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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Extended forty-fifth session
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10-25 September 2023**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda:
State of conservation of properties inscribed
on the of 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: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/45COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://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.

Note: For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties

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I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2022

NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

1. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil) (N 999)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/999/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 6,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fires

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 February 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The Pantanal biome has been suffering from the most prolonged and severe drought in the last 60 years and has recorded the lowest water level indices in 17 years in 2020. As a result, in 2020, forest fires were the largest and the most numerous ever recorded to date, affecting 32% of the wider Pantanal biome;
- In 2020, firefighting was carried out across the region, between 11 August and 14 December, by federal, state and municipal government agencies in collaboration with civil society organisations, volunteers and farm owners;
- To mitigate the loss of biodiversity resulting from fires, active searches for impacted animals were undertaken and a field veterinarian hospital was set up to provide treatment;
- In 2021, fires in the surrounding area were prevented from spreading and reaching the property;
- The process of acquiring personnel, equipment, and materials has been initiated, including 1,300 firefighters, Individual Protection Equipment (IPE), specialised vehicles, communication equipment and mobile accommodation structures;

- Cooperation Agreements have been signed between key institutions aimed at preventing fires in the property through environmental education, forest fire research, firefighter training, integration between the federation entities for the implementation of relevant public policies, among others;
- The Pantanal Research Network/PPBio Project will develop instruments for understanding, managing and preventing fires. In 2022, the project aims to develop a real time fire alert system; seasonal prevention system and educational materials on the use of fire as a management and conservation tool;
- Plans for the conservation and recovery of flora and fauna are underway, including:
 - A study to assess the impact of fire on biodiversity in the Matogrossense National Park and the Taiamã Ecological Station that will present a Strategic Conservation Plan for the recovery of affected areas;
 - A GEF-Land Project, which encompasses management in Conservation Units and adjacent areas, recovery of degraded areas and assessment of the risk of extinction of fauna and flora;
 - A Plan for Conservation and Recovery of Endemic Plant Populations in the Pantanal,
 - Other relevant national biodiversity monitoring programmes and conservation action plans.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

Whilst recognising that fire is a natural process in the Pantanal, it is of concern that, the most prolonged and severe drought in the last 60 years resulted in 2020, in the most extensive fires ever recorded, affecting 32% of the wider biome. The State Party should be commended for its immediate actions to extinguish the fires and limit the damage to the biodiversity of the property, as well as preventing subsequent fires in the surrounding area in 2021 from spreading and reaching the property.

The processes underway to acquire the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials to fight fires in the future are also welcomed. The State Party should be encouraged to continue these efforts to increase fire management capacity, including building the necessary institutional cooperation, alongside the further development of instruments to understand, manage and prevent future fires, considering the potential for climate change to further exacerbate extreme weather conditions.

The projects established to assess the impacts of fire on the biodiversity of the Pantanal biome are noted. However, since it remains unclear to what extent the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been impacted by the fires, it is recommended the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to assess the impacts of the fires specific to the attributes of the OUV of the property, and submit the findings to the World Heritage Centre, when available.

The plans underway for the conservation and recovery of flora and fauna in the Pantanal biome are also noted. Whilst the State Party should be encouraged to further develop and implement each of these initiatives, these should include measures for recovery across the entire property, including the Acurizal, Penha and Doroche private reserves, as well as specific considerations to safeguard the OUV of the property.

Recognising that other World Heritage properties have also recently been affected by fire, the State Party should be encouraged again to exchange knowledge on fire management strategies in natural World Heritage properties with other States Parties facing similar threats.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling 44 COM 7B.195, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*

3. *Notes with concern that severe drought has led to the most extensive fires ever recorded, affecting 32% of the wider Pantanal biome, including the property;*
4. *Welcomes the immediate actions taken to suppress the fires and limit the damage to the biodiversity of the property, including recent efforts to prevent fires in the surrounding area from reaching the property in 2021;*
5. *Also welcomes the processes underway to acquire the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials to manage fires and, noting the potential for climate change to further exacerbate extreme weather conditions such as drought and resulting wildfires, requests the State Party to increase capacity in fire management, including prevention and mitigation measures;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to assess the impacts of the wildfires on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre, when available;*
7. *Encourages continued efforts to conserve and recover biodiversity in the Pantanal biome, and urges the State Party to facilitate the recovery of fire-impacted fauna and flora that constitute part of the OUV across the entire property;*
8. *Recognizing the impacts of fires on a number of natural World Heritage properties, encourages again the State Party to exchange knowledge and best practices of fire management strategies in natural World Heritage properties with other States Parties facing similar threats;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

2. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1410)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

AFRICA

3. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger) (N 749bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

4. Okavango Delta (Botswana) (N 1432)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/1432/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2017-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 27,080

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 200,000 (USD 150,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2017-2021) for the community management of protected areas for conservation (COMPACT) programme in cooperation with the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme and USD 50,000 through the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2019-2022) to the States Parties of Botswana, Angola, and Namibia to examine the feasibility of a transboundary extension of the property). Total amount planned to the property: USD 400,000 from the contribution of the Government of Norway to the World Heritage Fund.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Transboundary management of water resources
- Lack of wildlife monitoring programme
- Animal sanitation and diseases
- Mining exploration licenses overlapping with the buffer zone
- Management and governance
- Engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 March 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) 2021-2027, which addresses the Committee's requests, was adopted. Community consultations during the ODMP review reported multifaceted environmental change affecting livelihoods, driven by climate change and other factors;
- The activities to control the invasive *Salvinia molesta* continue, focussing on biological control;

- The States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia continue cooperation on the management of the shared Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) and the steering committee to review the feasibility of the transboundary extension of the property;
- OKACOM has finalized its guidelines on the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on shared watercourses and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the CORB was expected to be completed in May 2022;
- Mining operations outside the property are monitored, no prospecting licenses remain in the property and a company, Gcwihaba Resources (Pty) Ltd, with existing prospecting licenses within the buffer zone has agreed to relinquish them;
- The State Party acknowledges the concern over the oil exploration activities within the Okavango River basin and the need to ensure that further development of the project is subject to rigorous environmental and social impact assessments, which it commits to send for review by IUCN before approval;
- Efforts are made to rationalize the use of veterinary fences, commonly used to avoid disease transfer between wild and domestic animals and to prevent human-wildlife conflict. One Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the fences has been conducted, with an EIA for another sub-region underway;
- The construction of the Okavango River Bridge (Mohembo Bridge) was at a final stage. The original EIA predating the property's World Heritage inscription is complemented with additional monitoring and a follow-up environmental audit, which continue to observe numerous non-conformities;
- The 2018 aerial wildlife survey results for northern Botswana indicate an increase of many populations including elephant but poaching remains a major threat to the property's integrity, with rhino feared to go locally extinct at the current rate. Restored connectivity within the Kavango-Zambezi landscape is considered important to disperse the growing elephant population;
- Activities are ongoing to encourage water conservation, control pollution including through audits and quarterly monitoring of water quality, which remains good;
- Tourism industry has greatly suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic, adding poaching pressure, affecting tourism strategies, and reducing community benefits;
- The upgrade of Maun Water and Sanitation Networks, located outside the property and its buffer zone, is underway and undergone an EIA process.

In letters dated 1 February 2021, 23 April 2021, 19 October 2021, 14 April 2022 and 7 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party of Namibia to submit a copy of an EIA and an Environment Management Plan (EMP) for a seismic survey of a petroleum exploration license within the Okavango River basin, reportedly underway in addition to the existing two test well sites. The World Heritage Centre has also continued to receive various petitions and letters from civil society expressing concern over the advancement of the above oil exploration activities and alleging non-respect of Namibian law by the exploration company (ReconAfrica).

On 14 October 2022, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Canada based Tsodilo Resources Ltd mining company, stating that Gcwihaba Resources had not relinquished its mining licences in the buffer zone, as stated in the State Party report. In a letter dated 24 November 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party of Botswana to clarify this issue and provide information on other alleged new prospecting licences for iron-ore mining in both the property and its buffer zones. No response to these different letters was received at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The finalization of the property's Management Plan 2021-2027 and the OKACOM guidelines on the implementation of the SADC Protocol on shared watercourses are welcomed. Further progress has also been made with the strengthened involvement of local communities and eradication of invasive alien species, both addressed in the new management plan as per the Committee's past requests, as well as with the rationalisation of the use of veterinary fences and improving wastewater management.

While the results of the 2018 aerial wildlife survey indicate an increase of many wildlife populations, the reported increase in poaching is of significant concern. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more widespread poaching has been reported, in particular of elephants and rhino. It is recommended that a new survey is conducted as soon as possible to ascertain the status of wildlife populations and that efforts are undertaken to strengthen the efficiency of anti-poaching activities and to address illegal trafficking of ivory and rhino horn, including through parties' commitments to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking needs also to be addressed in a regional context, with emphasis on preserving and restoring ecosystem connectivity. This could also allow a better dispersal of wildlife over a larger area and an effective way to address human wildlife conflicts, linked to high elephant densities in the more secure areas. Existing initiatives, such as the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area could be further strengthened.

Increasingly visible impacts of climate change resulting in environmental changes and reducing the hydrological flow are also of serious concern, considering that the OUV of the property is underpinned by its hydrological characteristics. There is a clear risk that these changes could be further exacerbated by developments in the CORB. The continued close cooperation between the three States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia in management of CORB both through the OKACOM and the steering committee of the potential transboundary extension of the property is therefore welcomed. The forthcoming OKACOM-led SEA requested by the Committee and the feasibility study for the transboundary extension of the property to include key areas in Angola and Namibia would contribute to a better protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and in particular the integrity of the property and can support decision-making amidst the development pressure expected to grow in the region. The support from Flanders (Belgium) and Norway through the World Heritage Centre for these initiatives is also welcomed.

The advancement of the oil and gas exploration activities within the Okavango River Basin in Botswana and Namibia is of great concern given the significant risks the expansion of these activities and any eventual exploitation of reserves would pose to the interconnected water system and the ecosystem, and hence the property's OUV. Despite the Committee's request (Decision **44 COM 7B.80**) recalled in past letters and the commitment of the States Parties of Botswana and Namibia to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the further stages of the project, no information on the reportedly completed EIA and EMP for the on-going exploratory activities in Namibia has been shared. Recalling also Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, it is of utmost importance that any stage of the project is subject to rigorous and critical prior review, including through EIAs that correspond to international standards, including an assessment of social impacts and a review of potential impacts on the World Heritage property, in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context.

The confirmation by the State Party that no prospecting licenses remain in the property and major exploration licence for iron mining in the buffer zone was relinquished but received third party reports about additional licences being approved not only in the buffer zone but also inside the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify urgently these questions and to recall its previous request to the State Party to terminate all prospecting activities within the property's buffer zone.

An audit continued to note various non-conformities to national legislation and the EMP of the Okavango River Bridge, reportedly inaugurated in 2022, including the lack of ecological management and monitoring in the EMP. It is recommended that the property's OUV should be explicitly referred to in the audit report's recommended decommissioning and rehabilitation programme for the borrow pits to remedy any impact on the fragile wetland ecosystem. Implementing a major project of this scale with potential negative impact on the property's OUV, the State Party is reminded of the Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines on the need to conduct appropriate impact assessments in the World Heritage context.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,

2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.78**, **42 COM 7B.89** and **44 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the adoption of the Okavango Delta Management Plan 2021-2027, developed with International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund, and which addresses the past Committee requests on community concerns and the management of invasive alien species, and encourages the State Party to ensure sufficient financial and human resources for its implementation;*
4. *Notes progress made to rationalise the use of veterinary fences, including through the conduct of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in line with the Committee's decisions, and wastewater management, and requests the State Party to continue efforts to reduce the numbers of fences where possible to facilitate free movement of wildlife;*
5. *Whilst noting the results of the 2018 aerial wildlife survey that indicate an increase of many wildlife populations, expresses its concern over the reported increase of poaching, in particular of elephants and rhinos and also requests the State Party to conduct a new wildlife survey as soon as possible to ascertain the status of wildlife populations, increase efforts to strengthen the efficiency of anti-poaching and address illegal trafficking of ivory and rhino horn;*
6. *Notes that the threat of poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking also needs to be addressed in a regional context, with emphasis on preserving and restoring ecosystem connectivity, and encourages the relevant States Parties to further strengthen transboundary cooperation including through the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) and to effectively implement their commitments under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);*
7. *Notes with concern the increasingly visible impacts of climate change resulting in environmental changes and reducing the hydrological flow, and considers that these changes could be further exacerbated by developments in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB), potentially impacting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
8. *Also welcomes the continuous cooperation between the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), the finalized guidelines on the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on shared watercourses, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the CORB reported for completion in 2022, which can support decision-making amidst the development pressure expected to grow in the region, and further requests the State Party to submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available;*
9. *Also encourages the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia to continue their cooperation for the potential transboundary extension of the property to include key areas, which would contribute to a better protection of the OUV and in particular the integrity of the property;*
10. *Thanks the international community supporting the conservation of the property through the KAZA TFCA initiative, and also the Governments of Flanders (Belgium) and Norway for supporting the initiatives to enhance transboundary cooperation and community involvement through the World Heritage Centre;*

11. Reiterates its utmost concern about the advancement of the oil and gas exploration activities in the environmentally sensitive upstream areas of the Okavango Delta in northwestern Botswana and northeastern Namibia that may pose significant risks to the interconnected water system and the ecosystem, and hence the property's OUV;
12. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia to ensure that petroleum exploration and other large-scale development projects with potential adverse impact on the OUV of the property are subject to rigorous and critical prior review, including through EIAs that correspond to international standards, including an assessment of social impacts and a review of potential impacts on the World Heritage property, in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
13. Urges the State Party of Namibia to submit the EIA and the Environment Management Plan (EMP) for the on-going oil exploration activities in the CORB to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN without further delay;
14. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to conclude negotiations with remaining licensees to terminate all prospecting activities within the property's buffer zone, and also urges the State Party to provide information on the alleged attribution of new mining concessions inside the property and its buffer zone;
15. Further 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 of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties;
16. Requests moreover the State Party to ensure that the property's OUV is explicitly referred to in the decommissioning and rehabilitation programme for the borrow pits of the Okavango River Bridge to remedy any impact on the fragile wetland ecosystem, that ecological monitoring and management is included in the project EMP, and that all future projects with a potential negative impact on the property's OUV are subject to relevant impact assessments in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
17. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

9. iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa) (N 914)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/914/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: EUR 4,573 between 2001 and 2002 through the France-UNESCO Convention agreement; USD 200,000 between 2001 and 2007 through the UNF/UNFIP project "Enhancing our Heritage"

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion by slash and burn agriculture
- Management systems/ management plan
- Prospective mining and offshore exploratory drilling
- Lack of institution coordination
- Drop in ground and Lake Sibaya water levels
- Management of the St Lucia estuary

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914/documents/>, reporting the following:

- Aerial monitoring conducted since December 2020 indicates that further expansion of the clearing and burning of the Sodwana Bay swamp forest for subsistence agriculture has ceased. Activities to support communities have been strengthened, and the threat of clearing and burning will be further addressed through the development of a rehabilitation plan for the areas that have been abandoned and the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2022-2031, once it is approved;
- Despite a moratorium on issuing licenses, unauthorised commercial forestry plantations outside the property continue to stress the Lake Sibaya system affected by significant drop in average water levels. The Park authority has initiated work to establish a buffer zone to the property to guide land use and enforce protection, complementing efforts to determine an ecological reserve for the water resources in northern KwaZulu-Natal, monitor water levels and define mitigation strategies;
- Any proposals for development projects, including from extractive industries with potential negative impact on the property, will be considered in compliance with the Convention provisions and domestic environmental management legislation;
- A historical account on the conditions and management of Lake St. Lucia Estuary, including a justification for the breaching of the estuary mouth into the ocean done on 6 January 2021 under exceptional circumstances as permitted by the estuarine Management Plan is provided. The State Party reports that the independent Panel of experts has been appointed, tasked to review the impact of the mouth opening and develop guidelines for the immediate and on-going management of the system. The Panel was expected to conclude its work by the end of March 2022;
- The management authority is proposing to develop twenty tourism related projects in different locations within the property, respectful of its existing zoning, to encourage further tourism investment, improve service offerings and support economic opportunities for communities. The projects are subject to environmental screening, relevant national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation and the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

On 8 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre participated in an online meeting organized by experts from the States Parties of Mozambique and South Africa to discuss the possible nomination of Maputo National Park (Mozambique) as a transboundary extension to the property.

