient enforcement of fishing regulations throughout the property, and the full functioning of the monitoring system envisaged for the SZMP and to align this system with the existing*

monitoring activities with Coiba National Park, particularly in terms of key indicator species;

8. ***Further requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in protecting the property from unsustainable fishing, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

29. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 84,700

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 60,000, UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 263,700 from Franz Weber Foundation (2012 to 2017) and USD 600,000 in the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) (2017 to 2019)

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009, February-March 2012 and November-December 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions, February-March 2019: Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of final approval and implementation of management plan
- Agricultural and forest encroachment
- Mining exploitation project close to the property (issue resolved)
- Industrial agriculture in the buffer zone
- Threats exerted by commercial hunting and deforestation around the property
- Mékin hydroelectric dam
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents>

Current conservation issues

On 07 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>, providing the following information:

- A wildlife inventory conducted by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) between April and June 2018 revealed a considerable reduction compared to the 2015 inventory for elephant (estimated at 219), gorilla (1,258) and chimpanzee (2,313) populations. The State Party partially attributes the substantial decline to differences in the methodology;
- A study of the last intact forest corridor connecting the property to the larger landscape of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) is underway to better understand the dynamics of wildlife migrations of species such as forest elephants;
- Efforts to ensure the conformity of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the extension of the rubber agro-industrial project with World Heritage standards are ongoing;
- The Sud-Cameroon Hévéa S.A. (SUDCAM) continues to implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the rubber project, and expects to put in place a number of activities to support local communities;

- The Prime Minister established a working group in December 2017 to implement a number of activities to minimize the impacts of the Mékin dam on local communities (construction of 11 bridges and housing units for the impacted communities);
- Capacity building training was given to park staff for the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool), wildlife inventory techniques as well as law enforcement techniques and prosecution procedures regarding wildlife infractions;
- Anti-poaching and ecological monitoring equipment were purchased to enhance surveillance of the property, now reaching 93% coverage;
- Two inter-ministerial meetings and two Stakeholder Fora for the private sector, NGOs and local communities were held to discuss conservation issues and land use planning around the property;
- Consultations towards the revision of Law n° 94/01 on the management of forests, wildlife and fisheries together with the revision of the national anti-poaching strategy are underway.

At the invitation of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre organized an Advisory mission by two independent ESIA experts, from 18 February to 4 March 2019, in the framework of the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) to identify the impacts of SUDCAM's agro-industrial activities on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and define corrective or mitigating measures.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The results of the 2018 inventory are of utmost concern. While noting the potential influence of different inventory techniques used in 2015 and 2018, it is clear that populations of key wildlife species such as elephant, gorilla and chimpanzee are now very low. There is high concern that a continued decline could lead to local extinction of elephants if the situation is not reversed.

The inventory also shows that signs of human activity, mainly poaching, are prevalent across the property. On-going efforts to strengthen law enforcement are welcomed and need to be strengthened further. In particular, there is a need to increase the number of park staff and ensure that arrests of apprehended poachers and wildlife traffickers lead to appropriate convictions. With the operationalization of SMART and the results of the inventory, it should also be possible to improve patrolling efficiency and to concentrate efforts on the main areas where wildlife remains. In addition to addressing elephant poaching, there is a need to tackle commercial poaching for bush meat and to raise awareness among local communities. To ensure the long-term integrity of the property, it is also crucial to maintain connectivity to the other protected areas of the TRIDOM. This should be considered when planning new development projects around the property, especially roads.

The UNESCO Advisory mission on SUDCAM concluded that the ESIA for the rubber plantation does not meet the required standards for a project that borders a World Heritage property, and has not been undertaken in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. However, the mission was also informed that the new majority shareholder of SUDCAM, Halcyon, has agreed to immediately stop all clearing and felling operations in the project site and to return the area, which was added to the concession by the Government. It also adopted responsible entrepreneurship standards for the rubber sector with independent certification of the production and shifting away from expanding its plantations towards the promotion of rubber smallholdings. The mission report will be available at the above link.

While efforts towards limiting the negative social impacts of the Mékin hydroelectric dam on the local communities are noted, no progress seems to have been made in addressing the environmental impacts. The dam is already impacting the water quality of the Dja River and flooding part of the property. The declassification of 1000 ha of the communal forest of Bengbis is likely to further contribute to the deforestation of the periphery of the property. Additional Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are needed to understand how to better mitigate the impacts of this project on the OUV of the property.

Despite efforts undertaken by the State Party, the property remains in a very fragile situation. In its report, the State Party acknowledges that other conservation problems persist and further development projects around the property are planned in the near future without providing any detailed information. The Advisory mission was informed of proposals to construct four additional hydroelectric plants on the Dja River, and plans to tarmac and construct new roads. The State Party should be urged to ensure that the World Heritage Centre be informed of any development that has the potential to impact on the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and assess the impacts on its OUV, before taking a decision on its implementation.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.86, 40 COM 7B.79, 41 COM 7B.18 and 42 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively;
3. Expresses its utmost concern that the 2018 wildlife survey results demonstrate a worrying decline in the population of key large mammals including elephant, gorilla and chimpanzee and that poaching is prevalent across the property and requests the State Party to transmit data from the inventory to the World Heritage Centre to enable an assessment of the conservation status of these key populations;
4. Welcomes the ongoing efforts undertaken by the State Party to improve law enforcement, notably capacity building sessions for guards, the acquisition of monitoring and surveillance equipment, the implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), and progress towards the revision of legislation and national anti-poaching strategy;
5. Urges the State Party to further enhance its monitoring and surveillance efforts in the key conservation sectors where wildlife is still present, to ensure that arrests of apprehended poachers and wildlife traffickers are leading to convictions where warranted and to raise awareness among local communities to stop the consumption and trade of bush meat;
6. Notes with concern the conclusions of the UNESCO Advisory mission that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) for the Sud-Cameroon Hévéa S.A. (SUDCAM) rubber plantation project, which borders the property, does not meet the required World Heritage standards but also welcomes the decision by the new majority shareholder (Halcyon) to immediately stop all clearing and felling operations in the plantation and to adopt responsible entrepreneurship standards for the rubber sector with independent certification of the production;
7. Also urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations from the Advisory mission, in particular to:
 - a) Create a buffer zone around the property, in which only those activities compatible with the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are permitted,
 - b) Classify the portion of the concession returned by SUDCAM in the permanent forest estate of the State while authorizing sustainable use regimes,
 - c) Refrain from future extensions of the latex processing plant in the SUDCAM central block and consider sites better positioned in terms of infrastructure while taking into account the environmental and social aspects, including for the existing plant;
8. Also takes note of the activities undertaken to continue the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES) and the relocation of local communities due to the impacts of the Mékin dam, and also requests the State Party to submit further information regarding the location of the proposed 11 bridges and any other proposed infrastructure, as well as the intention to declassify 1,000 ha of the communal forest of Bengbis;

9. *Noting efforts towards limiting the negative social impacts of the Mékin hydroelectric dam on the local communities, expresses its concern that no progress appears to be made in addressing the environmental impacts and further requests that additional Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) are conducted to identify how to better mitigate the impacts of this project on the OUV of the property;*
10. *Further urges the State Party to not accept any new project within the vicinity of the property that could aggravate the existing threats and compromise the progress achieved in the management of the property, and ensure that any project is subject to a mandatory ESIA prior to approval, including a specific evaluation of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
11. *Notes the importance of maintaining continued connectivity to the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé landscape (TRIDOM) in order to ensure the long term integrity of property, and further requests the State Party to consider this broader landscape when planning new development projects around the property, especially road infrastructure;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

MIXED PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

35. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

44. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1979-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 398,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: Special Account for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Egypt: USD 2,203,304 dollars for the project Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo (URHC). For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/663>

Previous monitoring missions

August 2002, March 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the Cairo Financial Centre; October 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2009-2013: several World Heritage Centre missions for the URHC project; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; June 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake in 1992 (issue resolved)
- Inappropriate restoration works (issue resolved)
- Rise of the underground water level
- Dilapidated infrastructure
- Neglect and lack of maintenance
- Overcrowded areas and buildings
- Uncontrolled development
- Absence of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan
- Absence of an integrated socio-economic revitalization plan linking the urban and the socio-cultural fabric of the city core
- Housing
- Lack of a management system

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 December 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>, and which responds to the request of the Committee to provide details of measures to halt the rapid deterioration and demolition in the property, to give priority to the development of the Urban Regeneration Project for Historic Cairo (URHC) and to improve management, as follows:

- The duties of the National Organization for Urban Harmony, and the permanent committee for Islamic and Coptic Antiquities have been activated in relation to the approval of building and demolition licenses;
- The Ministry of Antiquities has approved the activation of Decree no. 90, 2016 within the Historic City of Cairo, which covers building works and heights, and determines competent authorities for removing transgressions, and has also set up regulations for executing the new Decree. This is considered an important step to unify the decrees, laws and standards that aim to preserve the urban texture of the property, which is essential for its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The 1st stage of the URHC large-scale revitalization project, comprising data collection, was completed in August 2018; the 2nd stage will include analysis of the following:
 - Consideration of Historic Cairo as a special planning unit,
 - Dividing Historic Cairo into work regions and determining priorities and actions for each region,
 - Drafting a proposal for an institutional framework to manage the property,
 - Identifying standards for heritage preservation measures,
 - Defining a suitable legal framework for the property,
 - Development of a self-financing concept,
 - Organization of a conference for the presentation and discussion of urban regeneration projects and administration and partnership proposals;
- The 3rd stage will encompass the preparation of an Action Plan to guide the Sustainable Development Plan for Historic Cairo;
- All relevant studies and reports will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Information on the development of the URHC has been made available through audio, video and written mass media to increase awareness amongst local, national and international institutions and organizations and local citizens, and to gain support from all levels of society;
- Several projects have been implemented between 2016 and 2018 under the ‘one hundred archaeological building rescue campaign’ by the Ministry of Antiquities in cooperation and partnership with state governmental agencies and with the support of grants from the State and other donors.

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

The further progress made to address deterioration and legal demolition in the property through strengthening organisational structures and activating responsibilities of key organizations, in relation to building and demolition licenses, is welcomed, as is the activation by the Ministry of Antiquities of Decree no. 90 within the Historic City of Cairo that mandates authorities in relation to building transgressions.

No timeframe has been indicated concerning when-regulations for implementing the Decree might be officially approved, which would have been helpful. It would also have been useful to have more details as to what precise actions have been accomplished in tackling the rapid deterioration of the urban fabric. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee request this further information. Progress is continuing with the development of the URHC – a major project to revitalize the property’s structures and activities. This project has now been divided into three stages. The 1st stage on data collection is complete, although precise details of what has been accomplished have not been provided. The 2nd stage will consider ways and means of providing an adequate legal framework, how the property might become a special planning unit, what the priorities are for various areas of the city, how standards might be defined for heritage conservation, and what sort of institutional framework is needed to encompass the vast range of administrative, urban, cultural, economic and social activities that are needed to make a difference in the historic city.

It is now envisaged that the 3rd stage will be the preparation of an Action Plan to guide the Sustainable Development Plan for Historic Cairo, rather than what was called a Master Plan in the previous state of conservation report. This stage appears to be the most critical, and therefore, further detailed information would be beneficial to understand the structures of the precise outcomes that are envisaged and whether the Sustainable Development Plan will be produced as part of the URHC. It is recommended

that the 2nd and 3rd stages of the URHC should be carried out following the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. The intention to provide the World Heritage Centre with completed studies carried out within the framework of the URHC is welcomed.

In the report submitted in 2018, it was indicated that the Ministry of Antiquities, in discussion with the General Consultant of the URHC, was considering appointing a General Council for the management of the property, which would be legally constituted and have an independent budget. In this year's report, no further details have been submitted on this General Council and instead, it is said that work to draft a proposal for an institutional framework to manage the property will be carried out as part of the 2nd stage of the URHC and presented to the Supreme Council for Planning and Urban Development for approval. This aspect is said to be one of the most important outputs of the 2nd stage. The timeframe for establishment of this administrative framework remains unclear and will only be known once the expected timeframe for the 2nd stage is set out. It is recommended that the Committee request additional information in this regard.

It is noted that several restoration and rehabilitation projects have been implemented, in addition to documentation, research, raising awareness, and other activities, through international cooperation and partnership projects.

The promotion of community participation is also being addressed. The arrangements for promotion and engagement of people in the development of the URHC through various type of mass media is to be commended.

The previously mentioned project to renovate the Al-Azhar Pedestrians' crossing bridge, for which detailed information had been requested, has been temporarily suspended.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee was invited to take place in June 2019. This mission will present the opportunity for more information to be provided on how the URHC is progressing and its anticipated outcomes. The mission report, once finalized, will be made available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the further progress made, in conformity with its previous recommendations, in implementing measures and projects for mitigating the rapid deterioration of the property through strengthening organisational structures and activating responsibilities;*
4. *Also welcomes the steps undertaken by the State Party to implement Decree No. 90 issued to control development within the boundaries of the property and requests the State Party to provide further information on the mechanisms and timeframes for implementation;*
5. *Notes the progress made with the development of the Urban Regeneration Project for Historic Cairo (URHC), which has now been structured in three stages:*
 - a) *1st stage: Data collection (now completed),*
 - b) *2nd stage: Defining ways and means of providing an adequate legal framework, creating a special planning unit, defining priorities for various areas of the city, setting standards for heritage conservation, and developing institutional framework,*
 - c) *3rd stage: Preparation of an Action Plan to guide the Sustainable Development Plan for Historic Cairo;*

6. *Further welcomes* the State Party's intention to provide the World Heritage Centre with all studies to be carried out within the framework of URHC project and *recommends* that the 2nd and 3rd stages of the UHRC be carried out following the approach of 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;
7. *Also requests* the State Party to provide more details and timeframes for the three stages of the URHC in terms of how the overall project is structured, the precise outcomes envisaged, in particular in relation to the institutional framework for managing the property and the proposed status of the Action Plan, and to submit details on whether the drafting of the Sustainable Development Plan is part of this project or not;
8. *Further requests* the State Party to provide details as to how the data collected as part of the 1st stage is being used to establish benchmarks for monitoring change over time, in relation to mitigating deterioration, and the impact of new legislative and administrative systems;
9. *Welcomes furthermore* the steps undertaken to promote community participation, and particularly commends the arrangements for promotion and engagement of people in the development of the URHC through various type of mass media, in line with the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy;
10. *Takes note* that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission will visit the property in June 2019;
11. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

45 Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1991-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 81,450

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for the Sphinx of Giza, Special Account for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Egypt: USD 2,203,304 dollars for the development of the management plans for the World Heritage sites of Historic Cairo, Memphis and Luxor

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions; July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; March 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Growing number of visitors (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled development of the nearby village (issue resolved)
- Deterioration of the monuments (issue resolved)
- Tunnel construction project
- Urban encroachment
- Infrastructure and tourism developments
- Development and Urban Infrastructure projects (including Ring Road project)
- Absence of a single integrated Plan of Management for the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/> and presents progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt (Supreme Committee) has been established to facilitate and coordinate Egyptian authorities involved in World Heritage property management. The Egyptian law for the protection of antiquities was amended in 2018;
- There is significant progress in the 'Scan Pyramids' project. The results have been published in the journal *Nature*. The Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration projects at Saqqara will conclude within a year. There have been numerous archaeological discoveries, including an Old Kingdom tomb, two groups of rock-cut burials, a mummification workshop, a group of buildings and Roman baths, and the tomb of a royal priest;
- Geophysical survey for the proposed Cairo Ring Road tunnel was carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in November 2018. Implementation of this project has been postponed until the necessary studies are completed, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The legacy from the abandoned planned Ring Road of 1995 has been addressed by removal of waste and regular monitoring;
- The Pyramids Plateau Development Project is a key element of the Pyramids Plateau Management Plan, which aims to manage visitation and limit vehicles within the property;
- The Pyramids Security Project proposes surveillance cameras to secure the boundaries of the plateau, paths and parking areas. Lighting works are proposed outside the archaeological site, well away from the pyramids;
- The Memphis Site and Community Development project, an international collaboration that concluded in 2017, focused on documentation of archaeological remains and improvement of presentation and interpretation, including the design of paths and signage. It also entailed training of Ministry of Antiquities staff;
- The Supreme Committee requires state agencies to coordinate in the review of World Heritage property maps, in order to prepare new maps and management plans. A decision will then be made regarding any potential boundary amendments;
- The State Party has indicated that experts from the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS are welcome to visit the property, to provide technical assistance, and to train the specialists from the Ministry in preparation of HIAs.

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

The State Party has made significant progress in implementing the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project at Saqqara, and, there have been a number of archaeological discoveries at the property. The State Party has also responded positively to the World Heritage Committee's previous recommendation regarding the legacy from the abandoned planned Ring Road of 1995. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party in relation to these matters.

The State Party has advised that the necessary studies will be completed before implementation of the Cairo Ring Road tunnel project across the Giza Plateau. Once a complete archaeological assessment,

informed by results from remote sensing, is available, and following review of technical reports and engineering designs by the Advisory Bodies, the Cairo Ring Road tunnel project should then be subject to a comprehensive HIA, prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties.

In March 2019, the World Heritage Centre organized a workshop on HIA for the staff of the Ministry of Antiquities in coordination with UNESCO Cairo Office and ICOMOS experts. The experts proposed to provide remote support to finalize the Memphis HIA based on the ICOMOS Guidance and good international practice. Once the HIA has met the requirements of Guidance and good international practice a workshop would be organized to present the process and the results of the HIA.

It remains of concern that the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project continues to progress, particularly without consideration of the potential buffer zone for the Giza component of the property, which may yet arise from the review requested by the newly-established Supreme Committee. There are also ongoing concerns about the Pyramids Security Project (previously the Light and Security project). It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to submit more comprehensive information on the proposed project in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It would also be necessary to consult with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regarding any proposed modification of boundaries, for both the property and the buffer zone, arising from the review requested by the Supreme Committee. Based on previous World Heritage Committee requests, a Minor Boundary Modification may be necessary for the Giza component of the property, to provide protection from the increasing urban pressures in Cairo, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The determination of any boundary revision of the property or the buffer zone should also have particular regard to the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

In light of the above, and the expressed welcome of an expert visit, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee requests again the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, to evaluate the property's state of conservation, reviews the ongoing and planned projects, and assesses how they may affect the property's OUV. The State Party may also want to issue a separate invitation to train specialists from the Ministry of Antiquities in the preparation of HIAs.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Commends the State Party for reinforcing the overall co-ordination and management of the property and other World Heritage properties, through the establishment of the Supreme Committee for the Management of World Heritage Sites in Egypt, and through amendments to the law for the protection of antiquities;
4. Welcomes the significant progress made with the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project at Saqqara, the archaeological discoveries made at the property, and the response regarding the legacy from the abandoned planned Ring Road;
5. While welcoming the advice from the State Party that the necessary studies will be completed before implementation of the Cairo Ring Road tunnel project across the Giza Plateau, reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Complete a comprehensive archaeological assessment, incorporating results from remote sensing,

- b) *Ensure that, following the review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the final comprehensive 'archaeological assessment report' and the previous technical reports on traffic management and design details inform the preparation of the engineering designs for the Ring Road tunnel project,*
 - c) *Finalize the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the project, following the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties;*
6. *Notes the previous Committee Decision that work for the construction of the Cairo Ring Road tunnel should only progress once all requested technical reports and subsequent HIAs have been positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and appropriate mitigation measures and procedures for monitoring have been agreed;*
 7. *Expresses concern over the additional information provided by the State Party on the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project, and the Pyramids Security Project, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed document providing comprehensive information about the proposed Pyramids Security Project;*
 8. *Also requests the State Party to further strengthen the protection and management of the property by submitting the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property to the World Heritage Centre, and by reviewing the property's boundaries, defining a buffer zone and submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
 9. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the property's state of conservation, review the ongoing and planned projects, and assess how they may affect the property's OUV, having particular regard to:*
 - a) *The Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project,*
 - b) *The Pyramids Security Project,*
 - c) *The proposed Cairo Ring Road tunnel across the Giza Plateau,*
 - d) *The Giza component of the property, and the impact of increasing urban pressure in Cairo,*
 - e) *The appropriate boundary and buffer zone for the Giza component of the property;*
 10. *Encourages the State Party to finalize the HIA, in coordination with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the training in the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), following the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties;*
 11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

48. Byblos (Lebanon) (C 295)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001: Different missions for the evaluation of the state of conservation and project execution in Lebanon, including Byblos; November 2001: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2006: UNESCO expert mission to Lebanon; February 2017: World Heritage Centre mission; 2018 UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Port expansion project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Management Plan and a Master Plan (issue resolved)
- Plans for an extension of the jetty (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure: "Diplomatic Club" project with above ground structures of reinforced concrete built at the south of the property
- Management: Unclear boundary definition of property and buffer
- Environmental risks -coastal erosion of the Byblos mound due to the heavy tidal impact of the sea

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October 2018 (mission report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents/>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted a brief state of conservation report on 31 January 2019. An executive summary of this report is available at the above-mentioned link.

Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The archaeological impact assessment and investigations related to the Diplomatic Club project, which is located adjacent to the southern part of the World Heritage property, has shown that the land adjacent to the ancient settlement hill was formerly a navigable bay that was used for intense harbour activities. In response to the preliminary archaeological findings, the original topography of the area has been altered by adding layers of earth, with concrete support walls to sustain the newly-established terraced topography. All works and archaeological explorations have been suspended since April 2017, at the request of the World Heritage Centre. Only a small portion of the private land on which the Diplomatic Club project is located is protected by law, being a cemetery of high significance for the Armenian community, directly bordering the archaeological excavation site ;
- A new centre for the conservation of mosaics is being established, with the aid of the Getty Conservation Institute, and future collaboration with ICCROM;
- Conservation and consolidation works have been carried out, focusing on priority archaeological structures;

- Recent restoration works in the Old Town aim to return the original appearance of some traditional 19th-century houses and to integrate heritage-affiliated functions for these buildings. Among those functions, is a UNESCO Category II International Centre for Human Sciences, in addition to a museum, which is being established in collaboration with the Louvre Museum;
- The preparation of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal is underway.

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

The 2018 joint Reactive Monitoring mission addressed the conservation and management of the property, potential synergies with other UNESCO Conventions, the need for a sustainable tourism plan, the previously requested boundary modification, and concerns about the Diplomatic Club project.

The Diplomatic Club was originally proposed as an eco-tourism project on private land, with part of the site to be used as an orphanage by the Armenian Catholicosate, in line with the adopted urban plan for Byblos. The initial project plan presented park-style landscaping with some leisure installations, but without any permanent constructions. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS supported this proposal as it would have provided desirable environmental and archaeological outcomes, thereby conserving attributes that reflect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, while contributing to separating the property from nearby beachfront tourism activities. Detailed design and specifications were to be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the commencement of works. However, investigations took place to determine the archaeological potential of the site, and to ensure conservation of any remains within the development context. Preliminary results suggest port usage in ancient times, and, non-invasive geophysical explorations indicate the presence of additional archaeological remains at deeper levels.

The 2018 mission ascertained that there have been substantial incremental changes to the initial project design. Sand and earth have been accumulated as a protective layer above archaeological remains, altering the original land surface. The newly-terraced land is proposed to accommodate twelve bungalows with attached private bathrooms and small pools, in addition to two large pools. The design is too large, irreversible, and the planned installations would create a major tourist facility, consuming natural resources and therefore not in line with the initial eco-tourism concept, nor providing a buffer from nearby tourist activity.

The Committee has previously requested the State Party to revise the delineation of the property, including a buffer zone. A boundary clarification relating to the extent of the property at the time of inscription has been submitted by the State Party and is currently under evaluation. The archaeological research contributes to the clarification of the extent and nature of remains, potentially relating to a Phoenician port facility, and, if so, an archaeological site of major significance. Further excavations are justified to investigate whether material remains, especially in the deeper archaeological layers, relate to the ancient port of Byblos.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue the archaeological explorations to understand the extent of archaeological features, to clarify their relationship with the ancient city and port, and to propose measures for their protection. The State Party should also be requested to continue its work in the preparation of a boundary modification based on the outcome of the archaeological research, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is also recommended that the Committee expresses its concerns about the Diplomatic Club project, which, in its current form could have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property and needs to be property assessed by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance. Therefore no construction works should continue until the nature and extent of archaeological features is clear and full documentation of the project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre along with a HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It may be possible to carry out the renovation works on the Danish Hall as previously proposed by the developer in parallel with the archaeological research. In that case, full details of the complete renovation project would need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies prior to the initiation of any work. Any excavation work that would be undertaken under the existing building should be supervised by an archaeologist, in accordance with the established regulations and procedures of the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) in such cases.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Acknowledges the conservation initiatives that have occurred at the property, including the establishment of a new centre for the conservation of mosaics, and recent restoration works in the Old Town;
4. Takes note of the October 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges the State Party to implement its recommendations, including:
 - a) Exploring synergies with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
 - b) Developing a management plan with provisions for sustainable tourism, conservation activities and regular maintenance,
 - c) Establishing a national data management strategy that ensures making documentation and inventory information available for site management and research at the local level,
 - d) Considering the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach for integrating the management plan with the urban development for the Old Town of Byblos;
5. Notes the efforts of the State Party to clarify the extent of the property at the time of inscription, and also urges the State Party, following consideration of the outcomes from the ongoing archaeological research, and in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Also acknowledges the information provided by the State Party regarding the Diplomatic Club development project adjacent to the property, but expresses concern regarding modifications to the initial eco-tourism concept for the project which, in its current form, would not provide appropriate environmental and archaeological outcomes, nor contribute to conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also notes that these alterations occurred without awaiting the conclusions of the archaeological explorations or informing the World Heritage Centre of the intended changes; and therefore requests the State Party to:
 - a) Continue the archaeological explorations with the objective of understanding the extent of archaeological features,
 - b) Clarify the relationship of the archaeological features with the ancient city and port, and to propose measures for their protection,
 - c) Continue halting construction works related to the Diplomatic Club project, other than renovation works on the Danish Hall, until the nature and extent of archaeological features is clear, and full documentation of the project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

- d) *Submit full details of the proposed renovation works on the Danish Hall, including provisions for archaeological supervision, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to commencement of works,*
 - e) *Prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for each new project or major intervention proposed within the property or its buffer zone following the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

50. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 35,667

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 19,173 (1997-2001) for the International Safeguarding Campaign; USD 362,391 (2015-2017) from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR); USD 320,673 from the Lebanese Government for capacity- building exercise.

Previous monitoring missions

2004: Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Office in Beirut; September 2006: UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: visit of the property by the World Heritage Centre; October 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need for an international safeguarding campaign (issue resolved)
- Construction of a tourist complex (land fill of the bay) (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a large fish market (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a coastal motorway (issue resolved)
- Uncontrolled construction (issue resolved)
- Project to build a new tourist marina (issue resolved)
- Road construction project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Urban Master Plan for the city
- Lack of management mechanism (including legislation)
- Important and often uncontrolled urban development
- Absence of a management plan, unclear property boundaries and legal status on the extent of the property

- Uncontrolled housing development next to the property
- Insufficient legal framework for an efficient buffer such as lack of a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre
- Management system affected by the shortage of human resources directly leading to insufficient maintenance, vegetation control and fire prevention and lack of consistent preservation plan
- Transportation Infrastructure: planning of major highway near the property and repeatedly local intentions of the redevelopment of the port
- Sea-shore environmental local conditions affecting physical fabric, especially soft stone surfaces
- Insufficient drainage of stagnating waters and uncontrolled surface water flows undermine wall foundations and stability of structures

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October 2018 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents>). On 17 January 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is also available at the above-mentioned address. A report by the UNESCO Documentation Advisory Service (UDAS) has also been submitted, providing details on progress in implementation of conservation activities through the *Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project* (BTAP).

The 2018 mission report documents progress achieved in response to previous Committee Decisions as follows:

- The Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) has established a nationwide staff recruitment programme;
- A framework document for the Management Plan has been prepared and submitted for review by ICOMOS, proposing strategic actions for the property's long term conservation;
- Following a series of international workshops, a practice has been established for cleaning and undertaking surface consolidation of mosaics in situ by local staff;
- Conservation actions undertaken through the *BTAP, within the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development (CHUD) of Tyre* program have been reviewed by international ICOMOS experts during workshops held in 2015, 2016 and 2017, through UDAS;
- *Traffic control and access restrictions within the Old City are being addressed through CHUD, including the establishment of an open parking at an area designed as Archaeological Zone in the urban zoning plan, without any threat to archaeological remains;*
- *A Strategic Plan is being prepared for the entire traffic organization of the wider region of Tyre/Sour in the context of broader urban development;*
- A survey of underwater archaeological remains is being initiated in order to determine the area to be protected by the marine protective zone;
- The local site museum is expected to open in 2019, following some delay with implementation of the BTAP conservation and presentation works.

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

The 2018 mission identified shortcomings in the management system of the property, partly resulting from ongoing insufficient staffing resources, leading to lack of maintenance. Management is further hampered by inflexibility in the operational regulations for implementing the BTAP.

Owing to the overall unstable security situation, some legal decisions are pending, including the adoption of a maritime protection zone, which is now undergoing research, and the conclusion of the minor boundary modification request.

The recommendations of the 2018 mission provide a clear course of action. These include the finalization of the Management Plan for the property and its implementation as soon as possible. Preparing this following the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape would be valuable in integrating the management plan for the property with the urban development plans in the larger area. In addition, it would be crucial to consider the integration of future

CHUD activities within a broader strategic development vision and to address shortcomings in coordination mechanisms between some of the agencies involved, as well as opportunities for improved reporting and consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies.

Analysis of the current and future traffic situation in Tyre presented in the strategy documents for the future urban development of the Tyre/Sour region confirms previous concerns of the Committee and underlines the need for urban rehabilitation and parking provisions for the Old City to be more closely connected with the entire urban road network. A comprehensive study of the urban road network and planning for the highway is required, including Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and integrating the results of geophysical surveys and archaeological investigation. The study should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with previous Committee Decisions.

Open parking has been proposed at the western part of the Al-Bass site within an Archaeological Zone, to compensate for diminished parking space as a result of urban rehabilitation measures within the framework of the CHUD projects. The 2018 mission concluded that there would be no adverse impact on significant archaeological vestiges. The parking will generate funds and the municipality will contribute to the maintenance of the property through vegetation control and fire prevention. The State Party is advised to establish a formal agreement between DGA and the municipality, granting use of the Archaeological Zone for municipal parking, and to submit a complete project proposal to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before commencing works.