On 17 May 2022, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party, third-party concerns reporting allegations of human rights violations against the Nibela Community in the property. The State Party replied on 17 March 2023, confirming that there had been an incident of land invasion in the Futululu section of the property in April 2022 and that an interdiction was obtained from the High Court of South Africa in June 2022, preventing people from continuing the illegal occupation. Since the interdiction, no

illegal invasion has occurred. On the alleged human rights violation, the State Party reported that the death of two members of the Nibela community is still under investigation by the police and refutes the allegations that the incidences are a result of human rights violations. It is further noted that the IMP is subject to a public participation process including consultation with different stakeholders, including surrounding communities, and that all comments by members of the public were fully considered.

On 13 September 2022, the State Party submitted the report of the independent panel of experts "Review of the Scientific Basis for Breaching the Mouth of Lake St Lucia Estuary".

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's continued efforts to sustainably manage land use in and outside the property are noted. It is noted that through dialogue and community support, the clearing and burning of swamp forest for subsistence agriculture has reportedly been halted, and the State Party should be requested to continue the dialogue with communities to resolve the issue and to report on the progress of implementing the rehabilitation plan. The response from the State Party on the reports on alleged human rights violation against the Nibela Community as well as the information provided on the public consultations on the IMP are noted. The State Party should also be requested to report on the provisions in the new IMP for stakeholders including communities to be involved in the management of the property.

The on-going dialogue between the States Parties of South Africa and Mozambique to consider the nomination of the Maputo National Park in Mozambique as a transboundary extension of the property is welcomed and it is recommended the Committee encourage the States Parties on this initiative, consistent with recommendations at the time of the property's inscription.

The continued water stress in the Lake Sibaya ecosystem remains of concern. The plans to establish a buffer zone to the property, which is expected to guide land use and enforce protection, including of the Lake Sibaya system, is welcomed. It is recommended that consultations consider the overall land use planning affecting the property's integrity and are aligned with the potential further extension of the property. A moratorium on issuing licences for commercial forestry should be maintained and the State Party should address unauthorised commercial forestry plantations identified as a key stressor in water use within the watershed. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to report on the hydrological and ecological conditions of Lake Sibaya system as a clear indicator on the effectiveness of the management effort.

The report of the independent Panel of experts, tasked to review the impact of the January 2021 artificial breaching of the mouth of the St. Lucia Estuary and develop guidelines for management, is noted. The report states that the breach entailed a 5-month opening of the mouth of the estuary but that the system has been closed again since June 2021. It concludes that given the short period the mouth was open, overall, the breach had no significant ecological change or impact. It further recommends that maintenance breaching should only be considered in exceptional circumstances which need to be clearly defined. Breaching should not take place without adequate ecological monitoring before and after the event, and the breach level should be informed by quantitative, recorded measurements to ensure the most efficient breach in terms of the intended objectives as well as potential socio-economic reasons.

The panel noted that the St Lucia system can no longer be managed as an isolated system and that influence of activities and inputs from the catchment and floodplain areas should be carefully considered in future management plans. It highlights a need to consider management and hydrology of the upper and lower catchments and identifies a wide range of issues which require further investigation.

Noting that the future management of the estuary is a crucial aspect in view of protecting the property's OUV, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to not move forward with further interventions, such as breaching or dredging, before additional monitoring data collection as recommended by the panel in order to revisit recommendation of the GEF-funded study which informed the current management policy of non-intervention, taking into account the changes which were observed since the policy was put in place.

The State Party's stated commitment to conduct EIAs for the 20 tourism related projects proposed within the property in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment (now replaced by the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context), is noted. The development sites are stated to be in existing and newly proposed locations within the park zones compatible with the IMP. Before proceeding with the project proposals, the State Party should assess the cumulative impacts of these tourism developments on the property's OUV including its

integrity, and provide evidence that justifies the compatibility of the developments with the overall sustainable tourism strategy for the property.

No update was provided but recalling that the management authority previously reported their objection against proposed prospective mining and offshore exploratory drilling activities outside of the property, the State Party should be requested to confirm that these proposals were dropped. While outside the property, offshore oil developments could affect the sensitive marine component of the property and therefore affect the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.176**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),*
3. *Notes the report that the further clearing and burning of swamp forest for subsistence agriculture within the property has been halted, and the State Party support to communities through alternative means and requests the State Party to continue the dialogue with communities to resolve the issue and to report on the progress of implementing the rehabilitation plan;*
4. *Also notes the response by the State Party on the reports of alleged human rights violations against the Nibela Community, which remain under investigation, and requests the State Party to continue its dialogue with the communities living around the property in order to resolve outstanding issues, including to jointly identify solutions that conserve the property and address legitimate livelihood concerns;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to report on the provisions in the new Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for stakeholders, including communities, to be involved in the management of the property;*
6. *Reiterating its concern on the continued water stress in the Lake Sibaya ecosystem, further requests the State Party to maintain a moratorium on issuing licences for commercial forestry, to address unauthorised commercial forestry plantations identified as a key source of water use stress in within the watershed of Lake Sibaya, and to report on the hydrological and ecological conditions of Lake Sibaya system;*
7. *Welcomes the State Party's plan to establish a buffer zone to the property in an effort to reduce water stress on Lake Sibaya and recommends that the consultation process consider the overall land use planning affecting the property's integrity and align with the on-going dialogue between the States Parties of South Africa and Mozambique with regard to proposals to nominate a transboundary extension of the property;*
8. *Also notes the conclusion and recommendations of the report of the independent Panel of experts, tasked to review the impact of the January 2021 artificial breaching of the mouth of the St. Lucia Estuary and to develop guidelines for future management of the estuary so as to safeguard the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to avoid further interventions, such as breaching or dredging, until additional monitoring data collection, as recommended by the Panel in order to revisit the recommendation of the GEF-funded study, which informed the current management policy of non-intervention, taking into account the changes, which were observed since the policy was put in place;*

9. *Further noting* that the proposal to develop 20 tourism related projects within the property, which would be subject to relevant Environmental Impact Assessments conducted in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, *requests moreover* the State Party to assess the cumulative impacts of these tourism developments on the property's OUV including its conditions of integrity, provide evidence that justifies the compatibility of the developments with the overall sustainable tourism strategy for the property;
10. *Further welcomes* the State Party's commitment to ensure adequate national level impact assessment for any extractive industry development proposal, however, *recalls* the fundamental incompatibility between extractive industry and World Heritage status, and *requests furthermore* the State Party to confirm that the prospective mining and offshore exploratory drilling proposals with reported objection from the management authority are no longer being considered for implementation;
11. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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/509/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 2001-2022)

Total amount approved: USD 118,585

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2022: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Drought
- Housing (uncontrolled urban development driven by population increase)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Invasive/alien species
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste
- Surface water pollution
- Water extraction (related to existing hydropower production)

- Water infrastructure (Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme- downstream hydropower dam with reservoir encroaching on the property)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a state of conservation report for the property available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) is undergoing consultation between the Zambezi River Authority and Joint Site Management Committee (JSMC) in order to mitigate any possible negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The first phase of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the cumulative developmental and environmental pressure on the property has been completed;
- A hydrological study of the Zambezi River system included a water quality assessment, which concluded the pH to be satisfactory. Annual Zambezi River water flow assessments show large variations due to different rainfall patterns;
- Construction of Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort in the buffer zone is underway, and 16 other infrastructure projects are proposed in the property or its buffer zone;
- Wildlife and ecological monitoring is conducted regularly in partnership with different stakeholders, including bird counts which are conducted twice a year;
- Mechanical and chemical control methods are being applied to manage *Lantana camara* and other invasive alien species (IAS) in the property;
- The JSMC is continuing to meet regularly demonstrating a high level of collaboration between the States Parties in the management of the property;
- An updated map of the property is provided.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place between 9 and 13 February 2022 in line with Decision **44 COM 7B.177**, the report for which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/documents/>. In preparation for the mission, the States Parties submitted in February 2022: an ESIA for Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort; 2016-2021 Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP); ESIA for BGHES and a boundary map of the property.

The States Parties requested International Assistance for the 2022 cycle to review and update the JIMP, which was accepted and communicated in a letter dated 10 August 2022.

In a letter dated 14 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party of Zimbabwe, for comments, third-party information reporting the issuing of a permit for two commercial sites for tourism developments within areas of the property that are recognized as highly sensitive zones according to the JIMP. No response has been received from the State Party at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued strong collaboration between the States Parties for the management of the property is welcomed, as are the ongoing efforts to undertake monitoring and to control IAS.

Nevertheless, the property continues to face serious threats from individual and cumulative infrastructure developments within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting. While the property recorded decreased visitor numbers in the 2020-2021 period due to COVID-19, tourism-related infrastructure developments have continued. Contrary to the Committee's request to the State Party of Zambia to halt the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel development, construction has continued, and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission identified numerous shortfalls and non-compliance with World Heritage status, the JIMP, and the State Party's own legal regulations. Other proposed developments in the property and its buffer zone have not been assessed as to their cumulative impacts on the OUV, in response to which the mission has recommended the States Parties produce a blueprint to guide strategic level planning. It should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with the individual ESIA's of the developments proposed for approval, prior to authorizing any further projects.

The reservoir of BGHES will be fully contained within the gorges but the mission found that its reservoir will extend approximately 10.75 km into the property at full supply level, which at the deepest point will increase the water level in the property by around 43m, thereby altering the unique gorge ecosystem and water flow. The project should therefore not proceed as currently proposed and the ESIA should be revised to assess alternative project designs that avoid any impact on the property, and include a comprehensive ecological assessment of the gorge ecosystem.

The above two major concerns have been further compounded by the inconsistent property boundaries that are used in different documentations. The map submitted by the States Parties differs yet again from boundary maps that were previously submitted, and the mission was unable to obtain confirmation on precise property and buffer zone boundaries. To allow the effective management of the property and relevant decision-making, there is a pressing need for the States Parties and national authorities to agree on the boundaries and a mutual understanding of the management and use of the property zonation and buffer zones. The boundaries, zonation and buffer zones should be reviewed as part of the update of the JIMP and submitted for the Committee's approval through a request for boundary modification in line with the Operational Guidelines. The proposal should enhance the protection of the property and its OUV, the benchmark being the current JIMP and the Retrospective Statement of OUV (Decision **36 COM 8E**), which provided details of the property's integrity, including its spatial configuration.

It is positive that the States Parties have pursued the development of a SEA since the Committee's request in 2012 (**36 COM 7B.7**) despite the funding gap. It is noted that the first phase of the SEA has been completed, and that the second phase will be commissioned as soon as external funding is secured to address the core elements of an SEA. The States Parties should seek early inputs and technical guidance from IUCN in undertaking the second phase of the SEA, which presents the key opportunity to take a landscape-scale approach to cumulative assessment.