The property lacks a comprehensive overall conservation and presentation strategy that goes beyond single interventions. BTAP activities were conceived as pilot interventions for acquiring knowledge on appropriate conservation methods and techniques suitable for wider application. The establishment of conservation practice for mosaics *in situ* is a significant achievement, as is the international conference leading to the refinement of conservation procedures. The current focus is on the creation of new visitor trails and the construction of security railings. However, little is being done to coordinate initiatives and to communicate the more recent understanding of the property, its historic urban features and its conservation challenges. There are opportunities to learn from previously installed protective shelters and support structures, and from the re-treatment of archaeological structures restored decades ago at the time of excavation. The approach to partial reconstructions/anastylosis of disassembled archaeological features needs to be reconsidered, with a focus on minimal interventions and protection, including the complete re-burial of the Apollo Shrine, in order to maintain the authenticity of the existing archaeological remains. The 2018 mission identified the need for a system of monitoring to evaluate the efficacy of conservation measures.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to address its previous requests (Decisions **39 COM 7B.54** and **41 COM 7B.83**), and request that the recommendations of the 2018 mission are implemented.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.45**, **39 COM 7B.54**, and **41 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015) 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the comprehensive UNESCO Documentation Advisory Services (UDAS) report provided by the State Party on the implementation of actions to address pressing conservation concerns;*
4. *Also acknowledges the initiative of the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) to improve staffing resources on a national scale, and urges the State Party to provide sufficient resources to the property to ensure regular maintenance in the long term, including vegetation control, fire prevention and the safeguarding of the mosaics, based on successful practices established through the Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project;*

5. *Taking note of the framework document for the preparation of a Management Plan for the property, encourages the State Party to evaluate the actions it proposes based on the forthcoming ICOMOS review and advice provided through the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to expedite completion and implementation of the Management Plan;*

6. *Also taking note of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, also requests the State Party to implement the mission recommendations, with particular attention to the following:*
 - a) *Ensure that the management structure becomes fully operational by securing adequate resources for implementation of the Management Plan once finalized,*
 - b) *Revise the proposed boundary of the property in accordance with Decision **37 COM 8B.45**, identifying a buffer zone and developing regulations and procedures for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and, submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107, 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - c) *Establish a formal agreement between the primary stakeholders (DGA, Municipality of Tyre) for the creation of municipal parking within the Archaeological Zone and submit the proposed details of this arrangement and design details to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - d) *Establish a comprehensive strategy for the property that covers all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring, summarizing the knowledge on techniques and procedures in a manual, with an updated Action Plan, as a core component of the future Management Plan for the property, including:*
 - (i) *Approaches to improving current maintenance practices concerning vegetation, drainage and sewage control through appropriate preventive measures,*
 - (ii) *Principles of minimal interventions in the conservation of mosaics and structures as lessons learnt from the pilot projects,*
 - (iii) *A monitoring protocol to be available for scientific conservation research and to enable evaluation of the efficacy of conservation measures,*
 - (iv) *A comprehensive presentation strategy for the property to reflect the actual understanding of its values as reflected in the various architectonic technologies and funerary practices of past generations, as well as conservation challenges;*
 - (v) *Integration of the Management Plan with urban development plans to manage the pressures of urban development following the approach of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;*

7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre;*

8. *Also reiterates its request to initiate an in-depth study of traffic and the urban road network, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, and reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for proposed road and infrastructure projects at the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for the Coastal Highway and other planned major infrastructure projects, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties;*

9. *Also urges the State Party to implement the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee in particular Decisions **39 COM 7B.54** and **41 COM 7B.83**, and with the reporting requirements under the World Heritage Convention;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

52. Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage (Morocco) (C 1401)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the inscription of the property:

- Major urban projects for the city and for the Bouregreg Valley and the lack of impact assessments in order to guarantee the visual integrity of the property and its surrounding areas

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/>

Current conservation issues

Upon request from the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 22 February 2019.

In its report, the State Party provided information on the major development scheme launched in 2014 entitled "Rabat, light city and cultural capital of Morocco", which aims to augment economic, social and cultural infrastructure in and around the city. This includes an extension to the Railway Station in the property, a new theatre, a new National Museum of Archaeology and Science, underground car parks, and proposed new urban landscapes in the buffer zone, and a high-rise "O Tower", immediately outside the buffer zone.

The report also responds to the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission invited by the State Party to visit the property from 2 to 5 May 2018. It has further provided an assessment of progress made with conservation and management of the property since its inscription on the World Heritage List.

The State Party indicated that a Special Management Plan for the Bouregreg Valley (*Plan d'Aménagement Spécial de la vallée de Bouregreg - PAS*) will be delivered between the end of 2018 and 2021. In phase 1 of the Plan, is the now partially completed Grand Theatre, which is reported to have no direct adverse visual impact on the property, and the restoration of nearby Chellah. Further

phases will provide extensive new mixed-use facilities, improvements to infrastructure and the development of “O Tower” as its centrepiece on the right bank of the river.

According to the documentation provided by the State Party, the “O Tower” is planned as the tallest tower in Africa with 55 storeys; it will provide a luxury hotel, offices and apartments. The “O Tower” is located in project zone ZP3, where no height restrictions are in place and where a group of high-rise buildings had been planned. In response to the Advisory mission’s recommendations related to the concern that the potential adverse visual impact of the 250 metre high tower on the property will be on the entire city of Rabat (which has a horizontal profile with connections to the surrounding landscape), and on the advice that it should be re-located elsewhere, the State Party states that the tower was designed to be seen as a ‘postmodern reflective mirror’ for the property and a continuation of its modernization. It also maintains that there are insufficient guidelines to allow an understanding of how impact of projects beyond buffer zones might be assessed.

The report explains that the proposed infrastructure developments of the scheme include a six lane southern bypass, 8km in length, with a viaduct over the Bouregreg valley, as well as the extension to the Railway Station within the Old City.

In relation to the mission’s recommendations on the Railway Station, the State Party explains that major amendments to the plans were not possible given the progress with construction works by the time of the mission, but its recommendations have been taken into consideration by the railway company in relation to the use of the old station, the intersection with the wall, the use of the ancient building, and the reductions of breakthroughs.

Details have been provided on the progress with the implementation of the management plans and on extensive restoration projects, such as market areas, houses under threat, the Almoravid walls, the Chellah archaeological site, the Hassan Tower, and the Essais Gardens, and in the buffer zone, for the reconstruction of the former Alawite palace and military hospital, the restoration of Fort Hervé, which was in an advance state of decay at the time of inscription, and the start of the restoration of the medina of Salé.

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

The detailed descriptive State Party report provides information on a wide range of projects that have been undertaken since inscription and many more that are proposed. These projects are part of an extensive ‘Rabat, light city and cultural capital of Morocco’ a re-development scheme to augment economic, social and cultural infrastructure in and around the city through restoration, rejuvenation, and new development projects. This scheme encompasses not only the property but also the wider Bouregreg Valley, with a major new urban area, partly in the buffer zone and partly beyond.

This large urban development will provide tourist and leisure structures, such as the Grand Theatre and an Archaeological and Science Museum, as well as residences and commercial properties, and will be linked to Rabat and Sale by a new six-lane highway. The proposed 250 metre tall “O Tower” on the Salé side of the river, just next to the buffer zone, is seen as its centrepiece. Many interventions are also planned within the property such as for underground car parks.

Although descriptions of the main components of these major schemes have been provided, no detailed plans have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre so far. The projects are said to comply with the planning framework provided at the time of inscription, but formal Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have not been undertaken to ensure that they not only confirm with planning constraints but also with World Heritage inscription in terms of respecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Although, progress has been made with implementing the Management Plan, a robust structure to assess adequately the potential impact of the proposed and ongoing projects on the property is missing.

At the time of inscription the Committee recommended that Heritage Impact Studies should be undertaken for the proposed major urban projects and the development of the Bouregreg Valley, in particular, in order to guarantee the integrity of the property and its surroundings from visual impacts, and that details of projects should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. No full details or HIAs have been provided to the World Heritage Centre so far. It should also be noted that in the Nomination file (page 281), the State Party noted that it was “*the wish of the King and the results of the architectural studies conclude that the Bouregreg Valley should have projects reflecting the original character of Morocco with authenticity and refinement and not advocating a foreign modernism.*”

The ICOMOS February 2018 technical review of the Train Station suggested that an Advisory mission be undertaken in order to provide support in the definition of the project's adaptation parameters to avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property. The World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission took place in May 2018 and examined the extension to the Railway Station in the property. Alongside, it also considered a new theatre and new urban landscapes in the buffer zone and the high-rise "O Tower", next to the buffer zone.

The mission considered the extension to the Railway Station too large and dominant in the way it impacted the city walls both visually and physically but no negative impacts were envisaged on the Grand Theatre. With regards to the proposed "O Tower", it was considered that it would have highly damaging visual impacts on the Kasbah Oudaïas, the Hassan Tower and the Mausoleum of King Mohamed V, in terms of diminishing their visual dominance. The mission suggested that the location of the tower should be re-considered.

Although no HIAs have been undertaken for any of these projects, the State Party report suggests that clear guidelines on developments beyond the buffer zone are necessary to enable decisions on the impact of these towers to be made. What is missing, though, are Heritage Impact Assessments to evaluate the impacts of the ongoing and proposed projects on the OUV for each of the components of the World Heritage property.

From the comments provided in the State Party report, it is clear that managing such huge developments within a tight time framework has proved a great challenge. The report acknowledges the need to 'carefully monitor the impact of the major works being considered outside the property, particularly with regard to the view of the property and of the River Bouregreg from the Kasbah site which overlooks them'. It is indicated that there is no height restrictions within the area of the buffer zone and the wider setting. However, in the nomination file the State Party had mentioned the guidelines to follow for the future plans in the Bouregreg valley. The heights allowed in zone ZP3 were the "O Tower" will be located "are a maximum of R+4 for housing, R+5 for offices and a tower of R+15 for hotel unit", the current tower proposal has 55 stories. At the time of inscription, ICOMOS had raised the concern that certain proposed projects may have a visual impact on the property, such as the bridge under construction over the River Bouregreg and the projected 16-storey building (sector ZP3) that would need to be clarified. The evaluation also stated that "*Detailed heritage impact studies must be drawn up for all the infrastructure projects located close to the property, even if they are not explicitly inside the proposed buffer zone (as in the case of some buildings on the right bank of the river), and it is important that the World Heritage Committee is given sufficient advance notice before the projects are implemented, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines*". However, so far, the World Heritage Centre has not received such information submitted by the State Party.

There is thus an urgent need for planning processes to be augmented to recognize the need for development works to respect and protect the OUV of the property. In relation with the projects to build high-rise buildings within the buffer zone and wider setting, there appears to be an over-arching need for a skyline study and 3D models of the urban area that could identify more clearly the acceptable heights of buildings in relation to the important views and integrity of the property. The development projects, as landscape transformations and through individuals elements, have the possibility to impact adversely the OUV of the property in variety of ways and to varying degrees, both individually and collectively.

Even though some of these projects are at an advanced stage, it is essential that full details are provided for each of them, including both restoration and development works, together with the necessary HIAs in order to understand when and what type of mitigation measures may be necessary. In terms of the "O Tower", there is a clear need for impact assessments to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity bearing in mind the approach of 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), and these should include visualizations (such as skyline studies and 3D digital or physical models) prepared to international standards in order to assess the full impact on the property's OUV and whether and how mitigation measures might be undertaken. Meanwhile, until impact assessments have been submitted and assessed, further work on "O Tower" should be halted.

As the consolidated report on the Implementation Survey of the HUL Recommendation, presented to the 206th session of the Executive Board, concluded, there is an obvious need for capacity building on the HUL Recommendation approach. The Committee might wish to recommend that a technical workshop should be undertaken to provide training and guidance on the HUL approach to site management of the urban World Heritage properties in the region, including on tools and guidelines for integrating the protection of the OUV with urban development plans and policies in the wider setting and

for the elaboration of HIAs. This is necessary to support the preparation of impact assessments and studies on possible visual impact on the integrity, prior to inviting a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8B.18**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),
3. Takes note of the details provided in the report of the State Party which describes the major development scheme "Rabat, light city and cultural capital of Morocco" designed to augment economic, social and cultural infrastructure through restoration, rejuvenation, and new development in the property and its buffer zone, including a major urban landscape transformation of the Bouregreg river valley to link the cities of Rabat and Salé;
4. Deeply regrets that full details of this scheme and of its individual component projects have not been provided in advance and for review by ICOMOS in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines; and that no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription;
5. Regrets that it has only been possible to carry out minor modifications to the Railway Station extension to mitigate its impact on the City Walls;
6. Notes with concern the potentially adverse visual impact that the proposed "O Tower" would have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and requests that the State Party provide full details of all the ongoing and proposed major restoration and development projects and necessary HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any further commitments are made on these projects, including those intended to be part of the major development scheme "Rabat, light city and cultural capital of Morocco" ;
7. Encourages the State Party to implement the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) to integrate the protection of the OUV of the property with urban development, including urban development in its wider setting;
9. Recommends that the State Party convene, as soon as possible, a Technical Workshop for the World Heritage property in Rabat, and if possible also for the sites in the Maghreb region, to provide training and capacity reinforcement to site management on tools and guidance for implementing the HUL approach, as well as for the elaboration of HIAs that could help the State Party prepare the assessments necessary for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Following the Technical Workshop, also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, as well as the following documents for examination by the World Heritage Committee:
 - a) Skyline study of the property in its setting in the Bouregreg Valley,

- b) *A 3D digital or physical model of the property and its volumes in its setting the Bouregreg Valley,*
 - c) *Heritage Impact Assessments following the ICOMOS Guidelines for the major projects ongoing and proposed,*
 - d) *3D and spatial studies of the potential individual and cumulative impact on the OUV of the property,*
 - e) *Evidence of integration of the management plan for the property with the city development plan and architectural design guidelines in line with the HUL approach;*
9. *Finally strongly recommends the State Party, following the review of these documents by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property for further assessment; the report of which will be for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 68,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2006, 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deterioration as a result of exposure to difficult environmental conditions such as wind with sand and floods
- Urban encroachment
- Absence of a management plan with government commitment
- Flooding
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems / management plan
- Wind and Desertification

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 January 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>, and addresses the concerns of the Committee, by providing:

- An overview of the thirteen archaeological missions supported by the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP) and working on the five component parts of the property and their responses regarding the concerns of the Committee. Information is provided on work areas, research and conservation strategies, activities over the past five years, an overview of excavations, site management projects, monitoring and restoration work, outputs such as. site surveys, modelling and publications;
- A summary of the state of conservation of selected attributes:
 - The Temples of the Royal City at Gebel Barkal as well as the surface remains located west are noted as having a poor general state of conservation and being unstable, to varying degrees, as a result of the inherent fragility of the original building materials, long exposure to extreme climatic conditions, including repeated flooding (prior to 1990), and destructive human activity. The site continues to suffer from unmonitored, unregulated human access and illegal vehicle movements,
 - The main threats at Nuri are environmental change, encroachment and rising groundwater levels;
- The most current maps of each component part;
- Details of a proposed tourist information structure within the property at Sanam, due for commencement in January 2019, and for a large archaeological centre and socio-cultural community club complex for El-Zuma.
- Information about excavation, conservation and presentation activities at El-Kurru site, notably for the conservation of the painted decoration at the royal Tombs, including proposals for a shelter at the Funerary Temple and information about a protective cover designed and built at the staircase of Pyramid Ku.1.

The State Party recognises that more effective coordination of the archaeological missions is necessary within the framework of a comprehensive Management Plan. The state of conservation report by the State Party is intended as the first step in remedying past deficiencies.

The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (17-25 February 2019), which was requested by the Committee to determine whether the state of conservation of the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are subject to ascertained or potential danger. Its report shall be available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents>.

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

The 2019 mission provided preliminary results and acknowledged the efforts being made by the State Party to protect the property, including upgrading the administrative structure of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM), and the consideration given to strengthen the 1999 Antiquities Protection Ordinance.

While the 2019 mission found a number of good examples of conservation or protection works that should establish a standard, which needs to be followed throughout the property, there are still great concerns about the overall state of conservation of the property, which could become irreversible and requires the State Party to implement urgently further protection measures. As the State Party has acknowledged the majority of the property (temples, the Meroitic city and the Pyramids) are in a poor general state of conservation, the exception being the Mut temple, which is under restoration by an Italian team as is Palace B1500. The fabric of nearly all aspects of the monuments is degrading as a result of the adverse impacts of environmental factors (flash flooding, wind and sand erosion, rising water tables and humidity) and neglect, and erosion is a particular problem at the Gebel Barkal site where the damage is irreversible, while the rise in the water table is affecting the painted tomb chambers at Nuri and the situation of the reliefs and the paintings of temple B500 is alarming. Overall, there is a

lack of adequate maintenance. The Statements of Integrity and Authenticity in the Statement of OUV can no longer be said accurate.

With regard to the property boundaries and buffer zones, the mission found these were not properly defined or managed, leading to confusion at institutional levels. Consequently, an area in front of the Gebel Barkal site has been sold for development despite the intention for it to be part of the buffer zone. Urban development and construction are also encroaching on the property (Nuri village, Zuma), leading to high adverse impacts. The need to control urban development particularly on the Western side was highlighted at the time of inscription. Moreover, the 'exceptional river and semi-desert landscape almost untouched by modern development' that formed the setting at that time is now seen by the mission to be degraded.

In addition, poor tourism management and enforcement has led to uncontrolled vehicles entering the property. This partly reflects the lack of capacity of the tourism police to provide basic site protection. It is more than urgent that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification with clarification on the buffer zones at the property.

The museum and storage facilities at the different components are in a very poor condition. The facilities currently lack the basic requirements for safety and security as well as an adequate conservation environment, but there are proposals to enlarge the space and enhance conditions.