The States Parties have presented data from the past few years on water flow and rainfall, but this stops short of responding to the previous Committee request to summarize how these findings have informed management including how water abstraction from the Zambezi River continues to be adapted in the face of climate change.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.7** and **44 COM 7B.177** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued cooperation between the two States Parties in strengthening the joint management of the transboundary property, and the continued efforts to undertake monitoring and control of invasive alien plant species;*
4. *Notes again with increasing concern the inevitable negative impacts of the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property due to inundation of a significant portion of the gorges within the property, and requests the States Parties to implement the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to revise the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to assess alternative project designs that will not impact the OUV, to undertake a comprehensive ecological assessment of the gorge ecosystem that takes into account the correct property boundaries, and submit the revised ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before making any decisions that may be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

5. *Reiterates its concern over the increasing pressure from tourism infrastructure within and around the property, exacerbated by the absence of strategic planning and also requests the States Parties to produce a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property that ensures the protection of the property's OUV, and to not approve any further developments until the blueprint is finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with an impact assessment for each proposed project in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse ;*
6. *Notes with utmost concern that the construction of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel has continued despite the Committee's request to halt further activities and urgently requests the State Party of Zambia to implement the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to suspend construction and operation of the Resort Hotel until it complies with all the legal conditions of approval issued by the Zambia Environmental Management Authority, the ESIA has been revised in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and a comprehensive Environmental and Social Management Plan has been developed and submitted together with impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre;*
7. *Further requests the States Parties to submit a request for a boundary modification in accordance with the Operational Guidelines to set the precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, aligned with past Committee Decisions and the property's Statement of OUV and including details of the internal zonation system and its rationale to protect the property and its OUV;*
8. *Notes that the first phase of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property has been undertaken, requests furthermore the States Parties to seek early inputs and technical guidance from IUCN in undertaking the second phase of the SEA and encourage the States Parties to submit an International Assistance request to that effect;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties to summarize how the findings of the analysis undertaken on the water flow, rainfall and upstream activity has informed management, and the measures subsequently taken to ensure water abstraction from the Zambezi River continues to be adapted in the face of climate change;*
10. *Requests moreover the States Parties to implement all other recommendations from the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, including to:*
 - a) *Ensure that tourism infrastructure development within the property and its buffer zone is consistent with the aim to enhance the protection of the OUV of the property and in line with the Joint Integrated Management Plan,*
 - b) *Develop a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property,*
 - c) *Harmonize the roles and responsibilities of the National Heritage Conservation Commission and the Department of national Parks and Wildlife for the management of the property in Zambia;*
11. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session in 2024.*

ARAB STATES

12. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (x)

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/1263/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2017-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 131,560

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2012: IUCN mission; June 2014: IUCN/Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan
- Legal frameworks
- Governance
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure: road network
- Biological resource use/modification
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species: absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species
- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements
- Civil unrest: unrest inhibiting management and access of international experts and capacity building support
- Climate change and severe weather events: cyclones, storms

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/> and reports the following progress:

- On-going political unrest in Yemen has weakened the efficiency of authorities, however the Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE) and Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) have started rebuilding capacity in Aden and provide support to the Socotra Governorate;
- With no government budget for environmental protection, the authorities aim to support and facilitate the work of international projects including the on-going Global Environment Facility - United Nations Environmental Programme (GEF-UNEP) project focused on supporting the government in biodiversity and conservation, monitoring of invasive alien species (IAS) and awareness raising activities in cooperation with local NGOs;

- Restoration activities include collaboration on replantation projects with the Franklinia Boswellia Project in collaboration with NGO Friends of Soqotra, and the restoration of unique biodiversity (mangroves, frankincense, Dragon Blood trees);
- The on-going UNEP-GEF programme activities to control IAS include a new joint agreement to initiate a quarantine at the port, planned capacity building activities to train local partners in quarantine measures, and preparation of a participatory IAS control strategy that will include early detection, training of staff and quarantine measures;
- Development continues, driven by population expansion with the majority of development located in the urban development zone in and around the city of Hadibu. There is a coordinated effort to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, yet some impact occurred in the national parks or protected areas. Developments in the buffer zone are regulated by national laws that include environmental standards. Halting activities by developers during a time of economic crisis and limited capacity to implement the Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP) remains challenging. A map of developments in the property and buffer zone is appended;
- In 2021, a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system (under environmental law 26/1995) was approved requiring EIAs for all development projects on Socotra. The EPA informed all major stakeholders of the requirement, the need to follow environmental standards during implementation and the importance of evaluating the potential impacts on the OUV. EPA will follow up with stakeholders and submit EIAs to the World Heritage Centre;
- The update of the CZP under the UNEP-GEF project remains underway and will incorporate environmental standards that regulate development activities in the buffer zone. Specific protected areas management plans will be initiated or updated to address all sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain local natural resource use;
- Opportunities for sustainable funding are being explored under the UNEP-GEF project including to link with further donors, promote a new project, and enhance self-sustainable projects and initiatives such as environmental fees and taxes, ecotourism, and traditional handicrafts;
- Waste management remains a problem, particularly in the buffer zone, with plastic waste accumulating along the coast.

Due to logistical constraints, the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission remains in planning and will be undertaken as soon as possible.

In late January 2023, a spill from an oil tanker stranded at the Delisha Nature Sanctuary since November 2019, was reported, raising concerns over the potential impact on the marine environment. The State Party submitted a request for Emergency Assistance through the World Heritage Fund in order to support efforts in addressing this threat, which has been approved.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It remains concerning that the on-going insecurity and economic crisis in Yemen continues to impact management capacity, including the lack of government budget for environmental conservation in Socotra. The on-going commitment of the authorities to prioritise conservation and facilitate research and conservation activities in collaboration with international partners, in spite of these considerable difficulties, should be commended.

Recalling the unique biodiversity and high level of endemism in the property, the on-going activities under the GEF-UNEP project to monitor and control IAS, specifically the planned establishment of quarantine measures at air and seaports and development of a participatory IAS control strategy, are positive. It is recommended that the IAS control strategy be finalized and appropriate control measures implemented in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Recognising that capacity to enforce biosecurity measures remains limited, the effective implementation of the strategy remains the critical challenge to be addressed going forward.

Noting the concerns raised in recent years regarding unregulated development pressures, the establishment of an EIA requirement for all development projects on Socotra is a significant positive step towards ensuring that developments do not negatively impact on its OUV. Whilst also noting with concern the reported difficulties in halting development activities during a time of security and economic crisis, and with limited capacity to implement the CZP, it will be vital that the new EIA regulation is effectively implemented. Impact assessments must be in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to guide best-practice planning and decision-making,

to ensure that the potential impacts of planned projects are assessed prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and to ensure that no projects are approved that may negatively impact the OUV. It is recommended that further guidance and support be requested from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the implementation of impact assessments. It is noted that developments are reported to be mostly limited to the urban development zones, that development in the buffer zones is regulated by environmental standards, and that these are being incorporated in the update of the CZP. However, whilst the maps of developments are appreciated, the exact nature of these developments and their potential impact on the OUV remains unclear. The anticipated finalization of the CZP, as well as the effective implementation of environmental regulations and impact assessments, will be important steps to improve the management of the property, requiring further capacity building and stakeholder engagement.

It is regrettable that no further details have been provided on the reported impacts that have occurred in some national parks or protected areas. While noting that protected area management plans will be initiated or updated to address all sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain local natural resource use, it is unclear however how these relate to the update of the CZP and overall management of the property. Clarity on these issues should be requested.

Noting the potential impacts of an oil spill on the OUV of the property, particularly its marine ecosystem, it is recommended to request the State Party to provide further information regarding the impacts of the spill on the OUV, including to conduct an assessment of impacts on the marine values, to conduct a risk assessment on the vessel to prevent further spills, and to report on any response measures undertaken. It is expected that the recently approved Emergency Assistance through the World Heritage Fund will facilitate the completion of these activities.

Whilst the State Party's on-going actions to address threats to the property under very difficult conditions are commended, the impacts of the many threats on the OUV such as IAS, developments in the buffer zone, plastic pollution, financial and staffing capacity limitations, remain to be fully addressed. It is recommended that the joint Reactive Monitoring mission be conducted as soon as possible to assess the state of conservation of the property and provide technical guidance to the State Party.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.100**, **43 COM 7B.1** and **44 COM 7B.88** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's on-going commitment to strengthen management measures in collaboration with international partners in spite of significant capacity constraints due to the challenging ongoing political instability and economic crisis in Yemen;*
4. *Notes with concern that on-going political instability and the economic crisis continue to impact the capacity for effective management of the property, and calls on the international community to support the State Party in its efforts to ensure the effective protection and management of the property;*
5. *Recalling the high level of endemism in the property and the potentially devastating impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), also welcomes the on-going activities under the UNEP-GEF programme to establish port quarantine measures and prepare a participatory IAS control strategy, and requests the State Party, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to urgently finalise such IAS control strategy and implement biosecurity measures to ensure the threat is effectively managed;*

6. Takes note that developments are reported to be mostly limited to urban development zones, that development in the buffer zone is regulated by environmental standards, and that these standards are being incorporated in the review and update of the Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP), and also requests that the CZP is finalised as a matter of priority and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Noting the report of impacts in some national parks or protected areas, further requests the State Party to provide further information regarding these impacts in relation to the OUV, and to clarify how the initiation or update of protected areas management plans to address all sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain local natural resource use, would relate to the update of the CZP and the overall integrated management of the property;
8. Commends the State Party on the adoption of a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement for all developments on Socotra, and urges the State Party and all stakeholders involved in development projects to ensure that it is implemented in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including to:
 - a) Ensure that any planned development is subject to a rigorous assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to halt any ongoing development and not proceed with any new development that could negatively impact the OUV;
 - b) Evaluate the potential impacts of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone EIAs, in the context of the new regulations;
 - c) Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated CZP and that their enforcement is ensured;
9. Notes the positive actions that are being taken to address threats to the OUV of the property, however, reiterates its utmost concern about the potential impacts of those different threats, including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and insufficient biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and considers that the cumulative effect of these factors could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
10. Notes with concern the potential impact of an oil spill in January 2023 from an oil tanker stranded at the Delisha Nature Sanctuary since November 2019 on the OUV of the property, particularly its marine environment, requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information on the impacts of the spill on the OUV, including to conduct an assessment of the impacts on the marine ecosystem, to conduct a risk assessment on the vessel to avoid further spills, and to report on any response measures undertaken, with the support of Emergency Assistance provided through the World Heritage Fund;
11. Reiterates its request for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be undertaken as soon as possible, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to determine whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

13. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

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

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/154/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes to oceanic waters
- Ground water pollution
- Marine transport infrastructure (Coastal development, including development of ports, shipping lane impacts, grounding of ships)
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Liquefied Natural Gas facilities)
- Marine transport infrastructure (ports)
- Other climate change impacts
- Storms
- Surface water pollution
- Temperature change
- Fisheries

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The property has experienced a period of recovery since 2019, following consecutive bleaching events in recent years. For important habitats, such as coral reefs, islands, mangroves, coastal wetlands and seagrasses, conditions have either improved or remained stable;
- Coral heat stress and agricultural runoff were recorded as lower than previous years and there have been fewer impacts from cyclones;
- On 20 December 2021, an updated Reef 2050 Plan was released that provides a pathway for accelerated action to conserve the property and commitments to address climate change, land-based run-off, coastal development and aspects of human use of the property;
- Significant funding has been made available to manage and conserve the property, including through the Reef Trust Partnership;
- The property's water quality has seen improvements towards the 2025 targets. These have been achieved through setting minimum practice standards, building the capacity of land managers to

reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, and catchment restoration to reduce soil erosion and land degradation;

- Fishery management is improving, with the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy (QSFS) 2017–2027;
- Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) continue to pressure the property's central and southern regions but advances in understanding the dynamics of COTS outbreaks, combined with improved detection and culling, allow to better suppress outbreaks and improve coral protection across the property;
- Involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of the property has been strengthened.

From 21 to 30 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN undertook a joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess whether the revised Reef 2050 Plan addresses the threat posed to the property by climate change and determines a pathway for accelerated actions in other areas affecting the conservation of the property. The mission considered information provided by the State Party along with inputs from stakeholders, including civil society. Based on the information at the time, the mission concluded that the property met the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission report is available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/> On 15 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party conveying third party concerns regarding reclamation associated with the ports of Gladstone and Townsville and requesting verification of the information. On 26 July 2022, the State Party replied that the potential impacts of the ports on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been carefully considered and each project is subject to stringent approval conditions, designed to avoid and mitigate the impacts.

Since the mission, the State Party provided the following updates:

On 13 September 2022, the State Party submitted a report including the following highlights:

- The property recorded the highest level of hard coral cover in the northern and central regions in 36 years of monitoring; a new target of 43% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 has been agreed; funding has been made available to scale up work on coastal restoration to achieve water quality improvements; participation of Traditional Owners in the management of the property has been increased; fisheries management has been improved; and new techniques to restore coral reef habitat have been developed.
- AUS\$ 32.6 million has been committed to accelerate climate science and emissions modelling.

On 10 March 2023, the State Party sent an update on the state of conservation of the property, including the following highlights:

- The 2022-23 austral summer season has concluded without a significant coral bleaching event;
- The State Party signed its first Climate Change Act in 2022 that legislates a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 2005 levels by 2030. The target is set as a floor, not a ceiling. The Climate Change Authority is now required by law to provide independent advice and annual updates on progress towards limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The legislation requires the government to consider the advice of the Authority prior to setting future Nationally Determined Contributions;
- In February 2023, the State Party rejected the Central Queensland Coal Mine due to its potential impacts to the OUV of the property;
- The 2020 Reef Water Quality Report Card show continued progress toward meeting the 2025 water quality targets;
- The 2022 annual Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) reported that overall agricultural clearing in 2019-20 had fallen nearly 40% from the previous year;
- The State Party withdrew funding commitments towards the construction of the Hells Gate Dam and the Urannah Dam due to their threat to water quality;
- Regulated minimum practice agricultural standards for grazing, sugarcane and banana production are fully implemented across all priority reef catchments as of December 2022, next phase regulations will bring farming practices in the Burnett Mary region in line with other regions and the compliance programme will be doubled;

- Additional water quality investments have been committed that, along with existing investments, provide funding certainty until 2030 to scale up land restoration and water quality improvements. These include, among others, an AUS\$253 million budget uplift for the property's lead management agency, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority; AUS\$ 262.5 million for land acquisitions and capital work to improve vegetation management; and a minimum of AUS\$ 100 million for reef protection and restoration with Traditional Owners;
- A major evaluation of water quality investments in the Reef and a water quality prioritisation process was finalized in December 2022 that will inform the next phase of the property's water quality investments;
- Review of the Reef Scientific Consensus Statement and Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan is underway and will be finalized in 2025;
- An additional AUS\$ 62.7 million has been committed to accelerate implementation of the QSFS and strengthen independent data validation on high-risk fisheries;
- The Traditional Owner Implementation Plan 2022 was launched by Reef Traditional Owners on 15 November 2022.

On 6 June 2023, the State Party provided further information, including commitments to:

- Enact with immediate effect a major shift in its water quality programs, including detailed deliverables and timetable, aimed at achieving the 2025 water quality targets and significantly reduce pollutant discharge into the property by 2030;
- Immediately make the hammerhead shark a "no-take" species, establish a net free zone in northern third of the property, finalize implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, introduce legislation to mandate the use of independent data validation on all commercial fishing vessels by 31 December 2023, make the property entirely gillnet free by 30 June 2027, and achieve the target maximum economic yield (60% biomass) by 31 December 2027;
- Set more ambitious emissions reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C and update the Reef 2050 Plan to reflect new commitments and the new legislative framework.

On 5 and 19 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information on progress about the management of the property from civil society, including WWF-Australia, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, and Earth Justice.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that the OUV of the property is considerably impacted by climate factors, and that the resilience of the property to recover from climate change impacts is significantly compromised, in particular due to degraded water quality and fisheries. The mission concluded that the property's management frameworks are lacking clear climate targets and implementation measures which are urgent to protect the OUV of the property, and that measures are not fully implemented in relation to water quality and fisheries. The mission set out 10 priority recommendations to be implemented with the utmost urgency, and 12 additional recommendations to further strengthen the resilience of the property. If implemented rapidly, the mission considered these recommendations could greatly improve the conservation of the property's OUV for future generations.

Since the Reactive Monitoring mission took place, the State Party has made significant progress to respond to the threat of climate change to the property and has made a series of strong commitments to reduce pressures on the OUV of the property from degraded water quality and fisheries, including significant renewed financial commitment until 2030.