A Management Plan was adopted in 2007 but has not been implemented due to lack of personnel. While some management planning is available, it does not exist for all components, and where it does it is not implemented. There is no overall strategy for managing different foreign teams undertaking excavation and restoration projects or for coordinating approaches: each team applies its own methodology. It is highly recommended to set urgently a management mechanism and harmonize the work of archaeological missions at the property

The mission noted that many important projects have been undertaken without proper regard for the requirements under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. For example, the hasty implementation of the shelter over the funerary structure at El-Kurru was undertaken prior to the advice of the Advisory Bodies being considered. There is a similar concern regarding several planned or under-construction visitor centres within the property, which need re-locating. Although good work is being done on a small part of the property this is just not enough at the moment to reverse the downward trends.

The mission found that urgent measures need to be implemented at the property to reverse the alarming level of deterioration at most sites that is impacting highly adversely on the authenticity and integrity of the property, and to halt development on the western side of Gebel Barkal that would irretrievably compromised its setting. Together these threats, combined with the negative impact of uncontrolled tourism and lack of adequate protection and management are impacting adversely, and in places irreversibly, on the OUV of the property. It is recommended that the Committee expresses its dismay at the current situation and urges the State Party to take urgent actions to control the situation and implement in full the recommendations provided by the 2019 mission.

In response to the request of the Committee to consider whether inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger was justified, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*, it is recommended that the Committee support the mission's proposal to give the State Party one more year to implement its recommendations and then to review progress made with controlling the current degradation in 2020.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Commends the State Party regarding a number of good examples of conservation or protection works being undertaken at select sites;

4. *Expresses its serious concern at the overall state of conservation of the property, which, according to the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, is seriously threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, no overall strategy for managing foreign excavation teams, urban encroachment and development of projects, all of which are impacting negatively and in places irreversibly on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to implement the recommendations to the 2019 mission;*
5. *Notes with great concern that an area in front of the Gebel Barkal site has been sold for development despite the intention for it to be part of the buffer zone, and urges the State Party to halt these development proposals, and as a matter of urgency and to submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification, which defines the buffer zones at the property;*
6. *Also notes that on-ground tourism management problems are leading to vehicles entering the property and damaging monuments;*
7. *Considers that the overall situation regarding the protection and management of the property is beyond the current capacity of the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) to manage effectively despite the efforts of the State Party; and that support is urgently needed to strengthen this capacity in order to allow the basic structures to be put in place relating to boundaries, and management, including tourism management;*
8. *Also considers that immediate measures have to be taken to suspend potentially adverse proposals, until these can be appropriately considered, and to undertake immediate measures to enhance protection and management;*
9. *Calls upon the international community to support the State Party's urgent protection and management work through financial, technical or expert assistance;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above mentioned, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained danger to the OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

55. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 213,315

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: International Safeguarding Campaign, 1973-1989

Previous monitoring missions

1980 to 2011: 15 technical missions; January 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land development and infrastructures within the property
- Legal framework
- Housing
- Management system / management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/>

Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2019, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the property would be the subject of a report on its state of conservation to be presented at the 43rd session of the Committee due to concerns regarding recent and continuing illegal construction work within and near the property. On 14 March 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>, providing the following information:

- There has recently been an unprecedented expansion of illegal constructions in parts of the serial property, notably in the eastern part of the Roman Circus in the “Area of the Hills” component, as well as within the National Police Officer Training School in Salambo;
- Out of the 42 demolition orders that have been issued, 11 have not yet been executed;
- On 28 February 2019, an official note was sent by the Minister of Cultural Affairs to the Head of Government informing him of the possibility of the property being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and requesting him to instruct the relevant authorities to proceed with the execution of demolition orders;
- On 16 March 2019, a meeting to discuss this issue was held at the Training School. Participants included the Director General of National Security Training, the Director of the School, the Director General of the National Institute of Heritage and the Cultural World Heritage Expert in the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Training School have expressed their willingness to respect and apply any decision that will be taken, and to abide by the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission that took place on 22-26 April 2019. Other issues reported by the State Party include:

- Fishing boats have illegally occupied the circular port of the ancient Punic port complex;
- Modification of the boundaries of the property has not yet been formally approved by the competent authorities;

- The Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMV) has not yet been approved or implemented; preparation of plans for site presentation and tourism management will begin very soon;
- A draft Action Plan for the implementation of Decision **42 COM 7B.60** and a high-level Orientation and Steering Committee to supervise this implementation have been created. An *ad hoc* Commission for the Protection and Enhancement of Heritage has also been established within the municipal council.

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

The State Party has responded promptly to an urgent request from the World Heritage Centre to submit a state of conservation report. An Advisory mission to the property took place from 22 to 26 April 2019. The mission report is being finalized at the time of drafting this state of conservation report, and will be made available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>.

The expansion of unplanned and uncontrolled constructions in parts of the serial property is of concern for the adverse impact these constructions may have on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity and integrity. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to employ without delay the instruments and mechanisms needed to halt all such constructions, to enforce the outstanding demolition orders and issue new ones as required, and to address to the degree possible any socio-economic issues that may underlie the expansion of uncontrolled constructions in parts of the serial property.

Concerning any planned new constructions, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for new construction or major restoration projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for all works envisaged, in line with the Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (ICOMOS, 2011), and to submit these assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is further recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to halt, or not commence, any works until the above assessments have been carried out.

Furthermore, in view of the potential threats and lack of an approved and implemented comprehensive conservation and management system for the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to complete and adopt the management plan and integrate it with a local development plan.

An updated account of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory mission, and notably in addressing the issue of illegal constructions within and near the property, should be included in the state of conservation report to be submitted by the State Party by 1 February 2020.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the State Party but notes with concern the recent and continuing illegal construction work in and near the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to employ without delay the instruments and mechanisms needed to halt all such constructions, to enforce the outstanding demolition orders and issue new ones as required, and to address to the degree possible any socio-economic*

issues that may underlie the recent expansion of uncontrolled constructions in parts of the serial property;

5. *Also requests the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of its intention to undertake or to authorize new constructions or major restorations which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to complete and adopt the management plan and integrate it with a local development plan;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for all works envisaged, in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and urges the State Party to halt, or not commence, any works until the above assessments have been carried out;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, as well as the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

ASIA-PACIFIC

59. West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou (China) (C 1334)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1334/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1334/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Visitor management arrangements)
- Buildings and Development (Encroachment/changes to skyline)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1334/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 June 2017, at the request of the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted a progress report outlining actions undertaken to meet the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property, in Decision **35 COM 8B.25** (UNESCO, 2011). The State Party reported the implementation of:

- Regulations on the Protection and Management of the property;
- A visitor monitoring and flow management system for the approximate 28 million annual visitors;
- An impact assessment system for new construction in the property and a large number of impact assessments for new construction having been undertaken.

ICOMOS assessed this report in May 2018, and its technical review concluded that:

- Further information was required on the requested demolition or height reduction of the eastern pavilion of the Shangri-La Hotel;
- Inventories of the key visual attributes of the property were required;
- The visitor monitoring system does not include the monitoring of visitor impacts;
- It remained unclear how the State Party informs the World Heritage Centre on projects within the area.

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a follow-up report in response to a World Heritage Centre request, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1334/documents/> and provides the following information:

- The elevator room and the two top floors (6th and 7th) of the Shangri-La Hotel were demolished in March 2019. A report on the demolition was provided. In preparation for the demolition, the

State Party first identified sensitive viewpoints over the property and graded them into three categories of importance. It also defined the ideal state for these views, based on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). From the predefined viewpoints, a line-of-sight analysis was conducted and three demolition options were visually simulated and evaluated by an expert panel. Of the three options, the most dramatic, involving the removal of the elevator room and two floors, was chosen as the preferred option. The proposals included camouflage of the building by painting it in a colour that would blend with its surroundings. An analysis was undertaken to develop landscaping options to mitigate the residual visual impact of the remainder of the hotel. The solution involves screening by planting tall trees, which would have to reach 25–30 metres in height to achieve the desired effect while harmonizing with the natural environment. The State Party expressed its commitment to implementing this landscape option;

- Further details were also provided on the delineation of 17 sensitive viewpoints of the West Lake Cultural Landscape. These consist of primary viewpoints related to the “Ten Scenes of West Lake” codified in the Song Dynasty, as well as to the two causeways and three islands. Secondary viewpoints protect the “three-sided hills” and control the transition space between mountain, city, and the highly-sensitive viewpoints of Jindai Bridge and Lakeside Wharf. Tertiary viewpoints aim to strictly control the height of urban buildings behind the “three-sided hills” and analyse the harmonious relationship between the skyline of urban areas to the east of West Lake and the “three-sided hills”. For each viewpoint, the 360-degree horizon is divided into four parts. These important viewpoints are monitored as a basis to protect spatial patterns of the landscape surrounding the Lake in all directions and to avoid the negative impact of new construction in and around the urban areas.

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

The State Party’s actions to implement the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **35 COM 8B.25** are welcomed.

At the time of inscription, the local authority acknowledged that the construction of the 7-storey Shangri-La Hotel in 1961 had a considerable negative impact on the sublime views of the forested hills from certain parts of West Lake.

The State Party has now provided full details of the impact analysis undertaken of the hotel from seven viewpoints around the West Lake, and of three options to reduce its visual impact, the most extreme being the removal of two stories, which was considered the most beneficial.

Following the expiration of the hotel lease in October 2018, the demolition of the elevator room and two top floors of the east pavilion of the Shangri-La Hotel was undertaken in March 2019. The reduction in height, combined with proposals to paint the building a colour that would blend with its surroundings, has mitigated the negative visual impact of this building on certain key views from West Lake, as is demonstrated by the before and after images provided. Although some negative visual impact remains, as the buildings are still partially visible from four viewpoints (Gushan North viewpoint, Crane-releasing Pavilion viewpoint, Bai Causeway on the lake viewpoint and Jindai Bridge viewpoint), the State Party proposes to mitigate these remaining impacts by planting large trees on the plaza near the east side of the building and in the sloping fields on the south side of the building. The commitment of the local authority to follow through this major transformation is to be commended.

The report also provides a clear rationale for the identification of important viewpoints, their monitoring, and their relation with development proposals. This ensures that the skyline and the lines of the intermediate hills, around the West Lake and outside the urban zone, are strictly protected.

At the time of inscription, the challenges of controlling urban development pressure were noted, as was the potential negative impact of visitor pressure. The Committee recommended that the State Party ensure that protection is adequately applied, so that incremental change does not impact the overall harmony of the landscape. In particular, it highlighted the need to ensure that there is no encroachment of the city behind hills that are visible from the lake, that all relevant development is subject to Heritage Impact Assessments, which take into consideration the impact on the attributes of OUV, and that visitor management arrangements are strengthened.

As it is essential that Hangzhou City does not spread to meet the slopes of the hills that frame views of West Lake from the causeway, the Committee may wish to reiterate its recommendations and add that management of the urban setting of the property should reflect the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape. Finally, as highlighted in the 2018 ICOMOS technical review, it is

important that the State Party include the monitoring of the impact of visitors in the management framework for the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's progress towards implementing its recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property;*
4. *Congratulates the State Party for its commitment to mitigating the main negative visual impacts of the Shangri-La Hotel, which were identified and acknowledged at the time of inscription, by removing the 6th and 7th storeys of the building, proposing to paint the building a colour that would blend with the surroundings, and addressing the residual negative impacts by planting trees as a visual shield;*
5. *Considers that this transformation has been highly effective, and will be even more so once the trees are planted and grown, and reflects a strong commitment to protect the visual integrity of the property;*
6. *Also welcomes the detailed impact assessment processes undertaken with the involvement of experts to define the project and to record its outcomes;*
7. *Also considers that it is essential to ensure that Hangzhou City does not spread to meet the slopes of the hills that frame views of West Lake from the causeway and reiterates its recommendations made at the time of inscription that the State Party take measures to:*
 - a) *Strengthen visitor management arrangements,*
 - b) *Maintain the skyline of hills to the north and south as viewed when looking east, and ensure that no encroachment of the city behind those hills is visible from the lake and that all relevant development is subject to Heritage Impact Assessments that consider impact on the property's attributes of Outstanding Universal Value,*
 - c) *Ensure that the protection in place is adequately applied in practice, so that incremental change does not impact the overall harmony of the landscape;*
8. *Also recommends that the State Party ensure that management of the urban setting of the property reflects the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and that the monitoring of the impacts of visitors be reflected in the management framework for the property;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

61. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India) (C 241bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001 to 2003)

Total amount approved: USD 92,370

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 25,000 EUR under the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement for expert missions (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011).

Previous monitoring missions

2000: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2001: expert technical assessment mission; 2003 and 2004: World Heritage Centre and expert Advisory missions; August 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; February 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: UNESCO New Delhi Office technical mission to the property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Effects arising from the use of transportation infrastructure (Lack of traffic regulations limiting heavy duty vehicular traffic)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction project for two cable-suspended bridges in the property; Construction project for the road widening near the ancient Kamalapur tank; Proposed bypass to divert heavy traffic from the property)
- Commercial development (Demolition works in the Hampi bazaar near Virupaksha temple)
- Water (extraction) (Irrigation for water intensive agriculture)
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report in 2018, which was requested by the Committee in Decision **41 COM 7B.90** (Krakow, 2017). The Committee's request referred in particular to the road widening in the Kamalapur tank area, an activity that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Based on information received from a third party, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 11 February 2019, requesting information on an alleged case of vandalism at the property. The State Party sent a response on 29 March 2019, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents>. This response comprises a short statement on the state of conservation of the property.

The vandalism, recorded on social media, involved pulling down a pillar of a *mandapa* within the Vishnu temple, which is part of the World Heritage property. The State Party indicated that officials from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) promptly filed a complaint with local police against unknown persons and that, following an inspection of the vandalised structure, the police investigation led to the arrest of three suspects within a week. A Court order issued that the fallen pillar be restored to its original position in the presence of relevant officers of the ASI, and the fallen pillar was therefore re-erected in its original position. The responsible staff at the ASI (Hampi Mini Circle, Kamalapur Sub Circle) assured the World Heritage Centre in writing that such incidents would not occur again in the future.

Additionally, the State Party reported collaboration between the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and ASI since 2016 to draft and implement the Integrated Management Plan of the property, and to draft the Master Plan of the entire Hampi site (29 villages, of which 4 are within the boundaries of the World Heritage property). Consequently, ASI is now responsible for just 57 of the sites within the property and acts as a nodal agency on matters of development while the state department of archaeology is responsible for 1,600 sites over 41.8 km².

The State Party provided a report on the main conservation works undertaken during the financial years 2017-2019 (Annex 7) and described improvements to public amenities and the upgrade of tourist visitor amenities throughout the property (Annex 8).

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

The progress achieved by the State Party, as identified in the above-mentioned reply letter, is welcomed, especially with regard to the immediate investigation and the court order aiming to implement corrective measures in order to revert the act of vandalism at the Vishnu temple.

The joint collaboration between the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and ASI on the Integrated Management Plan for the property and the Master Plan of the entire Hampi site has clarified areas of responsibility and is also welcomed.

However, the State Party did not provide any information on the issue of road widening in the Kamalapur tank area. The issue, therefore, remains a source of concern, as the Committee considered that it might have a negative impact on the OUV of the property in its Decision **41 COM 7B.90**. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information in that regard as a matter of urgency, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee in its aforementioned Decision, but notes the submission of information on the state of conservation of the property in the response to a request for verification of third-party information sent by the World Heritage Centre in the framework of Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Also notes the reports of vandalism at the temple of Vishnu, located within the World Heritage property, welcomes the State Party's immediate action, and takes note of the Court order regarding corrective measures to revert the act of vandalism;*
5. *Also welcomes the collaboration between the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to draft and implement the Integrated Management Plan of the Hampi World Heritage property and to draft the Master Plan of the entire site of Hampi;*
6. *Also regrets that, despite its previous request, the State Party has not yet provided any information on proposal to widen a road near the Kamalapur tank area, which may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and reiterates its request that the State Party provide, as a matter of urgency, detailed information concerning this project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

62. Mountain Railways of India (India) (C 944ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001 to 2004)

Total amount approved: USD 58,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

484,357 USD via a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust project by the Indian Railways, set up at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi for the establishment of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Framework

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of an adapted management plan; Lack of a heritage conservation unit; Absence of Buffer Zone)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/>

Current conservation issues

Following the submission of information by third parties, the World Heritage Centre sent four letters to the State Party (26 June 2017, 11 July 2017, 18 July 2018 and 14 February 2019) concerning the deteriorating state of conservation of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), which is part of the World Heritage property of Mountain Railways of India. The World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to verify the information received regarding: i) lack of monitoring and general maintenance; ii) serious encroachment by illegal construction; and iii) dumping of waste along the tracks. At the time of writing this report, the State Party has not responded to any of the letters.

The UNESCO Office in New Delhi carried out a mission to Darjeeling and Kolkata (19–29 May 2018) and made the following observations:

- There appears to be no appropriate structure to care for the conservation of heritage assets and attributes that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Many of the principal attributes of the property's OUV have lost important structural and/or decorative components;
- The property's boundaries do not appear to have been properly defined, since there is currently no clear map or established buffer zone;
- The property suffers from serious encroachment by illegal construction and from waste dumping along the tracks;
- The trains and tracks are suffering from insufficient maintenance;

- Many of the station buildings, which are identified as major attributes of the OUV of the property, have lost original fabric and have seriously deteriorated since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and its subsequent extensions (1999, 2004 & 2008). In most cases, this is due to ill-advised “modernization” efforts compounded by lack of maintenance. The buildings of Sonada and Gayabari stations, which were damaged during riots in 2017, have not been restored.

At the time of inscription, in 1999, most of the 88-kilometre route of the DHR passed through either forest or tea garden landscapes. Currently, however, much of the DHR runs between illegally constructed houses and shops, and a lot of this encroachment is on a 20-metre corridor owned by the Northern Frontier Railway Zone and the Ministry of Road Transport. Illegal housing is so close to the railway in places that there is little or no space between units and the railway.

Additionally, DHR steam locomotives use low-grade coal instead of steam coal produced for steam locomotives, which generates ash and smoke pollution and has a negative impact on the locomotive engines.

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

The mission report from the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and third-party information sent to the World Heritage Centre describe significant loss of original architectural elements from railway buildings and cumulative wear and tear on the locomotives and rolling stock of the railway since inscription. This is coupled with the impact of encroachment by illegal housing and commercial development, which has significantly altered the character of the railway corridor and its surrounding landscape and threatens the OUV of the property and its character.

The issues stem from the absence of a management system with appropriate focus on priorities for protection, maintenance and conservation and the capacity to implement these. There is also a general lack of understanding of the unique management needs of narrow-gauge heritage steam railways. In this regard, lack of suitably trained staff to operate the railway constitutes an important aggravating factor.

There is an urgent need to clarify the boundaries of the property and to establish a buffer zone in order to ensure its protection, to define priorities for management and to maintain the railways’ relationship with the landscapes that each one helped to create.

It is regrettable that, between 2017 and 2019, the State Party has not responded to World Heritage Centre’s repeated requests for information regarding the lack of monitoring and general maintenance, serious encroachment by illegal construction and waste dumping along the tracks of the property. In view of these pressing issues, the Indian Railways’ initiative to set up a self-benefiting Fund-in-Trust project to elaborate the development of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the property should be welcomed. The finalization and implementation of the CCMP is a crucial priority that must also include the establishment of a dedicated Conservation and Management Unit for the World Heritage property. This is in line with Committee Decision **CONF 209 VIII.C.1**, adopted at the time of inscription (Marrakesh, 1999), in which the Committee had already drawn the attention of the State Party to the recommendations of ICOMOS concerning: “(a) *the creation of a heritage conservation unit; (b) the establishment of a buffer zone along the length of the property; and (c) the establishment of an adapted management plan*”. Capacity development for all those involved in managing and running the railway and its buffer zone (once established) is also essential.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee express its concern about the damage to the property and the erosion of the attributes of its OUV, due to the lack of appropriate protection, maintenance and management since inscription.

In order to prevent further damage to the property and obtain expert advice and support, it is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assist the State Party in assessing the property’s state of conservation, identifying priorities for action and reporting on these, while also formulating a set of recommendations for the State Party aimed at preventing further erosion of the property’s OUV.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **CONF 209 VIII.C.1**, **29 COM 8B.31** and **32 COM 8B.28**, adopted at its 23rd (Marrakesh, 1999), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the information requested by the World Heritage Centre between 2017 and 2019 regarding the lack of monitoring and general maintenance, serious encroachment by illegal construction and waste dumping along the tracks of the property;
4. Takes note of the outcomes of the 2018 mission to the property of the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and expresses concern about the erosion of attributes bearing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as a result of management issues faced by the property over the 20 years since its inscription, and failure to implement the recommendations formulated by ICOMOS at the time of inscription;
5. Welcomes the initiative of Indian Railways to set up a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust project in order to help develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the property to address longstanding issues, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) *Implement this plan once it has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,*
 - b) *Establish a conservation and management unit for the property;*
6. Recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Committee a proposal to clarify the property's boundaries and define a buffer zone, along with details of proposed policy and legal instruments to improve the protection and management of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assist the State Party in assessing the property's state of conservation, to identify priorities for action and report on these, while also formulating a set of recommendations for the State Party aimed at preventing further erosion of the property's OUV;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**65. Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
(C 1568)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Need to adjust the boundaries of the remaining components
- Need to finalize an integrated conservation and management plan for the property
- Conservation activities needed at all serial components which are at risk of collapse or in a condition of serious deterioration

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 April 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2018 (Decision **42 COM 8B.21**) as follows:

- The State Party advised that it does not consider the recommendation to adjust the boundaries of the Firuzabad and Bishapur components feasible, due to the distance between the sites and the presence of new settlements in that area. The State Party has undertaken to provide new regulations within the buffer zones of the two abovementioned components regarding restrictions on new developments and tourism activities;
- The Integrated Conservation and Management Plan (ICMP) for the property is being finalized, including strategies for risk preparedness and disaster response;
- Regarding the Committee's recommendation to ensure that immediate conservation activities are prioritized, the State Party indicates that some investigations have been undertaken by Iranian Cultural Heritage Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), including discussions with members of ICOMOS ISCARSAH (International Scientific Committee on the Analysis and Restoration of Structures of Architectural Heritage) concerning the Qaleh Dokhtar dome in October 2018. Other works, including the immediate structural restoration of Sarbazkhane and the towers at the northern end of the fortification of the Royal Citadel, are listed in the report, but not described in detail;
- Regarding the need for geophysical surveys for the Ardashir Khurreh component, and in order to restrict agricultural practices in archaeologically sensitive areas, the State Party advises that an Iranian-French collaboration will initiate first tests in order to employ more suitable geophysics techniques in November 2019;

- The State Party is developing a new framework for documentation, survey, and analysis of structures and reliefs. The new monitoring system will be fully incorporated into the ICMP. Crack meters to improve monitoring were installed for the Royal Citadel;
- The State Party has provided information concerning a wide range of relevant management and conservation works, including: documentation and review of the state of conservation of several sites; restoration of decorative works (Arg-e Shai in Bishapur); various actions for reorganisation of parking facilities, water management, electrical infrastructure, and lighting; chemical removal of vegetation; various exhibitions, training and community engagement events; and river dredging in the vicinity of Tang-e Chogan. Several of these activities are described, while most are simply itemised in the report.

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

The State Party's report shows that progress was made in relation to several of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription. In particular, the State Party's indication that changes to the management plan are undergoing final revision is welcomed, including the provisions for risk preparedness, disaster management and improved documentation and monitoring arrangements. The Committee may therefore wish to request the State Party to submit the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption. Efforts to initiate the geophysical surveys of the city of Gur (Ardashir Khurreh) during 2019 are also noted, as are the various management and site conservation works that have been listed by the State Party.

While little time has passed since the inscription, progress in addressing and prioritising urgent conservation needs has nonetheless been relatively modest, given that a number of sites assessed as part of the ICOMOS Evaluation were in a poor state of conservation and at risk of further dilapidation or even collapse. A well-planned conservation approach that avoids extensive reconstructions is needed to ensure the long-term preservation of the property, and the Committee may wish to address this as a priority and incorporate it into the ICMP.

The State Party's response concerning the recommendation to adjust the boundaries of the components of Firuzabad and of Bishapur is noted, although the reasons for the Committee's recommendation remain valid. While the State Party's ongoing work to amend the regulations that apply to the buffer zones, including restrictions on new constructions, limits to the expansions to existing villages, and requirements for tourism ventures, are a possibly useful interim step, these are yet to be adopted and implemented. It is therefore considered that the boundaries of the components remain too tight and that they should be expanded to include the landscape setting of the architectural and archaeological features. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterate its request that the State Party work towards a recognition of these issues by adjusting the boundaries of the components.

The list of additional conservation and site management activities is noted, with the understanding that, in due course, such activities will be fully integrated into a functioning conservation and management plan and subject to monitoring and regular review.

Finally, it is noted that the provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value has been reviewed and an agreed draft will be presented for adoption at the present session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 8B.21**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party and requests that it continue working on the issues identified at the time of the inscription, including by:*
 - a) *Adjusting the boundaries of the components of the serial property to include the landscape setting of the archaeological and architectural attributes within the boundaries and/or buffer zone of the World Heritage property,*

- b) *Adopting and implementing the proposed new regulations for the buffer zones of the Firuzabad and Bishapur components,*
 - c) *Finalizing, as a matter of priority, the integrated conservation and management plan for the property, including strategies for risk preparedness and disaster response, and submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre prior to its formal adoption for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - d) *Ensuring that attributes in poor condition, at risk of serious deterioration, or at risk of collapse are identified, monitored and given urgent priority for conservation programmes and resources,*
 - e) *Conducting geophysical surveys for the site of Ardashir Khurreh in order to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity, and ensuring that agricultural practices are forbidden in archaeologically sensitive areas,*
 - f) *Establishing a monitoring system that is appropriate to sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and fully incorporates the monitoring arrangements into the integrated conservation and management plan;*
4. ***Requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.*

67. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

74. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines) (C 677bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997 to 1998)

Total amount approved: USD 27,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

July 1998: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2000: ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Proposed plan for building an ossuary to replace the original 159 crypt burials (issue resolved)
- Water (rain/water table, Need for long-term solution to control the flow of heavy rain water) (issue resolved)

- Housing
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/>

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre has received information from civil society, including media reports, about a plan to construct the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge Project, which would pass over the Pasig River and connect Binondo with Intramuros (the buffer zone of the San Agustin Church of Intramuros Manila), a project which ICOMOS Philippines expressly opposed.

On 24 September 2018, the World Heritage Centre wrote to the State Party, attaching the position paper of ICOMOS Philippines as well as media reports, and requested further information. On 11 February 2019, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the Committee would examine the state of conservation of the property.

On 14 and 27 December 2018, the State Party indicated that the bridge project is financed through an agreement between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China. A state of conservation report was submitted on 28 February 2019 and is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/documents/>.

The State Party reports that the construction of a bridge has been temporarily stopped while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is undertaking the Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) along with major design changes, in response to coordinated efforts by the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA), the Intramuros Administration, and the National Museum with the DPWH. The AHIA will be provided once it is completed.

In parallel with the AHIA, the State Party is taking various steps to address the potential impact of the project, and notably:

- Continuously ensuring that only light vehicles are allowed to pass through Intramuros,
- Planning to pedestrianize the road adjacent to the church to mitigate the negative impact of additional traffic,
- Considering protection of nearby heritage structures using a mechanically stabilized earth wall,
- Not compromising the river and its promenade and equipping the bridge with walkways and bike lanes,
- Integrating open spaces into the project design.

The Intramuros Administration has been formulating the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) of Intramuros, which would define measures to be undertaken to conserve Intramuros and to control different variables such as traffic and tourism.

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

It is encouraging that the State Party has been committed to protecting the attributes of the San Agustin Church of Intramuros, Manila, which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, through close coordination between the NCCA, the Intramuros Administration, other cultural agencies and the DPWH. However, it is regrettable that a decision to construct the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge was made and works commenced prior to the assessment of potential impacts of the project, not only on the OUV of the property but also on nearby heritage structures.

The temporary suspension of the construction of the bridge until the completion of the Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIAs) is welcome and should be undertaken in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is also acknowledged that major design changes are being made by the DPWH. Amended project details should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available and before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The NCCA, the Intramuros Administration and other cultural agencies should continue close discussion with the DPWH to ensure that the AHIA is concluded as soon as possible, and that all potentially affected heritage structures and all possible impacts on the San Agustin Church of Intramuros are taken into consideration when making design changes.

The development of the proposed Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Intramuros is welcome and considered necessary to strengthen protection and development controls for the property and for Intramuros in general. While the efforts of the State Party to undertake various plans in order to address the impact of the project are encouraging, the completion of both CMP and the AHIA are now urgent in order to understand fully the impact of the project and to define and elaborate mitigation measures. The Committee should request the State Party to submit the draft CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies, prior to its finalization and implementation.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to monitor not only the San Agustin Church of Intramuros Manila, but also other components of the property, and that it remind the State Party of its obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new development project or major intervention that may have an impact on the OUV of the property before any decision is taken that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with the Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Acknowledges the State Party's commitment to protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and notes with satisfaction the temporary suspension of the construction of the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge until the Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) of the project is completed and any resulting major design changes to the bridge are made ;
3. Encourages the State Party to continue close coordination and discussion among the National Commission for Culture and Arts, the Intramuros Administration, other cultural agencies and the Department of Public Works and Highways to ensure that the AHIA is completed as soon as possible, and that all potentially affected heritage structures and all possible impacts on the San Agustin Church of Intramuros are taken into consideration as part of the design changes;
4. Requests the State Party to submit the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) The AHIA of the project, prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties,
 - b) Amended project details for the construction of the bridge,
 - c) The draft Conservation Management Plan for Intramuros, prior to its finalization and implementation;
5. Also encourages the State Party to regularly monitor all the component parts of the property, and also requests that it inform the World Heritage Centre of any new development project or major intervention that may have an impact on the OUV of the property before any decision is taken that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with the Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

77. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

78. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995 to 2016)

Total amount approved: USD 100,960

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties 'Historic Centre of Bukhara' and 'Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures'

Previous monitoring missions

1998: ICOMOS Reactive Assessment mission; October 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: ICOMOS Advisory Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Managements systems/Management Plan (Lack of a proper conservation and management plan; Lack of guidelines for rehabilitation of housing)
- Management activities (Lack of coordination with regard to the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Programme; Lack of on-going routine maintenance and varying state of conservation of monuments)
- Housing, Development (Use of new building material and methods, inappropriate restoration and reconstruction methods; Utilities or Service Infrastructure)
- Ground Transport Infrastructure (Roads)
- Archaeological excavation and rebuilding on the Shakhristan Market site
- Others: Degradation of traditional houses
- Heavy traffic, pollution and poor sewage system (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/>

Current conservation issues

An ICOMOS Advisory mission visited the property in April 2018. Subsequently, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports on 1 December 2018 and 3 January 2019. Both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/> and highlight the State Party's following actions:

- The Cabinet Resolution of 9 July 2018 aligns the national conservation policy with the *World Heritage Convention*;
- An Interagency Task Force was created to address emerging issues at the property;
- A roadmap has been developed to address the conservation of the property;

- A moratorium has been placed on all construction work and upgrades to the property until management documents have been drafted and reviewed;
- A consultant has been engaged to develop a City Master Plan, including a Detailed Planning Draft that covers the period until 2022, taking into account the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The Cabinet passed Resolution No. 435, which grants the property the status of 'specially protected area'. This resolution also expressed the need to develop appropriate guidelines and regulations for the property, including conservation, management and tourism regulations.

At the local level, the Bukhara municipal authorities have created a World Heritage Property Steering Committee, tasked with implementing the Management Plan using a system of protective zones. The State Party included the document 'Maintaining and Use of Protected Zones Regime, 2018' as an annex to its report, which outlines protection zones in the city and presents general provisions, which will inform the Master Plan for the property, currently under development. It is planned that these zones will be integrated into the cadastre. The Protected Zones Regime was subject to an ICOMOS Technical Review.

The Inspectorate for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, as the body mandated to manage the property, has carried out the following tasks:

- Set up a process of local and community stakeholder consultation;
- Started an investigation into appropriate techniques and materials required for restoration projects, and established a research laboratory for this purpose;
- Established an inventory to define the site boundaries and demarcated the property boundaries with signage;
- Revised and updated the Management Plan and obtained approval from the Cabinet of Ministers;
- Commissioned archaeological investigations in the new Shakhristan market area.