The 2020 Reef Water Quality Report Card shows progress toward achieving the 2025 water quality targets. However, this progress remains slow, and significant reductions in the levels of sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen to meet the 2025 targets remain to be achieved. The cancellation of the Urannah and Hells Gate dam projects is welcomed, given their likely negative impacts to water quality in the property. Other in-progress dam developments and future ones need to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the Reef and require to be assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The most recent information regarding the State Party's commitment on water quality measures is welcomed and indicates a further stepping up of commitments to implementation, although also confirms the level of challenge that has been present in achieving the originally proposed water quality targets. These commitments will need to be fully implemented, and the anticipated new targets for 2025-2030 will need to be sufficiently ambitious to reverse the negative trends in water quality and underpin a consistent pathway to recovery.

Agricultural clearing in 2019-20 is reported to have fallen nearly 40% from the previous year, yet still significant clearing activities remain. The remaining native vegetation across the property's catchments needs further protection, including by strengthening permits for areas of high conservation value. The State Party committed to expand implementation of 2018 land clearing legislation and strengthen protection of remnant and high value conservation areas by July 2024. It is critical that the evaluation of the property's past water quality investments and water quality prioritization process will result in swift and drastic action toward implementing the mission priority recommendations related to water quality.

The sequence of bleaching events in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2022, the latter of which occurred during a La Niña year for the first time, are of utmost concern. The scale and frequency of the bleaching events have contributed to the status of a number of species that represent key attributes of the property's OUV being assessed as poor or very poor, including coral and seagrasses, dugong and bony fish. However, the reef is reported to have experienced some recovery following the last bleaching event, and populations of a number of key species are reported as increasing or stable in some instances.

In September 2022, the State Party adopted its first Climate Change Act that legislated a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on 2005 levels by 2030, which is set as a minimum level of ambition, with scope to further reduce emissions levels. As part of its latest updates, the State Party committed to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C. The new law requires the Climate Change Authority to provide independent advice and annual updates to the government of Australia on how future targets will help limit temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The legislation requires the government to consider the advice of the Authority prior to setting future Nationally Determined Contributions.

A budget of AUS\$ 32.6 million (ca. USD 22 million) has been committed to increase climate science and the Australian Academy of Science has been commissioned to identify priority interventions to protect the reef under plausible climate scenarios in collaboration with the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel and the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee. It is essential that the Reef 2050 Plan is strengthened to limit the impacts of climate change on the property as a result of this process, noting the recommendation of the mission to commit to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. Measures should further include effective carbon credit schemes which benefit the property and further deployment of climate adaptation mechanisms through continued research and increased financial resources.

Overfishing, bycatch, and damage to habitats associated with fishing activity further reduce the resilience of the property and the mission recommended to complete implementation of the QSFS, including adequate seasonal closures for spawning fish species as well as compliance with limits for fishing below the thresholds defined in the strategy and phase out all destructive gillnet fisheries. The State Party has since committed to complete implementation of the QSFS by 31 December 2023, including finalizing all harvest strategies with defined quotas for all key species and achieve the target maximum economic yield (MEY; 60% biomass) by 31 December 2027. Large mesh gillnets are reported to be already prohibited in 38% of the property. The State Party further committed to establish a complete net free zone in the Northern third of the property and strengthen protection for threatened species by 31 December 2023, and ensure the whole of the property is gillnet free by 30 June 2027. Threatened hammerhead sharks are expected to be made "no take" for commercial fisheries with immediate effect. The State Party should be requested to ensure that the commitment to phase out all destructive gillnet fishing is effectively implemented, and the target MEY is achieved, in line with the mission recommendations.

Overall, the commitments the State Party has made to conserve the OUV of the property, in particular in response to the findings of the mission, and the initial actions taken to implement the mission's recommendations should be noted with appreciation. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property remains under serious threat and urgent and sustained action to implement the priority recommendations of the mission is essential in order to improve the long-term resilience of the property. A drastic shift in programmes to attain the 2025 water quality targets for fine sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen, and the effective implementation of the QSFS and a full phase out of gillnet

fisheries in the property are of the highest priority. Measures to ensure carbon credit schemes deliver net benefits to the property and that adaptation mechanisms are deployed at the scale required to avoid loss of OUV should also be deployed.

Based on the progress achieved since the mission, and the range of new, but still recent commitments that have been made and actions initiated, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that it would be appropriate to re-evaluate whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for consideration, as relevant, at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Finally, it is recognized that no one State Party alone can address the threat of climate change, and that international action is needed by all States Parties as noted in the relevant past decisions of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7** and **44 COM 7B.90** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Notes with utmost concern that the property has suffered from four mass coral bleaching events since 2016, as a result of climate change, including an unprecedented event in 2022 occurring for the first time in a traditionally cooler La Niña period, and appreciates the efforts to control the Crown-of-Thorn Starfish outbreaks;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's initial commencement of the implementation of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, and requests the State Party to extend these efforts to fully implement all the recommendations of the mission, including, as a matter of utmost priority:*
 - a) *Identify priority areas of grazing land for gully repairs and associated restoration and remediation activities, and significantly scale up restoration activities,*
 - b) *Require proposed and in-progress dam developments to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the Great Barrier Reef (GBR),*
 - c) *Increase significantly the scale and pace of adoption, monitoring and enforcement of best management practice in sugarcane and banana farming,*
 - d) *Prioritise the protection of remnant native vegetation across the GBR catchments,*
 - e) *Ensure Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) water quality targets, are sufficient and implemented to reverse the negative trend in water quality,*
 - f) *Review and strengthen the Reef 2050 Plan to include clear government commitments to reduce greenhouse emissions consistent with the efforts required to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, to limit the impacts of climate change on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (recommended by the March 2022 mission to be achieved by 31 December 2022),*
 - g) *Ensure that the carbon and water quality related credit schemes being deployed in the GBR catchments deliver overall net benefits to the OUV of the property,*
 - h) *Continue support for scientific research and increase financial resources to enable deployment of climate adaptation mechanisms,*
 - i) *Accelerate the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy,*

- j) *Phase out destructive gillnet fishing in the property;*
5. *Welcomes the State Party's significantly increased actions in addressing climate change since the Reactive Monitoring mission, including through newly adopted legislation introducing progressive reduction targets for carbon emissions, and for the State Party's additional commitment to set successively more ambitious emission reduction targets in alignment with efforts to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial times, and also requests the State Party to revise and strengthen the Reef 2050 Plan accordingly and in alignment with the mission recommendations;*
 6. *Notes with serious concern the slow progress in achieving the water quality targets, in particular for fine sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen and also welcomes the State Party's commitment to enact, with immediate effect, a major shift in its water quality programmes with the aim to achieve the 2025 water quality targets and to finalize the revision of the WQIP and set new 2025-2030 water quality targets by June 2025, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the commitments are fully implemented and that the anticipated 2025-2030 water quality targets are sufficiently ambitious to reverse the negative trend in water quality;*
 7. *Further welcomes the cancellation of the Urannah and Hells Gate dam projects due to their potential impact on the OUV of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to require proposed and in-progress dam developments to show clear alignment with water quality improvement for the property as a condition for approval under relevant legislation, and ensure all proposed projects are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
 8. *Welcomes furthermore the State Party's commitments to, by December 2023, complete the implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, establish a net free zone in the northern third of the property, introduce new legislation requiring independent data validation in commercial fisheries, and to ensure the property is gillnet free by June 2027 and the target maximum economic yield (60% biomass) is achieved by December 2027, and requests moreover the State Party to effectively implement the phase out of all gillnet fisheries in the property and ensure compliance with the mandatory independent data validation of vessels operating in the property introduced by the new legislation;*
 9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, a progress report on the implementation of the commitments made, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2024, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

14. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

15. Komodo National Park (Indonesia) (N 609)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

18. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia, Russian Federation) (N 1448rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ix)(x)

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/1448/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1448/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining (Mongolia) (issue resolved)
- Management systems / management plans (Transboundary management coordination) (Mongolia and Russian Federation)
- Illegal activities (Lack of coordinated capacities to prevent and minimize the effects of hunting, poaching and other threats to the integrity of the property) (Mongolia and Russian Federation)
- Financial and human resources (Lack of resources and capacities allocated to the management of the protected areas) (Mongolia and Russian Federation)
- Water infrastructure (Dam construction on the Ulz River) (Mongolia)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1448/>

Current conservation issues

The States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia submitted separate state of conservation reports on 1 and 11 February 2022 respectively, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1448/documents/> and provide the following updates:

- The State Party of Mongolia confirms that the Onon-Ulz Dam project has been suspended and that no activity will be implemented until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project, which was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is conducted;
- Research undertaken by the State Party of the Russian Federation concluded that the Onon-Ulz dam project is likely to have an irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably through a significant loss of water in the lower reaches of the Ulz River and in the Torey Lakes, especially during the dry season, resulting in a significant decrease in bird populations, including relict gull, swan goose, white-naped crane, and great bustard, as well as impacting local communities through reduced water quality;
- In March 2021, a roundtable on the risks of dam construction on the Ulz River was organised with the participation of relevant authorities and local communities. The project is stated to also have a likely indirect negative impact on Lake Baikal World Heritage property (Russian Federation);

- A trilateral online meeting of the China-Mongolia-Russia International Protected Area Agreement (DIPA) working group took place in 2021, during which the State Party of the Russian Federation proposed a transboundary EIA for the Onon-Ulz Dam project and a drainage project in the Kerulen river;
- The property has experienced a prolonged dry period due to the climatic cycle in the region, resulting in a decrease in the area of wetlands and migratory birds within the property. However, the ecosystems in the property are experiencing changes characteristic of the initial stage of long-term wet climatic periods;
- Within the framework of the DIPA, cooperative censuses for aquatic and semi-aquatic birds and Mongolian Gazelles were carried out in 2021, and the obtained data were shared among the States Parties;
- Possibilities for the future expansion of the transboundary property were proposed to be discussed at the next meeting of the DIPA working group in 2022;
- The State Party of the Russian Federation added 39,000 hectares of land to the strictly protected area of the Daurian Nature Reserve (DNR) in 2021 and is further considering a future expansion of the buffer zone to include wetlands of the Borzya River;
- The management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area components of the property in Mongolia are still in the process of revision. The new plans will be adopted once finalised.

On 2 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party of Mongolia that it had received third-party information indicating a possible resumption of on-site construction work of the Onon-Ulz Dam project. On 9 May 2022, the State Party of Mongolia replied to reiterate that there had been no progress on the construction, which was suspended pending the finalisation of an EIA, expected to be completed by September 2022.

On 19 May 2022, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party of the Russian Federation that it had received information from third parties concerning the approval of a gold mining prospecting licence on the headwaters and tributaries of Imalka River in the Russian Federation. The concession area is reportedly situated only 900 meters from the border of the property in Mongolia. No response has been received from the State Party of the Russian Federation at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation by the State Party of Mongolia that the Onon-Ulz Dam project has been suspended and no activities will be implemented until the EIA for the project is conducted is noted, despite reports of resumed construction. The information that the project would have serious impacts on surrounding local communities and the OUV of the property, in particular in the dry season, is of utmost concern, especially considering the potentially significant impacts of the project to the Ulz Basin and the Torey lakes, and that recent climatic conditions have already affected bird species, including those that migrate through the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and represent a key attribute of the property's OUV. The State Party of Mongolia should be urged to maintain the suspension of any activities associated with the project until the EIA for the project is submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The EIA should be undertaken in consultation with the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China, to assess the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property and include an assessment of the potential impacts on the Lake Baikal World Heritage property, taking also into consideration future climate scenarios and the potential for the project to compound the negative impacts of climate change to the property's OUV.

Cooperation between States Parties in monitoring the key bird species and Mongolian Gazelle under the DIPA framework is welcomed and should be encouraged to continue. Noting the significance of the transboundary watersheds in supporting the OUV of the property, States Parties, including the State Party of China, should be further encouraged to develop measures to ensure the preservation of the hydrological regime of these transboundary watercourses, consistent with the conservation of the OUV of the property, including through comprehensive assessment and monitoring of the hydrological regime in the transboundary region, and actions to ensure the natural hydrological balance of the property, including mitigation and adaptation to the predicted impacts of climate change. Furthermore, noting proposals to discuss the future expansion of the property under the DIPA, the States Parties should be encouraged once again to consider a potential future expansion of the property. Considering the importance of effective transboundary cooperation, it is regrettable that reports on the state of

conservation of the property were submitted separately by each State Party. A joint report on the state of conservation of the property is therefore encouraged to be submitted for examination by the Committee at its 47th session, in accordance with the Committee's previous requests.

The third-party information about the approval of a gold mining prospecting licence in the Russian Federation, reportedly situated only 900 metres from the Mongolian border of the property, is of the utmost concern. The area is a known winter habitat of Mongolian Gazelle and several rare birds of prey, and the associated lakes act as important refuges for aquatic fauna during prolonged droughts. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of the Russian Federation not to proceed with the planned gold prospection activities, given the importance of this area to support the property's OUV.

It is noted with concern that the management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area components of the property in Mongolia are still in the process of revision. The State Party of Mongolia should be requested to expedite the process of finalising the management plans, and encouraged to strengthen resources and capacities for the effective implementation of the updated management plans, once adopted.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.6** and **44 COM 7B.187**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the reports on the state of conservation of the property were submitted separately by each State Party, recalls that, for transboundary properties, States Parties should submit a joint report rather than individual reports on their national components, and requests the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation to submit a joint report in the future;*
4. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the potential negative impacts of the Onon-Ulz Dam, as demonstrated by the research conducted by the State Party of the Russian Federation, including important potential impacts on aquatic and semi-aquatic bird species and their habitats through a significant loss of water resources in the Ulz River and the Torey Lakes, as well as degradation of the quality of water used by local communities surrounding the property;*
5. *Urges the State Party of Mongolia to maintain the suspension of all activities associated with the project until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been finalised in line with the new Guidance for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and, in consultation with the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China, to assess the potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, taking into account future climate scenarios and the potential for the project to compound the negative impacts of climate change, as well as the potential impacts on the World Heritage property of Lake Baikal, and to submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;*
6. *Expresses concern about the reported approval of a gold mining prospecting licence by the Russian Federation in an area adjacent to the Mongolia component of the property, due to its importance as winter habitat of Mongolian Gazelle and several rare birds of prey as well as the significance of the associated lakes as refuges for aquatic fauna during prolonged droughts, and also urges the State Party of the Russian Federation not to go forward with the planned gold prospection activities;*

7. *Welcomes the cooperative censuses for aquatic and semi-aquatic birds and Mongolian Gazelles carried out by the States Parties within the framework of the China-Mongolia-Russia International Protected Area Agreement (DIPA), and encourages the States Parties to continue and strengthen transnational cooperation for the management and conservation of the property, including by implementing measures to ensure the preservation of the hydrological regime of transboundary watercourses that support the property's OUV, through comprehensive assessment and monitoring in the transboundary region, and to mitigate and adapt to the predicted impacts of climate change;*
8. *Encourages again the States Parties of Mongolia, the Russian Federation and China to consider the potential expansion of the property to cover additional areas of forest steppe and critical habitats, notably for migratory birds and the Mongolian Gazelle;*
9. *Notes with concern that the management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area components of the property in Mongolia are still in the process of revision, and further requests the State Party of Mongolia to expedite their finalisation and to strengthen the resources and capacities available for the effective implementation of the updated management plans, once adopted;*
10. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session.*

19. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

20. Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine) (N 1133quater)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

21. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

22. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For more details, see page <https://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; August

2022: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Road construction (issue resolved)
- Renewable energy facilities (existing and planned hydroelectric dams, including Site C and Amisk)
- Oil and gas (Alberta oil sands mining; proposed changes to regulations which would allow release of oil sands process-affected water (OSPW))
- Climate change (affecting hydrology and ecology of the property)
- Lack of adequate and comprehensive environmental monitoring
- Governance (lack of effective engagement with First Nations and Métis in monitoring activities and insufficient consideration of local and Indigenous knowledge)
- Groundwater, surface water and air pollution
- Cumulative impacts (insufficiently understood cumulative impacts of multiple development pressures)
- Management System/Management Plan (insufficient participation of local communities and indigenous peoples)

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/documents> and summarized below, responding to Committee Decision **44 COM 7B.190**, and having incorporated the perspectives of government and indigenous partners, focusing on the period from 2019 when the Action Plan (AP) was developed to December 2021:

- Two thirds of the actions under the AP to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are completed or underway, supported by an overall federal budget of CAD 87.4 million (USD 66 million) until spring 2024;
- Another addition to the provincial parks adjacent to the property further increased the area of the vast contiguous conservation complex;
- Progress in terms of integrated monitoring of the Peace Athabasca Delta (PAD) by the federal government, the Alberta province and indigenous partners with additional efforts underway to co-develop monitoring elsewhere;
- Collaboration of the same partners above is reported for the design and evaluation of two proposed water control structures in the PAD to support indigenous access and use and 'ecological gains';
- Commitment that all impact assessments of upstream developments pursuant to federal legislation explicitly consider specific and cumulative impacts on the property's OUV, including the proposed Amisk dam on the Peace River;
- A climate change vulnerability analysis incorporating indigenous peoples' knowledge and science is underway to better understand the assumed trends towards warmer and drier conditions;
- Issues related to water governance, flow regulation, and tailings pond management are extremely complex where focus has been placed on bringing together all implicated jurisdictions and incorporating indigenous perspectives. Acknowledgement of the long-term resourcing needs for the AP's implementation;
- Acknowledgment of the unchanged situation since the 2018 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which indicated a failure to meet several desired outcomes and negative trends for the PAD, migratory waterfowl, wolf-wood bison relationship and grasslands;
- Proposed regulations are being developed under the Fisheries Act to authorize the release of treated oil sands process-affected water (OSPW) under strict conditions that are protective of the environment. Indigenous peoples have indicated that they do not support the release of treated effluent and view releases as a potential infringement of their rights and a significant threat to the park's OUV.
- Across its report, the State Party acknowledges significant hardship for First Nations and Métis peoples over the century since the park's establishment, including restrictions and expulsion despite the promises of Treaty 8 and other rights, their unique knowledge and multifaceted interrelationships with the land. A commitment to establishing a 'new relationship' with First Nations and Métis via a Cooperative Management Committee (CMC) and a bilateral engagement referring to communities as an 'integral part of the ecosystem' was made. Consistent with this, indigenous leadership met in 2021 with the Minister responsible for Parks Canada Agency (PCA) and the PCA's President and CEO.

On 15 March 2022, the State Party submitted further information to officially announce the expansion of Kitaskino Nuwenëné Wildland Provincial Park (KNWPP).

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission took place from 18 to 26 August 2022 and the report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/256/documents/>.

Since the mission, the World Heritage Centre has received information from third parties on the 10-year review of the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan (LARP), the impacts of logging on the Wabasca bison herd and on the seepage of OSPW from tailings ponds at the Kearl oil sands project, situated near the Athabasca River, 75 km upstream from the property. This information was transmitted to the State Party

by letters dated 14 February and 9 March 2023. A reply was received from the State Party on 6 April 2023.

In a letter dated 16 June 2023 to the State Party, UNESCO expressed its solidarity with the citizens of Canada, its federal government, and the governments of all the areas, including Wood Buffalo National Park and Nahanni National Park, affected by the devastating fires and extreme weather conditions and their far-reaching consequences.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that most threats to the OUV of the property remain, in particular:

- Longstanding and unresolved conflicts and tensions between indigenous rightsholders and government and private sector actors which impact on the management of the property;
- Changes in the hydrology of the PAD resulting from hydropower development along the upper Peace River and climate change affecting its biodiversity, productivity and navigability;
- Potential impacts caused by the oil sands projects along the Athabasca River south of the property, including potential impacts associated with seepage from the large tailings ponds generated by oil sands projects and the lack of a clear strategy to reclaim these areas and treat the large volumes of toxic OSPW accumulated over decades of oil sands development;
- Cumulative effects of industrial developments around the property;
- Absence of a formal buffer zone for the property and issues related to land use in the overall landscape;
- Long-term future of the Wood Bison population.

Evidence from the SEA conducted in 2018 shows that current trends for key attributes remain negative and that the state of conservation of the PAD, which hosts many of the attributes underpinning the OUV of the property, remains of particular concern.

The 2022 mission acknowledged that in response to the recommendations of the 2016 mission, the State Party has developed and is implementing a structured AP with the aim of reversing the current downward trends in some of the desired outcomes. Considering that its implementation only started in 2019, the mission noted that it was too early to assess the extent to which the AP will succeed in reversing the current negative trends and restoring the OUV of the property, including the ecological integrity of the PAD.

The mission observed important progress in the implementation of some parts of the AP, in particular efforts to strengthen partnerships and move towards co-management of the property with the indigenous rightsholders, the creation of additional protected areas to the south of the property to act as a buffer and better protect the values of the property, measures to improve the conservation of the Roland Lake Bison herd, and work on the development of an Integrated Research and Monitoring Programme, using both science and indigenous knowledge.

Significant effort and investment are also being made to develop a hydrodynamic model to understand the flows required to deliver environmental benefits to the PAD, through flow releases from the W.A.C. Bennett Dam and existing and future water control structures. However, a functional modelling platform, which can inform decision-making, will not be available before 2024 and the mission concluded that progress in hydrodynamic model development to date has not yet resulted in concrete measures to restore the ecological and hydrological integrity of the PAD.

Major concerns remain about the lack of progress in addressing cumulative impacts of industrial developments around the property. Expansion of existing oil sands projects has continued without full consideration of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property. A systematic risk assessment of tailings ponds in the Alberta Oil Sands region, focusing on the PAD, has not yet started. New proposals to allow the release of treated OSPW into the Athabasca River are extremely concerning. The Federal Minister for Environment and Climate Change assured the mission that OSPW releases would only be allowed if the released water was treated to a standard of 'drinking water quality', while other options were also being considered to dispose of OSPW accumulated over decades of oil sands development. In this context, the recent confirmation of seepage of OSPW from tailings ponds at the Kearl oil sands project is extremely alarming and further demonstrates the potential impact of the tailing ponds on the

OUV of the property and on the livelihoods of indigenous communities, while highlighting the urgency of addressing this threat.

The mission considered that efforts to address the multiple threats to the OUV of the property will need to be sustained beyond the current timeframe of the AP and that more substantial funding will need to be mobilized. While the AP is ambitious in some respects, the mission considered it needs to be strengthened in other areas. The mission proposed 17 priority recommendations to improve the AP and address current weaknesses.

Based on the findings of the mission, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that the OUV of the property continues to face significant ascertained and potential threats, in particular as a result of changes in the hydrology of the PAD exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and industrial developments around the property. The AP should be further strengthened based on the recommendations of the mission. Moreover, financial support for its implementation needs to be sustained beyond its current timeframe until 2026. It is further recommended that a new joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission be invited in 2026 to assess whether the current downward trends and observed degradation of the OUV of the property have been reversed and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.18**, **41 COM 7B.2**, **43 COM 7B.1** and **44 COM 7B.190**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with concern the conclusion of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to face significant ascertained and potential threats, in particular as a result of changes in the hydrology of the Peace Athabasca Delta (PAD) exacerbated by the impacts of climate change and of the industrial developments around the property;*
4. *Acknowledges that the State Party has developed and is implementing a structured Action Plan with the aim of reversing the current downward trends in some of the desired outcomes linked to the attributes of the OUV, and notes the conclusion of the 2022 mission that it is too early to assess how successful the Action Plan will be in restoring the OUV of the property, including the ecological integrity of the PAD;*
5. *Welcomes the progress made in implementing parts of the Action Plan, including efforts to move towards co-management of the property with the indigenous rightsholders, the creation of additional protected areas to the south of the property, the measures taken to improve the conservation of the Roland Lake Bison herd, and the work on developing an Integrated Research and Monitoring Programme;*
6. *Appreciates the ongoing work to develop a hydrologic model to understand the flows required to deliver environmental benefits to the PAD, but expresses concern that a functional modelling platform, which can inform decision-making, will not be available before 2024 and that, to date, no operational strategy or protocol for implementing potential water releases or control structures that might be proposed based on the outcomes of the hydrologic model has been agreed;*

7. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the lack of progress in addressing the cumulative impacts of industrial developments around the property, the continued expansion of existing oil sands projects without full consideration of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, the continued absence of an adequate risk assessment for large tailings ponds upstream of the property despite evidence of major risks, including seepage as well as proposals under consideration to allow the release of treated oil sands processed water (OSPW) into the Athabasca River;*
8. *Requests the State Party to implement all recommendations of the 2022 mission to further strengthen the Action Plan and its implementation, including to:*
 - a) *Strengthen efforts to transition to a genuine partnership with indigenous rightsholders in the governance and management of the property,*
 - b) *Complete hydrodynamic modelling and environmental flows assessment,*
 - c) *Ensure that no further dam projects on the Peace River are approved, including the proposed Amisk Project, until sufficient evaluation tools are in place to evaluate impacts on the hydrology of the PAD,*
 - d) *Urgently establish a sound decision-making mechanism for ecological flow releases,*
 - e) *Decide, before 2026, on a set of concrete mitigation measures to correct the impacts of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam and other alterations to the hydrology of the PAD and agree on operational strategies and interjurisdictional protocols for the implementation of the adopted mitigation measures, together with a sufficient budget for their implementation,*
 - f) *Conduct an independent systematic risk assessment of the tailings ponds of the Alberta Oil Sands region, with a focus on risks to the PAD, before the end of 2024,*
 - g) *Re-evaluate and adapt collaborative, systematic, science-based monitoring of oil sands impacts on the Athabasca River and PAD to ensure sufficient parameters, sampling design, and protocols are employed to detect impacts,*
 - h) *Develop, before 2026, a clear, consensus-based strategy consistent with precautionary principles for the reclamation of tailing ponds, including the treatment and disposal of OSPW, which guarantees protection of the water quality of the Athabasca River and the PAD and avoids any impact on the OUV of the property,*
 - i) *Ensure that all major development projects in the PAD watershed, including all oil sands mining extension projects, are subject to federal impact assessments and specifically address potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impacts Assessments in a World Heritage context,*
 - j) *Ensure that all impact assessments of other projects in the larger landscape around the property that are not subject to federal impact assessment and that are under the responsibility of the Government of Alberta fully consider the OUV of the property and the concerns of indigenous rightsholders beyond the direct project footprint,*
 - k) *Further strengthen the monitoring of flagship species, in particular the whooping crane and the wood Bison,*
 - l) *Continue efforts to create a buffer zone under the World Heritage Convention around the property,*
 - m) *Revise the 10-year Management Plan based on an agreed indigenous-led vision for a shared governance model for Wood Buffalo National Park and integrating strategies to address the key conservation concerns of the property,*

- n) *Further streamline the implementation of the Action Plan, including by improving inter-agency coordination, defining clear impact indicators, ensuring long-term and multiannual support and funding for capacity-building for indigenous rightsholders to enable full and effective participation, and ensuring that appropriate budget allocations are made for its implementation;*
9. *Also notes the recommendation of the mission not to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at this stage to allow more time to implement the Action Plan updated with the above recommendations and also notes that a new Reactive Monitoring mission in 2026 would allow to assess whether sufficient progress has been made to reverse the current downward trends and avert further degradation of the OUV of the property, and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated Action Plan taking into account the recommendations of the 2022 mission;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2024** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the systematic risk assessment of the tailing ponds in the Alberta Oil Sands region, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.*

23. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

24. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

25. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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/1023/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management Plan (issue resolved)
- Oil and gas (geophysical prospecting in the marine area surrounding the property)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base within the property)
- Increased human presence
- Garbage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, on 2 December 2019, a summary of the 2020-2024 Management Plan, and on 18 November 2021, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, all of which are available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1023/documents> and report the following:

- Garbage clean-up activities in the property have continued in 2021. About 450 tons of scrap metal have been shipped from Wrangel Island. A further 20 container drums and two tons of scrap metal have also been collected and placed into storage. The State Party considers that the accumulated environmental damage caused by past anthropogenic activities cannot be described as potentially dangerous for the property;
- Drilling operations, exploration and extraction of minerals in the property are prohibited by law, and no oil production areas exist within the property. Seismic survey works carried out on licensed subsoil areas of East-Siberian and Chukchi seas are reported not to affect the marine part of the property nor its protective zone. No oil exploitation adjacent to the property is on-going;
- In 2021, tourism activity resumed in the property. Less than 200 people, from cruise ships and yachts, visited the island. However, visits to the property are expected to increase further when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted;
- Tourism regulations have been developed, which gather information on possible tourist load on the property. Additional construction of new tourist infrastructure is not foreseen;
- Wind turbine generators were installed in 2021 at stations in the property, with another generator planned for 2022 to provide electricity from renewable sources. Three residential houses for staff and a garage are planned to be built in 2022-23 at “Ushakovskoe” central base;
- Research on climate change impacts on ecosystems in the property has been established and was continued in 2021. The monitoring programs for the Chukchi-Alaska polar bear population and snow geese populations have also continued, and new programmes on other ecological indicator species have commenced.