The State Party has entered into an agreement with the UNESCO International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), which will act as the coordinating authority for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for all projects planned within the property. These HIAs will also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS High-Level mission to Shakhrisyabz in January 2019 also visited Bukhara, where they organized a training session and met with officials.

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

The protection, management and maintenance of the authenticity and integrity of the Historic City of Bukhara have been a source of great concern since 1997 (see WHC.97/CONF.208/04B and WHC.97/CONF.208/08B). The April 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission reported recent widespread damage and destruction of attributes of the property's OUV as a direct result of the Project of Detailed Planning of the Historical Centre of Bukhara Development (PDP), which is based on a national decree to stimulate tourism development in the property and its region. The PDP has improved living conditions through the installation of civic services and includes large-scale construction, restoration, and infrastructural development; however, it has also led to the collapse of sections of important monuments, to a widening of streets, and to changes in the property's urban topography, potentially destroying archaeological attributes. The PDP was not assessed through an HIA, and the projects it foresees were not communicated to the World Heritage Centre before implementation began. The 2018 Advisory mission noted that the continued implementation of the PDP could have serious, irreversible negative impacts on the OUV of the property, as could reconstruction activities at damaged monuments utilising inappropriate methods and materials.

The 2018 mission concluded that the management and planning systems for the property are inadequate and suffer from a lack of human resources. The Committee may therefore urge the State Party to adopt urgent legal and institutional measures to control urban development. The mission also reported that, although an Integrated Management Plan for the property was completed in 2017, it has not yet been submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies or legally adopted.

It is a source of great concern that the Master Plan has been adopted without being reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, and the Committee may wish to request that the State Party submit the Master Plan as soon as possible. The development of appropriate conservation and restoration guidelines and the provision of a thorough legal framework for the protection of the property's OUV remains an urgent

priority. It is also important that the Management Plan for the property be integrated with the Master Plan in line with the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

Additionally, while the reported stakeholder consultation process is very welcome, its effectiveness requires verification. Prior to holding architectural design competitions for new projects or commencing any new development project or major restoration works, detailed proposals should be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party's decision to adopt Cabinet resolutions for the protection of the property, impose a moratorium on construction and development within the property, and establish a restoration laboratory is welcomed. However, it remains unclear whether the moratorium covers both the property and its buffer zone, and it is crucial to continue observing this moratorium until appropriate management systems, conservation and development guidelines and HIA processes are in place and proven to be effective. The relationship between the newly established World Heritage Property Steering Committee, the Inspectorate for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage and Interagency Task Team remains to be clarified.

The Protected Zones Regime is welcomed, but as highlighted in the ICOMOS technical review, it is not aligned with the terminology of the *World Heritage Convention*, and it remains unclear whether the zones correspond to the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone. This document needs to be revised, submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies, and registered in the cadastre.

More information is required regarding the scale, scope and mandate of the State Party's Interagency Task Force and on the conservation roadmap. Due to the reported negative impacts of recent developments on the property's OUV, and in view of the challenges faced in managing the property and its OUV, it is recommended that the Interagency Task Force's mandate include overseeing the development of an appropriate legal and management system and of conservation and development policies and guidelines. It is further recommended that a Reactive Monitoring mission visit the property, with a view to considering the full scope of the projects, both planned and underway, and to reviewing the factors that constitute a threat to the property and considering whether there is an ascertained or potential danger to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.99**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the reported moratorium on all construction work and on upgrades to the property and urges the State Party to adopt urgent legal and institutional measures to control development;
4. Also welcomes the establishment of the World Heritage Property Steering Committee and the establishment of an Interagency Task Force to address emerging issues at the property, but requests that more details be provided on the scale, scope and mandate of the Task Force;
5. Notes with grave concern the conclusions and recommendations of the April 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, including the reported destruction of attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as a result of the implementation of the Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Bukhara Development (PDP), which is based on a national decree to stimulate tourism development in the property and its region;
6. Takes note of the reported completion of the Integrated Management Plan and the Master Plan for the property, along with a system of protective zones for the property

and its buffer zone, but expresses its concern that the Integrated Management Plan has not yet been submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies, despite earlier requests; that the Master Plan, although reportedly revised and updated, has been adopted without being submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies; and that the system of protective zones needs to be improved with regard to both its terminology and application;

7. Also requests that:

- a) The moratorium on all construction work and upgrades to the property be extended to include the buffer zone of the property,
- b) The Integrated Management Plan be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its legal adoption,
- c) The Master Plan be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible and before any further decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
- d) Once both the Management Plan and the Master Plan have been reviewed, the Management Plan be integrated with the Master Plan, in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;
- e) The moratorium be enforced until both the Master Plan and the Management Plan have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, and adequate management systems, conservation, Heritage Impact Assessments and development policies and protocols are in place and pilot projects have proven their effectiveness,
- f) Prior to holding architectural design competitions for new projects, commissioning, or commencing any new development project or major restoration works, detailed proposals should be sent to the World Heritage Centre, for review in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Further requests the State Party to stabilize the valuable structures damaged through the implementation of the PDP and to take protective measures until a set of appropriate protocols on restoration methods and materials have been developed and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Also notes with grave concern the management weaknesses, damages to the property and threats to its OUV reported in the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, which echo the Committee's earlier concerns;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to expand its Interagency Task Force to include national and international expert advisors reporting directly to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and to the World Heritage Centre for a defined period of minimum five years, and grant it a national-level mandate to:

- a) Fully assess the legal protection and management systems already in place for the property and its buffer zones and make recommendations for improvements,
- b) Assess and improve the roadmap to address the conservation of the property and oversee the implementation thereof after it is reviewed by the Advisory Bodies,
- c) Carry out an annual assessment of the state of conservation of the property,
- d) Monitor engagement with local and community stakeholders on the future of the property,
- e) Oversee the development of policies and guidelines for conservation and development which aim to preserve the property's OUV,
- f) Assess and recommend improvements to Impact Assessment processes, the reassessment of the Integrated Management Plan, Master Plan and other

development plans and decrees, as well as reporting to the World Heritage Centre in the framework of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

- g) Oversee the development and review of an appropriate and sustainable tourism development strategy and plan,*
 - h) Select and monitor the implementation of pilot projects to assess the efficiency of the developed, assessed and reviewed plans, guidelines and policies,*
 - i) Monitor the moratorium on all construction work and upgrades to the property and its buffer zone and annually assess whether the moratorium could be lifted, provided that the management system and the various management, conservation and development plans have been proven to be efficient,*
 - j) Recommend the lifting of the moratorium on all construction work and upgrades in the property as well as its own dissolution once it is satisfied that the legal and management systems effectively protect the OUV of the property and its setting;*
11. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess the full scope of the impacts already caused to the property and its OUV, the efficacy of the Interagency Task Force and other management systems, to review the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors that constitute a threat to the property and to consider whether there is an ascertained or potential danger to the OUV of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

82. Paris, Bank of the Seine (France) (C 600)

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add.2

87. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1979-2003

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2003: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; January 2006: Management Planning Course; February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October-November 2018: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake damage (issue resolved)
- Lack of buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Lack of Management Planning/system
- Inadequate legal system
- Accelerated urban development and urban pressure
- Proposed major bridge at Verige and other proposed development projects
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Land conversion
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in October-November 2018 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 29 March 2019, together with 5 annexes (Annexes 4 and 5 were not provided in translation), which is also available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The 2018 mission report's numerous recommendations are being used to inform the actions listed below;
- The draft Kotor Municipality Spatial Plan was submitted (5 April 2019), including some public consultation and the integration of feedback from the 2018 mission;
- Preparation of new *Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor* by a recently-formed working group is underway;
- Following the ICOMOS May 2018 Technical Review of the *Heritage Impact Assessment for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments*, a team has been working on implementing the suggestions;
- The process of revising the Management Plan has started and includes an assessment of the current status of the buffer zone and its future protection;
- The moratorium on new construction will continue until the Kotor Municipality Spatial Plan and revised Management Plan are in place;
- The proposed project for a cable car to St John's Fortress has been abandoned;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for a tourist village at Glavati-Prčanj was completed in July 2018. Following the ICOMOS December 2018 technical review, it was decided not to implement the project.

Some other issues are also reported by the State Party:

- A *Regional Workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment* was held in Kotor to build capacity among practitioners in the region. It was organized with ICCROM experts and thanks to the support of the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Regional Bureau;
- The State Party reported its interest in granting permission for building an accommodation complex in the settlement of Morinj, located in the buffer zone.

In addition, it should be noted that the World Heritage Centre was contacted by several local stakeholders concerned with the drafting of the Spatial Plan, various development projects and the property's state of conservation.

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

Progress has been made on a number of fronts, and ongoing dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS is helping to inform results. The recommendations of the 2018 mission cover the many challenges faced by the property and are being taken into consideration by the State Party as work progresses. Ongoing efforts to integrate World Heritage approaches into national and local legislation and planning for the long-term protection and management of the property should be recognized.

However, further improvements are needed. The draft Spatial Plan for Kotor Municipality was adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 4 April 2019. ICOMOS will provide in-depth analysis in a technical review but it is likely that the plan will need to integrate additional multidisciplinary contributions and guarantee genuine public consultation. It should not be forgotten that there are other municipalities within the World Heritage property and similar planning should be taken forward for the whole property, buffer zone and wider setting. These issues should also be addressed within the revised Management Plan and the upgraded HIA "*for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments*." Similarly, it is important to monitor the progress made by the working group preparing the new *Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor*.

With regard to the number of development projects that continue to be proposed in and around the property, it is positive to see that the projects for St John's Fortress cable car and the Glavati-Prčanj tourist village have been abandoned in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). However, it is of concern that there is a dissonance between the conclusions of the HIAs carried out for these projects and the ICOMOS technical reviews, with the State Party making decisions on the basis of ICOMOS' recommendations, rather than the HIA conclusions. Impact assessment methodologies were created in order to support better decision-making and therefore the HIA process needs to be improved to provide opportunities to build consensus based on solid values analysis, clear evidence-based evaluations of impacts and solutions that bring benefits to both the heritage and the local community. It is hoped that the recent workshop on HIA will have provided support to the State Party in this area and that they will continue to promote capacity-building for HIA where it is needed. This is particularly important for the HIAs currently being developed for Verige bridge and the Morinj accommodation complex.

Finally, while significant effort is being devoted to work in all these key areas, there is a need to bring together these results into the management plan currently undergoing revision, so that it becomes a fully operational instrument for the efficient management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, with binding policies and provisions endorsed at national and local government level within the changing legal framework. In addition, the management plan should include an assessment of the state of conservation of both tangible and intangible attributes (in particular disused or decaying historic buildings) and specific actions to ensure their conservation. It should also address disaster risk reduction and the challenges of tourism management.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party in many areas, including drafting the Spatial Plan for Kotor Municipality, *preparing new* Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor, *initiating the revision of the Management Plan, and upgrading the* Heritage Impact Assessment for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments, *and requests* that the State Party submit revised versions of these documents to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Also welcomes the decisions to abandon projects for the St John's Fortress cable car and the Glavati-Prčanj tourist facility in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the State Party to continue improving the impact assessment process so that it supports good decision-making with regard to change within and around the property;
5. Notes the State Party's interest in allowing an accommodation complex to be built at Morinj, but urges the preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) before any irreversible decisions are made, and also requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible the HIAs both for Morinj and for the Verige bridge to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further requests that the Management Plan, which is also being revised, should incorporate the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, so that it becomes a fully operational instrument for the efficient management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, with binding policies and provisions endorsed at national and local government level within the changing legal framework, which, in

addition to tackling development issues in harmony with the Kotor Spatial Plan, should also address the conservation of the tangible and intangible attributes that convey the OUV and other values, as well as disaster risk reduction and tourism management;

7. *Also urges the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2018 mission, including the immediate and permanent suspension of the administrative rule entitled “Silence of Administration” in the case of issuance of any kind of construction permits or project developments within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2020, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

90. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Concern over the situation prevailing in Diyarbakır (resolved)
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure (roads)
- Water infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Management system/Management Plan

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

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/> and addresses the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- Concerning the works for the rehabilitation of Suiriçi District (Sur), a comprehensive and integrated Urban Design Project was planned and in 2016 relevant provisions were added to the implementation provisions of the existing urban conservation plan. This includes new roads, road widening and reconstruction projects in the buffer zone, both in Sur and outside the walls of the citadel;

- The 2012 Urban Conservation Plan was amended in 2016 and approved by the Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties to allow for the removal of heavily damaged buildings in Sur;
- In line with the general provisions of the Urban Conservation Plan, an “Operational Plan” was prepared with the approval of the Conservation Council;
- In 2017, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization commissioned an Urban Design Guide for Sur to provide guidance for new buildings to be constructed;
- A scientific Commission for Diyarbakir City Walls was established, which is tasked with assessing planned interventions to the walls, including the materials to be used and the techniques to be applied. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism conducted a study to examine and analyze Diyarbakir City walls and bastions;
- Tigris River Rehabilitation Project Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report and Preliminary Cultural HIA report on the Landscaping Project for Areas Outside Diyarbakir City Walls are completed;
- Two more projects are planned for the Tigris Valley which affect the Hevsel Garden directly: the Tigris Valley Project and Tigris Valley Eastern Suriçi Landscaping Project;
- Içkale Amida Mound and Artuqid Palace archaeological excavation works started in September 2018. Excavations are planned to continue in a systematic manner.

The State Party has invited the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee (**41 COM 7B.50**) and stated that the World Heritage Centre will be informed about the feasible dates to carry out this mission as soon as possible.

The State Party submitted numerous documents as annexes. Many of these, including an HIA for the Landscaping Project for Areas Outside Diyarbakir City Walls, the 2014 Master Plan Implementation Guide for Suriçi Area in Sur District of the Province of Diyarbakir and the 2017 Sur Urban Design Guide were submitted in Turkish in conformity with Decision **41 COM 7B.50**.

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

In its report, the State Party provided information on the rehabilitation of Suriçi District including the Urban Conservation Plan and its Operational Plan, as well as the Urban Design Plan. Although the information and the visualization concerning the works completed in the property and its buffer zone have been provided, it is regrettable that the reconstruction works have started before the Reactive Monitoring mission has taken place. The carrying out of the mission has become a matter of utmost urgency considering that no details of the urban rehabilitation projects have been submitted by the State Party, and that the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS receive numerous third parties information.

Regarding the HIA report on the Tigris River Rehabilitation Project submitted by the State Party in February 2019, the World Heritage Centre has requested the State Party to provide in one of the working languages, the project documentation on which the HIA is based, in order to comprehensively examine the HIA report. Upon reception, the Advisory Bodies will carry out a technical review. It is recommended that no work proceeds on this project until this review process has been completed.

However, the Tigris Valley Project and Tigris Valley Eastern Suriçi Landscaping Project have not yet been assessed through HIAs and the revised version of the Conservation Plan in 2016 has not been submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party should be requested to halt the reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in progress or under planification in the property and its buffer zone which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property until such time as a Reactive Monitoring mission has visited the property and its conclusions are known. It is also recommended that the State Party continue to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until such time as the 2016 revisions have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies. The State Party should also be requested to submit the projects documentation and results of all HIAs, including a section on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV of the property, in a working language of the *World Heritage Convention* (English or French).