On 23 February 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested further information from the State Party regarding the timetable and programme to complete the removal of garbage. No additional information has been received at the time of writing of this report. Prior to this request, the World Heritage Centre also sent on 14 February 2023, a letter to the State Party requesting verification of third party information concerning proposed legislation (the Charter) reportedly available on the website of the Ministry of Natural Resources that would determine the allowable activities and land use within the property, including amendments to the existing protection regime that would allow the construction of permanent structures and further maintenance of infrastructure and communication lines, the presence of firearms on the reserve’s territory, hunting of game animals, groundwater extraction, changes to the hydrological regime, transportation by off-road vehicles and the passage of boats and aircraft. The information also indicated that land plots are to be designated for defence purposes and partial economic use. At the time of preparation of this report, no reply has been received from the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Recalling the serious concern expressed by the World Heritage Committee regarding the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property following the conclusions of the 2017 mission to the property, and the numerous requests for detailed information on progress in implementing the mission's recommendations, it is regrettable that the State Party has not provided detailed information regarding the implementation of the Committee's requests. This makes it difficult to assess the state of conservation of the property.

The preparation of the Management Plan for the period 2020-2024 is noted, but no update was provided on its implementation, despite the opportunity offered to the States Parties concerned to submit by 1 March 2023 succinct updates on any significant changes in the state of conservation of the property since the submission of their last report. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide this update to the World Heritage Centre, together with a copy of the final version of the Management Plan and ensure the timely development of the next phase of the Management Plan, following the expiry of the 2020-2024 Plan.

Noting that tourism to the property restarted in 2021, the development of regulations to monitor the tourism pressure to the property as well as the confirmation that no new tourism facilities are planned, is welcomed. It is recalled that the 2017 mission recommended that an ecological carrying capacity study be undertaken to inform visitor management, hence it is recommended the State Party provide clarification on whether such a carrying capacity study has been completed and provide further details on the aforementioned regulations.

While monitoring activities are reported to have continued, including on the Chukchi-Alaska polar bear population and climate change, no results are provided. Recalling that the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission highlighted climate change as a critical threat to the property, the State Party should be requested to provide the results of these monitoring activities, including long-term polar bear population numbers, and develop adaptive measures to minimize any negative impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property.

The removal of 450 tons of garbage from the property is welcomed. However, noting the 25,000 tons of scrap metal and 100,000 metal drums previously calculated for removal, it remains unclear how the removal of such a volume will be achieved by the previously identified deadline of 2023. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to expedite the removal of garbage and clean-up of associated contaminants and provide a timetabled programme for doing so.

Notwithstanding the reports that seismic prospecting on the licensed subsoil plots of Yuzhno-Chukotski, Severo-Vrangelski-1 and -2 has no impacts on the OUV of the property, it remains unclear on what basis this conclusion is drawn. It should be recalled that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before any decision is taken to approve hydrocarbon-drilling activities.

The above-mentioned information from third parties indicating that the proposed new legislation (the Charter) would result in various changes to allowable activities within the property is of utmost concern. It is therefore urgent that the State Party provide clarification on the status of this proposed legislation. If adopted, the legislation would result in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property, which, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, could create the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

It is regrettable that detailed information on the impacts of military facilities on the property's OUV has still not been provided, as requested by the Committee since 2018. It should be recalled that the 2017 mission concluded that inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger may be warranted if it is not proven that military presence within the property does not constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV.

Recalling that the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2021 and in view of the continuing information gaps in the responses to the Committee's requests, it is recommended to reiterate the request to the State Party to invite a mission to review the implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 mission and to assess the state of conservation of the property, including with regard to the proposed new legislation, and to obtain any missing information.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.77** and **43 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets the lack of sufficient information provided by the State Party concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, which makes it difficult to assess the state of conservation of the property, and urges the State Party to implement these recommendations and provide detailed information on the progress towards their implementation;
4. Requests the State Party to provide an update on the implementation of the 2020-2024 Management Plan for the property, together with a copy of its final version, and ensure the timely development of the next update;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide more information on the regulations to monitor the number of tourists visiting the property and to clarify whether a carrying capacity study, as recommended by the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, has been completed;
6. Also recalling that the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission highlighted climate change as a critical threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), further requests the State Party to provide the results of the reported on-going monitoring activities and develop adaptive measures to minimize any negative impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property;
7. Also welcomes the ongoing removal of garbage from Wrangel Island, but reiterates its request to the State Party to expedite the removal of all garbage and clean-up of associated contaminants, originally envisioned by 2023, and to report on the progress made;
8. Reiterates its concern that potential future hydrocarbon exploitation could still take place in the waters near the property, and recalls that a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with IFC performance standards and with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, needs to be developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before any extractive activities are permitted to proceed;
9. Notes with utmost concern information from third parties that proposed legislative changes to the property would allow infrastructure development, hunting, groundwater extraction, transportation and changes to the hydrological regime and would result in a significant weakening of its protection status, and requests furthermore the State Party to confirm the status of the proposed legislation;
10. Recalls that a significant weakening of the protection status of the property could create the conditions for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Also recalls the conclusion of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, of which the Committee has already taken note, according to which the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be justified if it is not proven that the military

presence within the boundaries of the property does not constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV;

12. *Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to address critical information gaps and review the implementation of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

26. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

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

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/765/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2001: UNESCO mission; May 2004: UNESCO-IUCN mission; April 2006: IUCN Retrospective Inventory mission; August 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Illegal activities (Illegal salmon fishing)
- Mining (gold mining)
- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline) (no longer relevant)
- Renewable energy facilities (development of a geothermal power station, potential hydropower development)
- Fires
- Management and institutional factors (boundary changes)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction of the Esso-Palana road)
- Legal framework (need for the development of a comprehensive national legal framework for the protection and management of natural properties)
- Decline in populations of wild reindeer and snow sheep
- Governance (lack of management structure and coordination system)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>, reporting the following:

- In 2021, a Plan of Action to harmonise integrated management across the entire property and implement the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission was developed;
- The areas of Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays were excluded from the boundaries of the South Kamchatka Nature Park (SKNP) under Decree 311-P of the Kamchatka Territory Government, 'On the South Kamchatka Nature Park (park of regional importance)' approved on 16 July 2021, but are still protected as federal forest lands whilst the Gorely Volcano area has been included;
- At this stage, no authorizations have been given for the construction of the 'Three Volcanoes Park' tourism resort on the territory of the South Kamchatka Nature Park or in the immediate vicinity of its boundaries;
- Measures to verify the boundaries of the property are underway, primarily for the regional nature parks. The creation of buffer zones is being considered, in addition to clarifying the property zonation and increasing the area under strict protection;
- Funding for the conservation of the property from the regional budget of Kamchatka Territory was increased by 2.1 times from 2019 to 2021;
- The carbonate deposit exploitation license near the SKNP and the plans for a hydro-electric power station in the vicinity of the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve (KSNR) have been cancelled;
- A fish channel connecting Lake Kronotskoye with the Pacific Ocean was considered a potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and further consideration of the project has been suspended pending the conclusions of scientific research for which the KSNR is seeking funding;
- No economic activities that could cause damage to the property have been authorized or are being carried out in the areas excluded from the SKNP by the abovementioned Decree or its immediate vicinity;
- An assessment of accumulated and predicted human impact, including tourism infrastructure project proposals within the boundaries of the SKNP and adjacent areas is planned in order to inform strategic environmental impact assessment of any planned projects;
- Tourism management has been improved through modernization of equipment, extra inspectors and steps towards regulating helicopter tours. Further measures are planned in 2022-23;
- A Master Plan for Tourism Development is being developed. It should be completed by 31 December 2022 and then undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Mandatory labelling and restrictions on the transport of fish products has almost completely stopped the export of illegally caught fish through ports of Kamchatka Territory;
- Surveys of key wildlife species have been carried out or are planned. Surveys on brown bear, reindeer and snow sheep indicate stable or increasing populations;
- A 2021 coastal zone survey found that the mass mortality of marine organisms on the eastern coast of Kamchatka in 2020 was caused by the rapid blooming of harmful marine microalgae and has had no destructive impact on the flora and fauna in the region.

On 4 April 2022, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third-party information to the State Party, requesting further information regarding changes to the SKNP component boundaries at the national level and zonation of the property, as well as proposals for the development of tourism infrastructure.

On 30 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party further information from third parties, requesting verification of the alleged changes in the protection regime of the property, as well as on the reported announcement at the Eastern Economic Forum that construction of the 'Three Volcano Park' would start on 1 July 2023, comprising plans for the registration of land plots for construction of tourism infrastructure, design and survey work for the highway to Vilyuchinskaya Bay, and the construction of a passenger sea terminal in the Bay alongside accommodation and other tourism-related infrastructure.

No response has been received on either communication at the time of writing this report.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested for the property and originally planned for March 2022, had to be postponed and could not, to date, be rescheduled due to logistical constraints.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation by the State Party that boundaries of the SKNP have been modified at the national level is of utmost concern as this represents a removal of the protection status of a part of the property, seemingly to facilitate the large-scale tourism development of the 'Three Volcanoes Park'. It needs to be recalled that the requirement to have a sufficient level of legal protection is a critical pillar of the OUV of the property. Whilst it is noted that the areas excluded from the SKNP remain under some form of protective legislation, it is considered that any legislation that would permit the development of large-scale tourism infrastructure, as proposed, cannot be considered to meet the protection and management requirements consistent with the property's OUV. The removed areas are no longer part of the protected area of SKNP, which is an integral component of the property. The issue that the existing zoning of the SKNP already allowed for some tourism development has to be considered in light of the repeated and consistent requests by the World Heritage Committee to further upgrade the protection status of the regional protected areas included in the property or to strengthen the zoning to bring it in line with the required protection of the OUV of the property.

It is recalled that in 2020 the State Party submitted a minor boundary modification to exclude this area from the property and that the IUCN evaluation concluded that the proposed exclusion contained attributes directly relevant to the property's OUV, and that this area should therefore not be proposed for removal from the property. The proposal was withdrawn by the State Party before being examined by the Committee.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN conclude that the removal of Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays from SKNP, as approved by Decree on 16 July 2021 constitutes a clear potential danger to the property as foreseen under Paragraph 180(b) (i) of the Operational Guidelines. The removal of the areas from the SKNP under national law, as confirmed in the State Party report, constitutes a clear modification of the legal protective status of part of the property, which does not require substantiation via the pending mission. 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 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) ensuring that the legal protection of the entire property is restored and tourism development within the property does not negatively impact on its OUV.

It is further noted that since the Gorely Volcano area in the SKNP is outside the boundaries of the property, any proposal to include this area into the property would require a significant boundary modification. Moreover, it needs to be recalled that the OUV of the property is, by definition, irreplaceable and hence offsets to compensate for the loss of OUV elsewhere in the property are not a possibility.

The presentation of a clear action plan to implement the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, the progress achieved and the commitment to implement all mission recommendations by 2023 are appreciated. However, whilst the measures to clarify the functional zoning of the property are noted, the State Party should be urged to ensure that the proposed zonation increases the area of the inscribed property falling under a strict protective regime to ensure the highest levels of protection are applied to safeguard the property's OUV, in line with previous decisions of the Committee. The reported changes to the zonation of certain components of the property also seem in contradiction with the commitments to implement the mission's recommendations.

The information regarding improvements to tourism management and development of a Master Plan for Tourism Development is welcomed. However, it stands in contrast to the further advancement of the 'Three Volcanoes Park' project, which would be partly located inside the property and include a marine terminal for cruise ships in Viluchinskaya Bay, a pristine fjord included in the property, a resort with 1,000 rooms, ski slopes, and a new highway. Noting that no update has been provided by the State Party since January 2022, when it reported that the project was not yet approved and that the Master Plan for Tourism Development would be subject to an SEA, the recent information received from third parties that the project implementation will begin in July 2023 is of utmost concern. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that if allowed to proceed, the 'Three Volcanoes Park' would result in a severe deterioration of the natural beauty and scenic value of a part of the property, and therefore jeopardize its OUV, as concluded by the 2019 mission. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to urgently provide an update on the current status of the project and not to proceed with this large-scale development, as proposed in its current location. The State Party should be requested to ensure that the SEA is undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to inform the Master Plan for Tourism Development, ensuring that the potential cumulative impacts of developments on the OUV of the property is

comprehensively addressed, and that no large-scale infrastructure projects are permitted within the boundaries of the property.

The cancellations of the license for exploitation of a carbonate deposit near the SKNP and of the proposed hydro-electric power station in the vicinity of the KSNR, are welcomed. The reconfirmation of the cancellation of the proposed fish channel to connect Kronotskoye Lake with the sea, already noted with satisfaction by the Committee, is positive.

It is noted that the mass mortality of marine organisms on the eastern coast of Kamchatka in 2020 was caused by the rapid blooming of harmful marine microalgae and does not appear to have caused long term impact on the flora and fauna in the region. The State Party should continue to monitor the impacts of the event on the OUV of the property.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not yet take place at the time of writing the report, but will be organized as soon as feasible.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.109**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Reiterates its utmost concern that the boundaries of the South Kamchatka Nature Park (SKNP) have been modified at national level, thereby removing the legal protection of part of the property to facilitate inappropriate development alongside reports of a draft law which would allow the boundaries of federally protected areas to be changed to accommodate economic activities and recalls that such removal of the legal protection of part of the property constitutes a clear potential danger to the property as foreseen under Paragraph 180(b) (i) of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. ***Decides therefore to inscribe Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
5. *Requests the State Party to develop a set of corrective measures and a proposal for a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), focused around restoring the appropriate legal protection regime throughout the entire property and addressing other urgent requests related to the impacts of development projects;*
6. *Reiterates the need to deploy the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as feasible in order to assist the State Party in the development of corrective measures, including the restoration of the legal protection of the property;*
7. *Considers that the 'Three Volcanoes Park' project, as proposed, does not constitute a suitable approach for sustainable tourism development in the property and would jeopardize its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party not to proceed with the project, as proposed, in its current location and to finalize the Strategic Environmental Assessment to inform the Master Plan for Tourism Development, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;*
8. *Welcomes the presentation of an action plan to implement the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the progress achieved and also requests the State Party to ensure that the remaining recommendations are implemented by the end*

of 2023, in particular the improvement of the zonation of the property, the creation of effective buffer zones around the components, and action to control and limit unsustainable tourism;

9. *Notes the measures to clarify the functional zoning of the property, and urges the State Party to substantially increase the area within the property under a strict protection regime in order to respond to the protection requirements, as recommended by the 2019 mission and previous Committee decisions;*
10. *Welcomes the cancellation of the license for exploitation of a carbonate deposit near the South Kamchatka Nature Park, the proposed hydro-electric power station in the vicinity of the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve as well as the proposed construction of a fish channel to connect Kronotskoye Lake with the sea;*
11. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

27. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ix)(x)

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/900/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/900/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2008: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2009: High-level visit by the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee; May 2010: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management System/Management Plan (lack of Management Plan)
- Legal framework (weakening of conservation controls and laws)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (impacts of proposed tourism infrastructure development)
- Ground transport infrastructure (road construction)
- Illegal activities (deforestation)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/900/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/900/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The construction of the Lagonaki Mountain ski resort is still being considered. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the impact of the proposed resort on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The decision to proceed with the construction will only be taken after approval by the World Heritage Committee;
- No large-scale infrastructure is planned within the boundaries of the property;
- The legal protection regime of the Lagonaki Plateau is determined by its 'statutory protection regime'; the economic development of the part of the Lagonaki Biosphere Polygon inside the property is neither possible nor planned;
- The State Party considers it has no obligation with regard to the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge nor the Sochi National Park as they are not part of the property;
- Decision 97 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Adygeya 'On the reorganization of the upper reaches of the river Pshékha and Pshékhaskha nature monument (PPNM)' of 21 May 2020 provides for the possibility of building linear infrastructure and hydraulic engineering structures. However, the Constitution of the Russian Federation states that international treaties are an integral part of its legal system and thus any construction in the property, which contradicts the Convention or its Operational Guidelines, cannot be undertaken;
- The road project to Lunnaya Polyana has been discontinued;
- Colchic Boxwood stands, which have been impacted by invasive boxwood moth, are regenerating naturally. Populations of rare and endangered species are stable.

On 29 October 2021, the State Party submitted a boundary clarification for the property. On 20 January 2022, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the submitted documentation cannot be considered as a boundary clarification. At the request of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre provided further detailed technical clarifications on 5 April 2022.

On 4 April 2022, 30 August 2022 and 30 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third-party information to the State Party on a range of issues, including the Lagonaki Mountain resort, the protection regime for the Lagonaki Biosphere Polygon, plans for the construction of a new ski resort in the Tabunnaya Mountain range within the Caucasus State Nature Reserve, new regulations for the Reserve and the Bolshoy Thach Nature Park, forest management regulations for the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge, road projects in the property and adjoining protected areas, as well as reported plans for the construction of a highway and railway connecting North Caucasus to the Black Sea and crossing the property and information that a draft law was under preparation that would facilitate changes to the boundaries of federally protected areas for the purposes of economic development.

At the time of preparation of this report, no reply has been received from the State Party. The State Party also did not submit updates to its 2022 state of conservation report by the deadline of 1 March 2023.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested for the property and originally planned for 14 to 18 March 2022, had to be postponed and could not, to date, be rescheduled due to logistical constraints.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the efforts to clarify the boundaries of the property are noted, the boundaries submitted on 29 October 2021 are not consistent with the documented boundary of the property as inscribed in 1999, notably in the Lagonaki area of the Caucasus State Nature Reserve and the Protected Buffer Zone in the Republic of Adygeya. In both cases, areas which are clearly documented within the inscribed boundaries were claimed to be outside the property. Consistent with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines and in line with previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on this property, a proposal to remove these areas can only be considered through a significant boundary modification. It is recalled that the 1999 IUCN evaluation considered the entire Lagonaki area to be an essential element to express the OUV of the property under the criteria for which it was inscribed.

Confirmation that the construction of a ski resort in the Lagonaki area is still being considered is therefore of utmost concern. Noting the above, regarding the boundaries of the property, it is important to stress that the entire Lagonaki Biosphere Polygon, which was included in the Caucasus State Nature Reserve in 1992 and inscribed within the property following the recommendations of the IUCN evaluation, has to be considered an integral part of the property. The State Party should therefore be requested to clarify

how the development of a ski resort in the Lagonaki area is consistent with the statement that no large-scale infrastructure is planned within the boundaries of the property and that no economic development is possible or planned in the Lagonaki Biosphere Polygon within the property, including by providing details on the planned resort, indicating its exact location. Reports on plans for another ski development within the property, on Tabunnaya Mountain range, add further concerns. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterate once again that the construction of large-scale infrastructure within the property, including on Lagonaki Plateau, would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. According to information received from third parties, although no construction work has started at Lagonaki, preparatory work such as land surveys, is underway.

The potential impact of infrastructure developments in the immediate vicinity of the property, including ongoing road construction in the Sochi National Park, which is reportedly less than 1.5km from the property, and approved changes to the regulations of the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge allowing for roads and tourism infrastructure, as well as reported plans for ski infrastructure on the Grusheviv ridge, within the strictly protected area of the Sochi National Park, are of serious concern. Whilst these areas are outside the property, their importance for its integrity is recognised through ensuring habitat connectivity, crucial for the ongoing reintroduction of the Persian leopard and the survival of other key endangered species. Therefore, it is highly likely that such construction will negatively impact the property's OUV. Given the potential impact on the OUV, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to prohibit construction of large-scale infrastructure in these areas and request it to immediately halt the reported projects until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The information that the works on the Lunnaya Polyana road have been discontinued following the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission is noted but contradicts third party information (based on satellite images), that works are on-going. It will be important that the State Party clarifies the validity of this information, and the status of this roadwork is verified by the requested Reactive Monitoring mission.

The assurance provided that changes to zoning of PPNM will not result in any construction inside the property which contradicts the Convention or its Operational Guidelines, is welcome. It should be ensured that the legal regulations applicable to all components of the property, in particular the Nature Parks and Nature Monuments managed by the Republic of Adygeya, meet the protection requirements of the Operational Guidelines.

The information that Colchic Boxwood stands are recovering through natural regeneration and that populations of rare and endangered species are stable, is welcome.

The information that plans have been drawn up for a new highway and railway connecting North Caucasus to the Black Sea is of utmost concern as it would bisect the property. Although the plan is reportedly not yet approved, the State Party should be requested not to proceed with these developments, in line with the assurances given at the time of inscription of the property that the highway project would not be implemented. In response to the reports that a draft law was under preparation, which, if approved, would allow the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, including national parks, to be altered for economic reasons, it should be recalled that the legal protection status is an integral part of the OUV of the property and that the removal of the legal protection from parts of the property would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Overall, it remains of great concern that large-scale infrastructure projects continue to be proposed within and immediately adjacent to the property. Reiterating the very clear position adopted by the World Heritage Committee that large scale infrastructure is not compatible with the World Heritage status of the property, the State Party should be requested to define a strategic approach to tourism development which respects this position, including through the SEA reported to be underway, by identifying suitable alternative locations for tourism infrastructure development outside the boundaries of the property, as well as appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that any tourism-related development in the vicinity of the property is consistent with the conservation of the property's OUV.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not yet take place at the time of writing the report, but will be organized as soon as feasible to assess a range of issues, including whether the envisaged infrastructure and road development projects, including their cumulative impacts, represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission will also need to assess other threats to the property including the scale of impacts from invasive alien species and the status and adequacy of legal protection.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7B.25**, **42 COM 7B.80**, **43 COM 7B.18** and **44 COM 7B.110**, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Reiterates its deep concern that the construction of the Lagonaki Mountain Resort remains under consideration, with preparatory work underway, and the alleged planning of another ski resort within the property on Tabunnaya Mountain range, and requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with more details on both projects, indicating their exact location with respect to the inscribed property and explaining how this development is consistent with statements committing to no large-scale infrastructure development in the property;
4. Reiterates its position that the construction of large-scale infrastructure within the property, including on Lagonaki Plateau, would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to confirm that no infrastructure is planned within the property as inscribed in 1999;
5. Recalls that the entire Lagonaki plateau was included in the property on the basis of the 1999 IUCN evaluation, which considered the area to be an essential element to express the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular, for its rich biodiversity, especially its high carabid species diversity, and the fact that the area includes two thirds of the site's vascular plant species including many endemics and therefore also requests the State Party to confirm unequivocally that no economic development is possible or planned in the Lagonaki plateau;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party not to permit any construction of large-scale infrastructure in the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge and Sochi National Park immediately adjacent to the property given its potential impact on the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to immediately halt the reported infrastructure projects until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
7. Also urges the State Party to ensure that the legal regulations applying to all components of the property, in particular the Nature Parks and Nature Monuments managed by the Republic of Adygeya, are brought into line with the protection requirements of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Expresses its utmost concern over reports of a possible new draft law which would allow the boundaries of federally protected areas to be changed to accommodate economic activities and recalls that the legal protection status is an integral part of the OUV of the property and that the removal of the legal protection from parts of the property would constitute a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Notes the confirmation by the State Party that no further works have been undertaken on the road to Lunnaya Polyana, invites nevertheless the State Party to further clarify the status of this roadwork in response to third party information (based on satellite

imagery) indicating that works are on-going, and recalls the importance of ensuring that all infrastructure facilities, even if deemed necessary for management and research purposes, have no negative impacts on the OUV and that an EIA should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any final decision is taken on this development, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Expresses its utmost concern about the plans for the construction of a new highway and railway connecting North Caucasus to the Black Sea, including routes which would bisect the property, and further urges the State Party not to proceed with these developments, in line with the assurances provided at the time of inscription that no linear infrastructure projects such as highways or railways would be allowed within the property;
11. Reiterating its position that the construction of large-scale infrastructure within the property, including on Lagonaki plateau, would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, requests furthermore the State Party to define a strategic approach to tourism development which respects this position, including through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) reported to be underway, by identifying suitable alternative locations for tourism infrastructure development outside the boundaries of the property, as well as appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that any tourism-related development in the vicinity of the property is consistent with the conservation of the property's OUV;
12. Reiterates the need to deploy the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as feasible in order to assist the State Party in the evaluation of the state of conservation of the property, in particular the status of the envisaged infrastructure and road development projects inside and near the property, and their cumulative impacts and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, as well as to assess other threats to the property including the scale of impacts from invasive alien species and the status and adequacy of the legal protection of the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

MIXED PROPERTIES

AFRICA

29. Bandiagara Cliffs (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

ARAB STATES

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

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

33. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti) (C 180)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iv)(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/180/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1982-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 246,110

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,780 for the July 2010 Technical Mission partially funded by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO Havana Office Technical Visit; July 2010: Joint Expert Technical mission; March 2011: UNESCO Preparatory mission for Haiti Donor's Conference; January 2012: World Heritage Centre Technical mission; March 2012: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; May 2013: ICOMOS mission; May 2013: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; July 2013: Technical Assistance mission World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS; February 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (lack of conservation, management and risk preparedness plans)
- Water damage (issue resolved)
- Vandalism (issue resolved)
- Earthquake (vulnerability)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/>

Conservation issues

On 22 March 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180> and addresses the issues raised by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 7B.68**:

- The preparation of the conservation and management plans and the definition of the buffer zone are part of the technical assistance programme implemented by the UNESCO Office in Port au Prince in the framework of the project "Preservation du Patrimoine et Appui au Secteur Touristique" (PAST) that is financed by the World Bank. The implementation of this project was interrupted but the UNESCO Office has now retaken the activities with a team of international and national consultants. In this context, the mission to the property of an expert in management plans

was undertaken in the framework of the PAST project in February 2022. The present status of the management plan is provided as an annex to the State Party report (complementary information to be provided in April 2022 – see below);

- The management structure will be reinforced as part of the management plan. The financing of the management authority will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Communication, once the PAST project is concluded;
- It is stressed that all works of the Route RN003 within the park (a stretch of 5,8 km) have been halted for the past three years and that alternative solutions are still under consideration, particularly option 2 at the east of the park from Dondon via Gran Riviere du Nord. Recently traffic on RN003 increased due to safety issues on RN001 but this road is now operational again for 70%. The State Party recognizes that the temporarily traffic increase put a pressure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The impact will be assessed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The European Union (EU) undertook a study on the construction of the alternative road east of the park (option 2). Preliminary costs estimates have been made for road improvement through the park and the alternative route option 2. A phased implementation of works could be considered taking into account that all documentation that is necessary for the bidding process for the improvement of the 'Park Road' is available, with the exception of the agreement of UNESCO;
- It is recalled that in 2019 a technical ICOMOS mission was requested to advise the State Party on the means to improve this road. This mission had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the State Party now reiterates its request for this mission;
- The project that the State Party submitted in 2020 had the aim to improve the road through the park. As no improvement has been undertaken over the past three years, the conditions of the dirt road continue to deteriorate and pressure from the population is increasing. A joint mission by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the Institute for the Preservation of National Heritage (ISPAN), the EU, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MTPTC) and the BON (Bureau de l'Ordonnateur National) is requested to look into the necessary improvement of the road through the park. It is also reiterated that ISPAN does have the capacity to study and implement the improvement of this road based on earlier experiences in the execution of the park road Sans Souci – Choiseul – Citadelle during 1982-1991;
- The secondary road from Carrefour Seize at the RN003 to the Choiseul parking area would constitute a very interesting access to the Citadelle that would substantially benefit the inhabitants of Dondon. This road is intended to be used exclusively by foot or by horses. Due to socio-political and economic circumstances, to date no further studies could be undertaken;
- Regarding the Church of Milot, several technical missions have been undertaken and monitoring devices have been installed to evaluate the structural stability of the surviving structures. Emergency conservation measures will be financed by the PAST project, in the framework of a broader study of the Sans Souci area. A detailed technical report is provided in an annex to the state of conservation report.

On 19 April 2022, the State Party submitted the following additional documentation:

- A preliminary version of the management plan 2023-2028;
- A report on the financial estimates for the improvement of RN003 St. Rafael – Barrière Battant. This report estimates the costs of the improvement of the road through the park at approximately 70 million euros. With the addition of the deviation around the park the total would be approximately 120 million euros. The report proposes a phased approach that would allow the works through the park to be initiated while the necessary further studies for the deviation are undertaken. If this were approved by UNESCO, the bidding process for the road through the park could be initiated.

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

The extensive state of conservation report is appreciated, and the State Party should be commended that it has continued management and conservation actions at the World Heritage property, in spite of extremely complex circumstances. The programme for awareness raising among the population of seismic risks and preventive measures of vernacular architecture is equally commended.