Given that the State of Emergency in the area has ended, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to determine as soon as possible the appropriate dates for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Notes the work carried out by the State Party to rehabilitate and protect the property and its buffer zone; however regrets that the reconstruction work has started before the mission has taken place and its conclusions known and before Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) were undertaken for all projects and submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Request all projects that could affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be halted until the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission are known and adopted by the Committee;
5. Also notes that the 2012 Conservation Plan for the property was modified and therefore also requests the State Party to halt the implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan and to revert to the 2012 Conservation Plan until the revised Conservation Plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for review;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to carry out HIAs for urban design, landscape and infrastructural projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage, before these projects are implemented;
7. Recommends that the urban dimension of the property and its buffer zone be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted to ensure the conservation of the property; using if necessary the approach carried by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);
8. Thanks the State Party for the invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the overall state of conservation of the property; and urges the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the possible dates for the mission;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Resumption of mining activities
- Inappropriate developments (particularly a new supermarket built at Hayle Harbour)
- Potential impact of new development projects
- Management and institutional factors / Improvements to the planning tools and approval processes not yet completed and implemented (*issue partially resolved*)
- Social/cultural uses of heritage

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2018, the State Party submitted a report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents/>, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of Decision **41 COM 7B.54**, providing the following information:

- The Supplementary Planning Document (2016) has been adopted by all three Local Planning Authorities (in May 2017). The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is reported to be protected through the Management Plan policies, the Local Plans and the National Planning Policy Framework;
- Statutory timeframe for the adoption of local plans did not allow an opportunity for review by the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and the Advisory Body ICOMOS;
- Developments in the Port of Hayle:
 - The design principles for the South Quay project (Phase 2) of 2015 were modified after lengthy and iterative discussions with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and a revised version of the project was approved in 2018,
 - The North Quay project is being revised in view of the proposed design's potential threat to the authenticity and integrity of the property, following an outline planning permission, and in response to concerns expressed by Historic England and through multiple phases of Technical Review by ICOMOS;
- Development in the St Agnes Mining District: an application for conversion of the Engine House to domestic dwelling at Wheal Friendly, St Agnes was sent to the WHC by a third party, and was transmitted to the State Party according to Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The

State Party confirmed that the application is in place, and ICOMOS has provided a Technical Review;

- Development in the Tamar Valley Mining District: outline planning permission was granted for the construction of 750 dwellings at Callington Road, Tavistock, and a reserved matters application was submitted for two other dwelling projects for 157 and 241 units. Both projects are reported to be outside the boundaries of the property, within its setting, with no adverse impact assessed for its OUV. Historic England and the World Heritage Office has been consulted on the applications;
- South Crofty Mine: the new site operator, Strongbow Explorations Incorporated (SEI), is seeking ways to reduce the visual impacts of the mine, including that of the Mill building. An updated archaeological report has been produced.

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

Despite the reported progress in improving planning tools and their implementation, the processes to avoid potential negative impact on the OUV of the property from proposed projects remains inadequate. Following the recognition of negative impacts on OUV caused by the completed supermarket project in Hayle Harbour, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS were requested to assist and advise the State Party in revising and mitigating potential harmful design elements for a number of project applications throughout the period since the last state of conservation reporting. Four Technical Reviews and teleconferences were provided for revising the application design for the South Quay project (Phase 2). Two Technical Review documents were produced so far, with comments and recommendations, for the North Quay mixed use development project, and the State Party has requested further assistance. In both cases, the Secretariat and ICOMOS were asked to consider voluminous complex documentation, within the very tight timeframes of the local statutory processes.

Concerning the North Quay project, the latest revised proposal represented an improvement on the outline planning permission, but does not yet adequately address the potential negative impact of the proposed design on the OUV of the property, and therefore, further revision is needed.

ICOMOS has also assessed the Wheal Friendly Engine House application and advised that the conversion of a listed industrial monument to domestic use raises concerns, such that the proposal should not proceed in its original form. Information has not been provided by the State Party, on how the recommendations were taken into account, even after several requests by the World Heritage Centre. Third parties have reported the approval of this application.

The State Party has not complied fully with the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision **41 COM 7B.54**, such that the current statutory timeframe for planning applications at the national level and process for adopting strategic local planning tools, do not accommodate the inputs from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines*. In this respect, the planning system remains inadequate, the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has not proven to be a suitable tool for guiding decisions, and the role of the World Heritage Site Planning Advise Officer in providing advice related to planning applications still needs to be strengthened.

Concerning the South Crofty Mine, the efforts of SEI to explore ways to comply with Committee Decisions, including the reduction of negative visual impacts of the mine, are welcome. It is nevertheless regrettable that the updated archaeological report has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested by the Decision **41 COM 7B.54**, and that information has not been provided about details of the boundary treatment and planning.

Current planning tools, policy documents, approval processes and consultation timeframes do not sustain the protection of the OUV of the property. The State Party has not fully complied with previous Committee Decisions by providing opportunity for reviewing planning tool documents by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before their adoption. Consequently, in view of the ascertained danger to the property's OUV, it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent action for the implementation of the recommendations of past Committee Decisions, and that it considers, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its next session in 2020, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Takes note of some progress of the State Party in making efforts to improve the planning tools and their implementation, in line with the previous Committee Decision **41 COM 7B.54**, but notes with concern that the steps undertaken are insufficient to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Urges the State Party to revise the current approval processes, planning tools and planning policy documents, including the Management Plan of the property, and requests the State Party to establish stronger protection tools and improve the associated planning processes;
5. Acknowledges that the State Party has consulted the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regarding the application of the South Quay project (Phase 2), and the proposed North Quay project in order to reduce and mitigate the potential negative impact of the proposed design on the OUV of the property, but expresses concern at the timeframes imposed by local statutory processes and that there is a need for such detailed and iterative consultation process because of inadequate planning tools and policies;
6. Also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of ICOMOS related to the North Quay project and ensure the further revision of the proposed design plans, in order to avoid the identified potential negative impacts of the project application on the OUV of the property;
7. Also acknowledges the efforts of the operator Strongbow Explorations Incorporated in South Crofty Mine, for reducing the negative visual impacts of the mine, but nevertheless, regrets that the State Party has not complied with the request in Decision **41 COM 7B.54** to submit to the World Heritage Centre the updated archaeological report as well as details of the boundary treatment and planning;
8. Also regrets that the planning application for the conversion of the Engine House at Wheal Friendly, St Agnes, was not submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and also notes with concern the lack of sufficient communication from the State Party with regard to:
 - a) Explaining the reasons and justifying the design for the conversion of a listed industrial monument to domestic use,
 - b) Following up on how the provided expert advice was taken into account,
 - c) Issuing of the project approval;
9. Further requests the State Party to continue to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for any new development which may affect the OUV of the property be submitted, together with respective Heritage Impact Assessments, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before final decisions are taken;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps

*taken to implement the above, especially the proposed improvements to the planning tools and approval processes, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, and in the case of confirmation of the ascertained danger to OUV, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities (Construction proposals in the immediate vicinity of the property that could have an adverse impact on the setting, related vistas and integrity of the property)
- Buildings and Development (Continuous development pressure for high-rise buildings that pose changes to skyline and strong visual impact, whilst there is lack of an in-depth visual impact study on possible impacts of development projects)
- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of an approved management plan and need for protection of the immediate surroundings of the property through an adequate buffer zone)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>, and reported on the following issues:

- National, regional and local planning policies are under review. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was revised in 2018. The London Plan is perceived as the urban planning framework to assess the impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and is currently under review, while a final draft is reported to be available. Individual borough local plans are also being reviewed;
- The decision-making process includes the possibility, in situations when Historic England objects to a proposed development for its potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, to refer the case to the Secretary of State who will decide whether to call it in;

- The Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site project has not been built and a revised application was due for determination in late 2018. However, this has been delayed as it has been referred to the Secretary of State for a decision. As of now there is no stated determination date;
- Updates on the proposed Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre and on the Westminster Ceremonial Streetscape Project have been provided. For both proposals, relevant Technical Reviews have been sent to the State Party;
- The review of the Management Plan is not yet finalized, but according to the State Party, significant progress has been made, with a formal public consultation foreseen for spring 2019. Moreover, a detailed conservation plan is being prepared for the Palace of Westminster and a Conservation Management Plan for Westminster Abbey. Once completed, they will be linked to the Management Plan of the property;
- The 23 recommendations of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission are reported to be followed, as well as the creation of an independent charity, World Heritage UK.

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

Concerning the update of planning regulations and policies, a heritage-led vision focused on the protection of OUV is yet to be delivered by the relevant statutory and management documents. The State Party should submit the draft London Plan and the relevant parts of the individual borough local plans to World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to their approval and in a timely manner. The revision of the NPPF has been already approved, without prior consultation.

For the Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reiterate their request to receive the detailed proposal and the relevant Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse. Moreover, further updates should be provided on the current status of the Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site.

Although ICOMOS strongly supports the idea of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, the proposed monument and its underground rooms located in Victoria Tower Gardens, as currently presented, would have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and would unacceptably compromise a key part of its immediate setting and key views. Alternative locations and/or designs should be considered.

The creation of a buffer zone is indeed challenging, but it would significantly contribute to raising awareness of potential threats to the property. The State Party should address the issue of an updated database for tall buildings with an indication of the level of their finalization, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre. The development of the dynamic 3D modelling system would help identify, prevent and manage the cumulative effects, as well as assist in the delineation of an appropriate buffer zone.

The revision of the Management Plan of the property should be finalized as soon as possible, and the State Party should submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption. It is highly advised to take into consideration the creation of a joint committee for all World Heritage properties in London and to appoint a coordinator or site manager for this property.

The State Party should be encouraged to follow the recommendations of the 2017 mission, to comply with the Committee Decisions, and find solutions that will allow the inputs of the Committee and the Advisory Bodies in the national decision making process. The role of Historic England in the decision-making process should be further reinforced, especially when determining whether a project application should be called in by the Secretary of State. For projects with a potential negative impact on OUV, the State Party should produce an HIA, with the input of Historic England, and should notify the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, prior to taking any irreversible decisions.

Additionally, the creation by the Government of an advisory committee with a strong influence on decision making, which would contribute to the management of all World Heritage properties in the United Kingdom, would be very beneficial. The cumulative impacts on this World Heritage property, especially from high-rise developments with strong visual impact, combined with the difficulty to challenge planning permissions and currently inadequate management is a potential threat to this property, and the State Party should provide more detailed information to clarify whether such an advisory committee would be possible.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.36**, **39 COM 7B.87** and **41 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the effort of the State Party to update its planning policies, but notes with concern the continuing disconnect between policies and results regarding a heritage-led planning approach for World Heritage properties;
4. Requests the State Party to provide as soon as possible a clear timeframe for the review of the London Plan, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre the final draft of the London Plan and the relevant parts of the borough local plans, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide a detailed timeframe for the review of the Management Plan of the property, including the detailed conservation plan for the Palace of Westminster and the Conservation Management Plan for Westminster Abbey, and reiterates its request to finalize the review process as soon as possible and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption;
6. Also notes that major conservation works are planned as part of a Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as these are available and before any decision is taken or approval is issued;
7. While strongly supporting the concept of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, expresses concerns that the proposed monument and its underground rooms located in Victoria Tower Gardens, as currently presented, would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and therefore further requests the State Party to pursue alternative locations and/or designs;
8. Further reiterates its request expressed in Decision **41 COM 7B.55** for the State Party to expedite the implementation of the 23 recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Acknowledges the creation of an independent charity, World Heritage UK, nevertheless, strongly advises the creation of a joint committee to help coordinate the Management of the World Heritage properties in London; similarly, urges the State Party to create an advisory committee with a strong influence on decision making, which will contribute to the management of all World Heritage properties in the United Kingdom;
10. Strongly recommends that the State Party reinforce the role of the national heritage advisor, Historic England, in all levels of decision-making, and especially when determining if a project application should be called in by the Secretary of State, and notify the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of projects in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property that may have a negative impact on OUV;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2021.

AFRICA

103. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1985-2007

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1985-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 118,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 450,000 from the Government of Japan and from the Riksantikvaren (Norwegian Cultural Heritage Directorate)

USD 50,365 through funding from the Netherlands

Previous monitoring missions

May/June 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/CRAterre-ENSAG/Getty Conservation Institute mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; December 2012, April 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of a national legislative mechanism for the protection of cultural heritage (issue resolved)
- Major deterioration of almost 50% of the earthen structural components (issue resolved)
- Lack and loss of documentation on the site (issue resolved)
- Lack of presentation and interpretation at the site
- Lack of sharing of knowledge between site managers and among authorities
- Need to distinguish between the site museum and the World Heritage site
- Lack of effective firefighting measures
- Need to improve the governance, organization and implementation of mechanisms for monitoring, coordination and involvement of the different parties concerned
- Need to revise the risk management plan as well as the plan for the management, conservation and enhancement of the property
- Need to take priority measures for the prevention of fire risks

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/>

Current conservation issues

An ICOMOS Advisory mission, requested by the State Party in a letter dated 11 October 2018, visited the property in October 2018. Subsequently, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation on 31 January 2019. Both the mission and the state of conservation reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>. The State Party outlines the following:

- The museum zone, covering more than 30% of the property's area, is in a relatively good state of conservation but some buildings are in an advanced state of deterioration (active infestation, lack of maintenance, piles of garbage, clogged pipes);

- The state of conservation of the remainder of the property is of concern, with degradations related to the fragility of traditional building materials, lack of maintenance, malevolent bushfires, vandalism, lack of rigour during interventions, use of new materials, and new construction techniques or architectural models;
- The district of Dosseme is no longer occupied by the Dadassi; two inner courtyards and King Houegbadja's palace are overgrown; the roof of the tombstone of the 41 wives of King Glèlè is in ruins;
- There is significant pressure for new buildings from members of the royal family and from illegal occupation;
- UNESCO experts advised on updating the Conservation, Management and Development Plan (2007-2011) and managers have begun the drafting process;
- A special programme has been set up for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, which will provide additional support to the Museum of Abomey.

The Advisory mission considered proposed major tourism projects; in the property and at three sites of the Tentative List: Ganvié, Ouidah and Porto-Novo. Within the property a proposed museum to display the Kingdom of Dahomey and an arena for unmasked voodoo celebrations were considered, both to be sited on the large open Court of the Amazons between the remains of two palaces. The museum buildings would extend to some 4,000sq m. and cover almost all of the Court, with the remainder used as car parks, directly behind the palace of King Glèlè.

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

The state of conservation of the property continues to be of great concern. The 2018 mission noted very similar conditions to that of the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission: many of the same weaknesses and vulnerabilities appear in the reports by the State Party (from this and previous years). Additionally, despite recent fires, the museum lacks a fire protection system and working fire extinguishers.

Little progress appears to have been made that might be considered commensurate with the scale of the problems. Although measures have been taken to update the Management Plan, and a special programme that has been set up for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, there are no adequate structures or resources to address the multi-faceted problems which are almost impossible for the staff to address. For things to progress, the whole management of the property must be shifted into a new gear, with more resources and better structures to provide the staff with the necessary authority.

Urgent action is needed as the buildings, many with mudbrick walls and thatched roofs, are in grave danger of disappearing and being replaced by modern structures, due to lack of maintenance, or vandalism or bushfires.

Reflecting an integrated symbolic and political landscape of the Kingdom of Dahomey from the 17th-19th centuries, the property includes the remains of ten palaces that served as residences for the king and his estimated two to eight thousand dependents. The courtyards, as places for display in these palaces, were as important as the buildings. Today, the full meaning of this integrated cultural landscape is hard to comprehend with overgrown courts, dilapidated buildings and insensitive new additions.

Contrasting with the lack of resources for the palaces are the proposals for a new museum inside the property, part of a large investment programme called *Bénin révélé*, covering 50 projects in nine sectors, one of which is tourism. To take forward this component, a National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and Tourism Development (ANPT) was created in 2016. The project's tourism element would be funded in the order of 650 million Euros, with support from the World Bank and other external contributors.

While a museum focused on the Kingdom of Dahomey would be highly desirable and beneficial, the site that is currently proposed would cover most of the large Court of the Amazons located between the main royal palace and the palace of Behanzin, historically an integral part of this political and symbolic urban landscape. This position would be highly damaging in obscuring the historic meaning of spatial arrangements. As well, its proposed use of traditional forms, extended in size but with modern materials such as artificial straw for roofing, could contribute to a false interpretation of the historic palaces.

From the perspective of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the site and design proposed for the museum are not acceptable. Further investigations are needed to identify a more appropriate site

outside the boundaries of the palace complex or, if inside, the scale and scope of the museum would need to be significantly reduced and set to the extreme edge of the Court. The design of the museum would also need to be reconsidered carefully to differentiate it from the architecture of the palaces.

To ensure its sustainable management in the long term, it seems essential that the new museum project, regardless of its location, be understood not as an independent site, but as part of the overall property and with its funding encompassing the rehabilitation and restoration of the property and its buffer zone. Such a structure could also allow the management of the property to be put on a firmer footing.

In conclusion, it is considered that time is running out to stabilise and conserve all that should be saved of the ten palaces of the property, which is now under considerable danger of losing its OUV. Consequently, in view of the ascertained danger to the property's OUV, it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent action for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 and 2018 missions, and that it considers, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its next session in 2020, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the work that has been started to update the current Management Plan (2007-2011), and the setting up of a special programme for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, which will provide additional support to the Museum of Abomey;*
4. *Nevertheless expresses extreme concern that the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission noted very similar conditions to that of the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, with a disturbing state of conservation, the degradation of many components, a serious lack of supervision, control and structured action for maintenance, as well as a lack of conservation and site security measures;*
5. *Notes that all of these negative factors are confirmed in the report by the State Party, together with details of significant pressures for new buildings from members of the royal family, and from substandard constructions and illegal occupation;*
6. *Considers that it is increasingly difficult to comprehend the full meaning of the property as a reflection of an integrated symbolic and political landscape of the Kingdom of Dahomey during the 17th-19th centuries, given the dilapidated buildings of its ten palaces, insensitive new additions and overgrown rubbish strewn courts;*
7. *Also considers that there is considerable urgency for appropriate interventions, given the nature of the buildings, many with mudbrick walls and thatched roofs, as they could be reaching a point where meaningful conservation is no longer possible with the consequent loss of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
8. *Also notes the proposal for a major museum focusing on the Kingdom of Dahomey as part of a wider investment programme, Bénin révélé, developed with Presidential approval, and covering fifty projects in nine sectors, supported by the World Bank and other external funders;*

9. *Further considers that a new Museum based on the Kingdom of Dahomey could be highly beneficial for the property and for visitor interpretation;*
10. *Considers furthermore, nevertheless, that the proposed siting of the museum on the Court of the Amazons between two palaces would be unacceptable in terms of adverse impact on the historic spatial arrangements of the symbolic urban landscape of the Royal Palaces, and that the proposed use of traditional forms, extended in size and with artificial straw for roofing, could contribute to a false interpretation of historical architecture, and thus finally considers the current project in its planned location would seriously undermine the OUV of the property;*
11. *Recommends that consideration is given to alternative locations, preferably outside the property boundary such as the former IFAN site, or, if inside, that the museum is significantly reduced in scale and placed to the extreme edge of the court, and also recommends that the proposed voodoo arena project should be separated from the museum;*
12. *Notes with concern the proposed extreme contrast between a “state of the art museum” and the much degraded property and the fact that the two are quite separate in terms of planning, management and funding;*
13. *Urges the State Party to re-consider immediately the basis of the museum project to broaden its remit in order that it may encompass conservation of the existing palaces, to restructure the project so that the management of the museum is integrated with the management of the existing property, and to ensure that funding and revenue from the museum can support conservation and management of the property;*
14. *Suggests that such a re-arrangement, with the promise of more resources for the conservation and management of the property, would seem to be the only way to address the irreversible decline of the property that is leading to its loss of OUV;*
15. *Requests the State Party to submit further outline plans for the museum, once these recommendations have been explored, together with details of future funding and management arrangements, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity before any commitments have been made;*
16. *Also requests the State Party to install in the immediate future appropriate fire detection systems in the main building, and ensure all fire extinguishers are operable;*
17. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above mentioned, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, and in the case of confirmation of the ascertained danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

106. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) (C 34)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 145,086

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 26,770 provided in 2007 by the Australia Trust Fund for the project "Cleaning Ussher Fort ; USD 49,261 received in 2007 by the European Commission for the project "External Works for the Restoration and Redevelopment of Parts of Ussher Fort".

Previous monitoring missions

April/May 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Housing (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Management systems/ management plan (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Heavy rain (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Wind (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Salt-laden atmosphere (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>, and reports the following:

- The property's protection status and management authority, the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB), have been confirmed;
- Progress in addressing previous recommendations of the World Heritage Committee adopted in 1998 (**CONF 203 VII.35**) is indicated, as follows:
 - Two components previously used as prisons have been decommissioned and transferred to GMMB,
 - Cadastral surveys for some components will be undertaken, including the identification of property boundaries and buffer zones, as well as the preparation of title deeds,
 - The State Party intends to delineate buffer zones of 0.2 ha, but this depends on the availability of the surrounding land,
 - Activities to sensitize local communities and create awareness about the need to preserve heritage sites has been included in the 2019 work plan for GMMB,
 - Discussions on the sustainable use of the property are to include local communities;
- Some of the concerns raised by the Committee in 1998 about threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) still persist and are now more significant, including environmental degradation, lack of buffer zones, development pressure and lack of funding for regular maintenance and conservation works. The GMMB has not yet prepared an Emergency

Request for urgent conservation works, as requested by the Committee in 1998. Other concerns are inadequate training and the lack of disaster risk management plans, though the State Party reports that the latter are to be prepared next year;

- A summary of the condition of most components in 2018 is presented, which notes no change since 1998;
- The preparation of the property Management Plan, supported with International Assistance funding, will commence soon. The Plan is scheduled to be completed by April 2020;
- A project for the restoration, reconstruction and adaptive re-use of Fort Amsterdam is to commence in March or early April 2019. The preliminary assessment and architectural documentation have been prepared, and European Union funding has been secured;
- Information is included about a proposed "Elmina Heritage Bay" tourism development project at St. George's Castle in Elmina, noting that preliminary documentation has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- A 2015 survey was undertaken at James Fort in advance of restoration work, and a further structural investigation is to be undertaken subject to funding being obtained.

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

The State Party is aware of the threats to the property and is making some progress on a range of issues to improve its state of conservation. This includes development of the Management Plan, identification of boundaries and buffer zones, community awareness and disaster risk management plans.

However, with regard to threats, many have existed since at least 1998, and their increasing significance is a matter of concern. Recent heavy rains in Accra underscore the environmental pressures on the property. There are indications that some components are impacted by abandonment, the accelerated degradation of structures and the potential or actual disappearance of ruins. Several of the components comprising partial structures and traces of former fortifications might no longer exist.

The anticipated progress with the development of a Management Plan is a positive step. This should consider the current lack of effective site management for most components, as well as identified threats. At present, some level of protection and management is only available for the three large forts. The other forts are mostly abandoned, with accelerated degradation due to rising salts and humidity, lack of effective management, and the possibility of climate change impacts.

The steps taken to establish buffer zones for the property are welcome. However, the persisting absence of buffer zones may represent a particular threat as possible future large scale projects in and around the property's components, such as in Elmina and at Fort Amsterdam (see below), cannot take into account the necessary measures that would respect the protective provisions provided by these buffer zones. The delineation of a buffer zone of an adequate size for each component and the development of effective protection regimes is therefore of utmost urgency.

With regard to the "Elmina Heritage Bay" tourism development project at St. George's Castle in Elmina, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party in October 2018, in line with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*, requesting further information on this project. On the basis of the material then submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party in December 2018, a preliminary assessment was carried out, indicating potential negative impact on the property.

The works at Fort Amsterdam will involve the restoration and reconstruction of damaged areas of the fort and its subsequent adaptive re-use. The State Party reports that discussions regarding the project have been underway since 2003, but as already for the "Elmina Heritage Bay", it is regrettable that no prior information was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before notification in the State Party's report.

The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to visit the property from 28 April to 2 May 2019 to assess restoration and development projects at the two components of Fort Amsterdam and St. George's Castle (Elmina) in addition to the arrangements made to commence the preparation of the Management Plan. The mission report will be available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/> before the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee and its results shared in advance with the Committee.

Given the range, longevity and significance of issues facing the property, it is recommended that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out in early 2020 to

consider the state of conservation of all the components of the property and the potential threats they are facing, the implementation of the recommendations from the Advisory mission, potential projects proposed, and progress with the delineation of buffer zones and the development of the Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.106

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **CONF 203 VII.35**, adopted its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998),
3. Requests the State Party to ensure that the proposed Management Plan considers the current lack of effective site management for the majority of the property's components, as well as identified threats;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to progress, as a matter of urgency, with the delineation of a buffer zone for each component and protection regimes;
5. Welcomes the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to assess restoration works and development projects at St. George's Castle at Elmina and Fort Amsterdam, and also requests the State Party to halt all projects until the recommendations of the mission have been addressed ;
6. Takes note of the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory mission and invites the State Party to start implementing them with no delay;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in early 2020 to assess the state of conservation of all the components of the property and the potential threats they are facing, the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory mission, and progress in the delineation and protection of buffer zones and preparation of the Management Plan;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

107. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 31,776

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: for a Heritage Impact Assessment in 2014: USD 85,000: Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; for a workshop on Historic Urban Landscapes in 2011: USD 22,943: Flanders Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

March 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2005: World Heritage Centre Advisory mission on water and sanitation assessments; May 2010 and February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions; January 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission (Nairobi) on LAPSSET project

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management and conservation plan
- Clarification of boundaries and buffer zone
- Pressure from urban development
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Air transport infrastructure
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Housing/ Deterioration of dwellings
- Solid waste
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Coal Power plant)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/> and addresses the recommendations of the Committee as follows:

The requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was scheduled for February 2019, but had to be postponed again pending security clearance by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Concerning the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project, the State Party reports that it has, also in response to a High Court of Kenya ruling, issued instructions that the stakeholder engagement component of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be reviewed through a series of public meetings. The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) has supplied the 2014 Heritage Impact Assessment to the SEA consultant.

The LAPSSET transportation Master Plan and a Draft Lamu Port Metropolitan Area Structure Plan were annexed to the report, while the State Party also indicated the submission of the revised Master Plan for Lamu metropolis, the LAPSSET planning and investment framework as well as of the revised chapter of the Management Plan of the property. The World Heritage Centre reminded the State Party of the missing documents.

The NMK, the County Government of Lamu and the LAPSSET Authority have formed the Lamu Old Town Cultural Heritage Committee (LOTCH-Com) to address the aforementioned High Court ruling and past Committee Decisions. A LOTCH-Com Action Plan foresees:

- Development of a structure plan and a master plan for the property,
- A study on the fragile coral of Lamu,
- Mapping of tangible and intangible heritage attributes of the archipelago,
- Studies on the marine and coastal environment,
- Modelling studies to allow the coal fired power station proponent to understand its potential environmental impacts,
- A support mechanism for cottage industries, cultural festivals and craft-industries training.

The requested Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NMK and LAPSSET Authority has been drafted, but not yet signed.

New boundaries for the buffer zone of the property are being reviewed by the Lamu County Government. The State Party reports that this proposal has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, but this was not yet received.

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

The Committee has expressed its concern over the potential impact of the LAPSSET project on the property since 2009, and repeatedly requested the State Party to submit a map clearly demarcating the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and the strengthened Management Plan. The State Party should inform the Committee if technical or financial support is required to urgently finalize these documents.

The High Court of Kenya in its ruling of 30 April 2018 confirmed that the LAPSSET project could endanger the cultural heritage of the property, the culture of the indigenous community in Lamu Island and the ecosystem services they depend on. The same court, responding to the repeat requests of the Committee, instructed the State Party to submit a Management Plan for the entire Lamu Island to UNESCO within one year and develop an action plan in collaboration with stakeholders to safeguard the cultural identity of the region during and after the construction. This court ruled the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be procedurally infirm, especially with regards stakeholder engagement.

The LAPSSET project is however continuing with a shipping channel and docks already under construction. The requested Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) (**41 COM 7B.69**) on the Manda Airport extension has still not been commissioned.

At the time of writing, the National Environment Tribunal judgement is pending on the issued Environmental Impact Assessment license for the Lamu Coal Plant. The potential resultant pollution (visual impact, air, light, water etc.) remains a grave cause for concern.

With the focus on the LAPSSET project, other factors affecting the property's authenticity and integrity, such as deterioration of dwellings, threats to the safeguarding of its Islamic and Swahili culture, and the need for protection of the fresh water supplies, are not being reported on. To address these factors, the State Party received support from UNESCO to inventory and document its intangible cultural heritage in 2018, and is encouraged to undertake a conditions assessment of the built fabric of Lamu Old Town, including, as far as possible, an overview of how this has developed since inscription.

The reported Lamu Old Town Cultural Heritage Committee (LOTCH-Com) is welcomed, but its efficacy has not yet been proven. Its action plan should address directly the Committee's requests for, for instance, a study on the potential effects of pollution on the coral masonry as a precursor to construction of the power station or a 'significant funding mechanism' be set up to deal with conservation (**42 COM 7B.45**).

The State Party report is mute on the integration of the assessment of the impacts and proposed mitigation measures for cultural and natural heritage, and specifically the impacts on the OUV of Lamu Old Town into the SEA for the LAPSSET project (**42 COM 7B.45**), or other World Heritage properties potentially affected, such as Lake Turkana National Parks (**42 COM 7B.92**). The Committee has requested the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to undertake a separate SEA to assess the

cumulative impacts of development projects in the Lake Turkana Basin. Aligning these two SEAs is critical to evaluate potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

In light of the advancing LAPSSET project, the slow progress by the State Party in implementing the Committee's decisions is of significant concern. By Decision **40 COM 7B.12**, the Committee concluded that in the absence of detailed information on impact assessments and mitigation measures, the property is under potential danger. Following the clearance from the UNDSS, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the process and conclusions of the various environmental and heritage impact assessments, the stakeholder engagement processes and the state of conservation of the property, with a view to assessing whether the developments constitute an ascertained or potential danger to the OUV of the property and whether it meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 43 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **27 COM 7B.31**, **33 COM 7B.44**, **34 COM 7B.46**, **40 COM 7B.12**, **41 COM 7B.69**, and **42 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party provides only limited information on the state of conservation of the property, and reiterates its requests to the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
 - a) *An updated clearly delineated map of the property and its enlarged buffer zone to include the whole of the Lamu Archipelago and at a minimum the whole of Lamu and Manda Islands, which should be formalized through a request for minor boundary modification in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - b) *Full details of the overall scope of the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project, including the Lamu resort city, and clarification of fishing plans, mangrove planting, and surveys of coastal morphology,*
 - c) *The requested Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Manda airport extension,*
 - d) *The LAPSSET Planning and Investment Framework,*
 - e) *The Action Plan for the Lamu Old Town Cultural Heritage Committee with strict deadlines for all components defined therein,*
 - f) *The revised Management Plan for Lamu Island;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit an assessment of the condition of the built fabric of Lamu Old Town, including, as far as possible, an overview of how this has developed since inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;*
5. *Urges the State Party to complete the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and the LAPSSET Agency, to ensure this MOU grants the NMK a seat in the LAPSSET Agency Board and to submit the MOU to the World Heritage Centre once completed;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to undertake a review of all government and independent environmental and heritage impact assessments of the LAPSSET project and the Lamu*

Coal Plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and by 1 February 2020;

7. *Further requests the State Party to revise the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LAPSSET project by:
 - a) *Assessing the individual and cumulative impacts of the project on cultural and natural heritage, including the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of Lamu Old Town and the ecological services that support the wider community of the property, and by proposing mitigation measures,*
 - b) *Assessing the immediate, life-cycle and long-term impacts of the Lamu Coal Plant project on cultural and natural heritage, including the potential effects that pollution resulting from the coal-fired power plant may have on fragile coral stone buildings of the Lamu Old Town and any other impacts on other attributes that carry the OUV of the property and on ecological services that support the wider community of the property, and by proposing mitigation measures,*
 - c) *Aligning, as appropriate, the SEA for the LAPSSET project and the SEA for the developments in the Lake Turkana Basin, with a view to assessing all potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the development projects on the OUV of all affected World Heritage properties;**
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to halt the development of the Lamu Coal Plant, including funding and financial commitments and environmental approvals, until the potential impacts of the project and proposed mitigation measures have been addressed in the LAPSSET SEA, as requested above, and the SEA has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Following the security clearance by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the process and conclusions of the various environmental and heritage impact assessments, the stakeholder engagement processes and the state of conservation of the property, with a view to assessing whether the developments constitute an ascertained or potential danger to the property's OUV, and whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines ;*
10. *Encourages the State Party, as needed, to request technical and/or financial support from the World Heritage Fund, other States Parties to the World Heritage Convention or other potential donors or partners in finalizing the Management Plan, the delineation of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, and assessing the state of conservation of the built fabric of the property;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2020**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***