It is noted that the international assistance through the UNESCO Office in Port au Prince has been retaken and that the preparation of the management and conservation plans is now underway with the assistance of a team of international and national experts. The submission of the preliminary thorough version of the management plan is acknowledged. For the Advisory Bodies to be able to undertake a review, it is recommended that the State Party be urged to conclude these plans within the shortest time-frame possible and that the finalized documents be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

If the state of conservation report and additional documentation are understood correctly, the State Party maintains its position that the section of the road RN003 that passes through the park needs to be improved as a 'Park Road' as was proposed in the state of conservation report of 2020. This is in spite of the severe reservations expressed by the Committee at its last session that the proposed mitigation measures associated with proposed amendments cannot be seen to mitigate the adverse impacts arising from the rehabilitation of the RN003 and would pose an imminent danger to the OUV of the property, and, moreover, that no decision on the upgrading of the road within the limits of the property should be taken until all alternative solutions have been duly studied and a mission has been undertaken as soon as circumstances allow. At the same time, it appears that alternatives to the RN003 outside the property, particularly option 2 from Dondon via Gran Rivière du Nord, are still being explored. The State Party requests a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission together with the EU, ISPAN and other national agencies involved (MTPTC and BON). It is recommended that the State Party be requested to invite a Reactive Monitoring mission to address both matters: how proposals for the road through the park (as a 'Park Road') might be amended to avoid danger to OUV, and the study of possible alternative routes to the RN003 around the park, in particular option 2. These matters are inseparable, and the risk should be avoided that only a damaging 'Park Road' is executed, and the deviation road is discarded or postponed at a later stage.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its position that the impacts arising from the rehabilitation of the RN003 road through the property that have been reflected in decisions of the Committee since 2010, and confirmed in the recent Environmental Impact Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment, would pose an imminent danger to the OUV of the property. This road should not be substantially improved and should be used exclusively for local traffic and access to the park and its monuments, while the deviation around the park is a necessity to preserve the OUV of the property. The fact that all the works related to the RN003 have been suspended for three years and that a mission has been proposed by the State Party to provide orientations prior to any decision and possible developments should be noted.

It is noted that further studies on the upgrading of the secondary road from Carrefour Seize to the parking area at Choiseul are pending. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit detailed documentation on this project, including an analysis of its potential impact on the OUV of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

ISPAN is commended for the emergency intervention at the church of Milot to secure the remaining structure of the church, including the construction of a temporary roof, as well the monitoring programme that has been put in place.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.39** and **44 COM 7B.68**, adopted at 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Also recalling the numerous reports of the Advisory and Reactive Monitoring missions and their recommendations to the State Party on the conservation and management of the property;*

4. *Notes that it has been difficult for the State Party to advance in the implementation of these recommendations due to the extremely complex internal circumstances and the COVID-19 pandemic and commends the State Party for the continued attention it has given to management and conservation actions as presented in its state of conservation report;*
5. *Noting that the preparation of essential tools for the good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans, has considerably progressed and is underway, requests the State Party to submit a finalized version of these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they become available;*
6. *Appreciates the information provided by the State Party that while it considers that improvement of the existing road through the park is an urgent necessity, an alternative solution to the RN003 east of the park (option 2) is still under consideration and notes that all the works related to the RN003 have been suspended for three years;*
7. *Reiterates its position that the road through the park (the so-called 'Park Road') should be exclusively for local use and access to the monuments, that the proposed mitigation measures associated with its proposed improvements cannot be seen to mitigate the adverse impacts which would pose an imminent danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that a deviation of the RN003 around the park is an absolute necessity to preserve the OUV of the property;*
8. *Considering that all above matters are intimately linked and inseparable, also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to:
 - a) *Advise the State Party on:
 - (i) *The necessity and means to improve the section of the road through the park as a Park Road, in ways that mitigate the highly adverse impacts of the current proposals as identified by the Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments that the State Party already has undertaken,*
 - (ii) *Ways of progressing as a matter of urgency the deviation of the RN003 to the east of the park (the so-called option 2),**
 - b) *Assess the reasons for delays in the finalization of essential tools for the good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans;**
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to halt the construction of the RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and further requests the State Party to confirm that the future route of the RN003 will not pass through the property as it would seriously affect its integrity and its OUV, and to inform the Committee as soon as possible if and when the necessary studies for defining the deviation outside the property will be made;*
10. *Appreciates the emergency actions the State Party is taking in response to the fire, which destroyed the Church of Milot in April 2020 and requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of any further development and to submit conservation reports and restoration proposals to the World Heritage Centre for analysis by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger***

AFRICA

34. 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 <https://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 <https://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; USD 100,000 in 2021-2022 through UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation

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; February-March 2022: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of a national legislative mechanism for the protection of cultural heritage (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- Major deterioration of almost 50% of the earthen structural components (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- Lack and loss of documentation on the site (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- 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, communication, 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>. This provides responses to requests of the Committee at its 43rd session in Decision **43 COM 7B.103**. A World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission due to be undertaken in December 2021 was undertaken in February-March 2022. The mission report is also available at the above-mentioned web address.

It is noted that on 28 May 2021, after the finalization of the state of conservation report submitted to the 44th extended session of the Committee, the State Party had also submitted a memorandum which provided details on a study commissioned by a French architect on modifications to the project for the

creation of the Museum of the Kings and Amazons of Danxomè (MURAD) and a first version of an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). A revised HIA was submitted in December 2021, the final version followed in February 2022.

On 25 February 2022, ICOMOS submitted to the State Party a Technical Review (TR) of the revised proposals for the museum projects and the revised version of the HIA, which covered both the museum project and conservation of the palaces.

The State Party report includes the following:

- Various studies are underway to inform the development of a specific restoration plan based on adequate surveys and research;
- During 2022, the National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and Tourism Development (ANPT for "Agence Nationale de promotion des Patrimoines et de développement du Tourisme") will gradually implement a vast conservation and tourism development programme which will encompass the following:
 - Rehabilitation of the official palaces of kings Ghézo, Glèlè, Agoli-Agbo and Gbéhanzin (Dowomè),
 - Relocation of the former headquarters of the Management Board of the Royal Families of Abomey (CAFRA) and the development of a new headquarters in the backyard of the Dowomè Palace,
 - Redevelopment of the IFAN (Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire) site into visitor reception, offices, conservation workshops, storage facilities and car park,
 - Undertaking studies on the layout of exhibition rooms in the proposed New Museum,
 - Installing appropriate fire detection systems in the main buildings;
- The 2022 Annual Work Plan of the Ministry of Culture will provide for the implementation of a Risk and Disaster Management Plan for the property. To inform the Plan, a pre-assessment mission to consider the level of fire safety at the property was carried out;
- Pending the implementation of future major practical fire prevention measures, firewalls have been rehabilitated around palaces;
- The State's authority at the property has been re-affirmed as evidenced by the demolition in 2021 of a new construction in front of the Akaba Palace;
- Since the end of 2021, encroachment of the property has been considerably reduced as a result of:
 - Awareness raising sessions for local residents,
 - The intention to erect notices in 2022 throughout the buffer zone,
- A new governance model will be implemented shortly.

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

In addition to the report submitted by the State Party, the present analysis takes also into consideration the findings of the 2022 joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

The State Party has re-affirmed its authority at the property and supported continuing measures to address illegal development and encroachment of the property. It is noted that further urgently needed measures to improve governance and financial management are envisaged. As pointed out by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, this is growingly important with a view to the new museum as it is essential that the management of the property and the museum be merged to ensure that the conservation, management and promotion of the palaces, their history and symbolism, are reinforced by the museum project rather than being subordinated to it.

The HIA that was provided prior to the mission covered both the new museum and the restoration projects for four palaces. Following receipt of revised plans and an HIA in May 2021, discussions were held with the State Party resulting in a modified HIA submitted in December 2021. This was addressed by an ICOMOS TR submitted to the State Party in February 2022. The TR noted the benefits of the proposed reduction in size of the museum indicating the preferred option that was presented and

considered to be possible in principle. It also indicated that overall the proposals may lead to a slight negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and that these negative impacts needed to be assessed further, notably as the museum project's conceptualisation at large develops, with appropriate mitigation measures identified and revised plans submitted for review.

Proposed modifications to the designs of the new museum have been made, as requested by the Committee to make it less dominant, so that the Amazon court continues to be intelligible as a large ceremonial open space. As the recent Reactive Monitoring mission has revealed, there is a unanimous understanding by all the local communities of Abomey that placing the museum in this court, which acts as a link between the different royal families, would support the unity and social cohesion of the communities. Indeed, although the downscaled volume of the museum would reduce the depth of the occupation of the Amazon court, the mission confirmed that it would retain good legibility and circulation between the palaces and would allow the continuation of the performance of traditional ceremonies by the local communities and the royal families.

While the question of the location of the museum appears to have now been cleared, more clarification will be needed to ensure that the project integrates all measures to avoid negative impact to the OUV of the property. The revised museum will now contain only exhibition spaces, but without indicating whether storage and conservation spaces for objects are included, while the other spaces and services for secondary uses of the museum, such as restaurant, museum shop, crafts workshops, cultural events, etc. would be relocated in the various palaces and the old IFAN building. However, the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission stressed that a comprehensive integrated plan should be developed to provide a clear and complete assessment of all aspects of the museum project and on how the new proposal reintegrate the function of the components within the property.

Moreover, the technical details concerning the treatment of the surface of the Amazon court, the materials to be used for the museum, the functional links between the different spaces, the access of visitors, the scenario and the scenography of the exhibition, the cultural and scientific programming, as well as the detailed timetable of its implementation are to be clearly clarified in the integrated plan. Studies are said to be completed in 2022 and the construction work would be carried out in 2023 and 2024. It is therefore essential that these elements are developed and submitted as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Advisory Bodies.

The TR also noted that the proposed conservation project, as defined in the HIA, covered only four of the palaces and thus only part of the World Heritage property and should be extended to cover all ten palaces, as requested by the Committee. The conservation work could be undertaken in stages, but full details of the overall proposed conservation work need to be defined, planned, programmed, budgeted and submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre before work commences.

While the link between the new museum and the conservation project needs to be further clarified in the integrated plan, significant progress has been made with the Museum project over the past two years. The work on drafting the urgently needed Recovery/Conservation plan should be accelerated. There is also concern that in advance of the plan being drafted it is stated that the ANPT will start a programme of rehabilitation work on four of the palaces in 2022.

Fire protection measures are being designed and will be implemented as part of the ANPT programme, while preparation of an overall Risk and Disaster Management Plan for the property was foreseen for 2022 that should be integrated in the management plan of the site to the effect of considering the property and the new museum within it.

Finally, it is to be noted that since September 2022, the State Party and UNESCO have been engaged in revising the Framework Agreement that was initially signed in 2017. This Agreement includes a large-scale project for the "Strengthening, safeguarding and promoting the tangible and intangible, cultural and historical heritage of Benin", for an amount of USD 4,85 million. It is hoped that the Agreement will become effective and operational (at the time of finalisation of the present report, it was not yet signed) and will then provide capacity-building for professionals to protect and promote the property and provide technical and scientific support for the development of the new museum, with the ambition to make Benin a centre of expertise in the field of museums and heritage, and for the promotion of sustainable tourism.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Thanks the State Party to have invited and facilitated the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property that took place in February/March 2022, and requests the State Party to start implementing the mission's recommendations with no delay;
4. Welcomes the State Party's re-affirmation of its authority at the property and the continuing measures to address illegal development and encroachment of the property;
5. Further welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to revising the 2017 UNESCO-Benin Framework Agreement, which includes the proposal of a large-scale project for the "Strengthening, safeguarding and promoting the tangible and intangible, cultural and historical heritage of Benin", which would provide capacity-building for professionals to protect and promote the property, as well as technical and scientific support for the development of the new museum and the promotion of sustainable tourism;
6. Notes that further urgently needed measures to improve governance and financial management, are envisaged, and encourages the State Party in particular to merge the management of the property and the museum to ensure that the conservation and presentation of the palaces, their history and symbolism, are reinforced by the museum project rather than being subordinated to it;
7. Also notes that an overall Risk and Disaster Management Plan for the property is foreseen for 2022 and that fire protection measures are being designed and will be implemented as part of the National Agency for the Promotion of Heritage and Tourism Development (ANPT) programme for this year, and requests that it should be integrated in the management plan of the site to the effect of considering the property and the new museum within it;
8. Also welcomes the proposed modifications to the designs of the new museum as requested by the Committee to make it less dominant so that the Amazon court continues to be intelligible as a large ceremonial open space, and while acknowledging the unanimous understanding by all the local communities of Abomey that the Amazon court acts as a link between the different royal families supporting the unity and social cohesion of the communities, takes note of the confirmation by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission that despite a reduced depth of the occupation of the Amazon court, it would retain good legibility and circulation between the palaces and allow the continuation of the performance of traditional ceremonies by the local communities and the royal families;
9. Further notes that more information on the museum project is needed to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests that an integrated plan concerning the treatment of the surface of the Amazon court, the materials to be used, the functional links between the different spaces, the access of visitors, the scenario and the scenography of the exhibition, the cultural and scientific programming, as well as the detailed timetable of its implementation are developed and shared as soon as possible with the World Heritage Centre and the

Advisory Bodies for consideration, including appropriate mitigation measures identified with a revised plan for the museum together with a further revised Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that is clearly based on detailed attributes of OUV, before launching the construction works foreseen to be carried out in 2023 and 2024;

10. *Further welcomes the link between the museum project as set out in the HIA, but notes that the proposed restoration project only covers four of the ten palaces that make up the property, and regrets that whereas considerable progress has been made over the past two years in developing the Museum Project, so far work has not started on the development of the urgently needed Recovery/Conservation Plan for the palaces that will address their highly vulnerable authenticity and integrity;*
11. *Reiterates its requests for the restoration project to cover all ten palaces in the property, not just the official palaces or those parts that might be accessible to the public;*
12. *Also reiterates its request for a specific Recovery/Conservation Plan to be developed for all ten palaces, and for a draft outline including a phased and feasible programme of restoration and conservation, based on adequate surveys and research so as to establish a baseline from which to measure progress, and for this draft to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before work commences;*
13. *Notes with concern that in advance of the Recovery/Conservation Plan being drafted it is stated that the ANPT will start a programme of rehabilitation work on four of the palaces in 2022, and requests therefore the State Party to accelerate the development of the outline of the Recovery/Conservation Plan including a phased approach for its approval by the World Heritage Committee;*
14. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, a progress report, and by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

35. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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/18/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1980-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 93,300

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 800,000 for the "Conservation Action Plan for Lalibela" - Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Norwegian Funds-in-Trust); USD 59,032 Heritage Emergency Fund;

Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2005, 2008, 2009: World Heritage Centre follow-up missions; 2006, 2007, 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; May 2022: UNESCO expert mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of a Management Plan for the property (issue resolved)
- Lack of clearly defined boundaries for the property and the buffer zone
- Impact of the four temporary shelters constructed in 2008
- Insufficient urban and architectural regulations
- Urban development and encroachment around the property
- Impact of rainwater and humidity
- Impact of earthquakes
- Geological and architectural characteristics of the property
- Demolition of most of the traditional “tukul” dwellings

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 January 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/documents>. In May 2022, a report on the situation of the site was provided following UNESCO’s technical mission to assess the property following an armed conflict in 2021, that resulted in a disturbance in the management of the property. Despite the national crisis that impacted cultural administration, the state of conservation and mission reports present progress on several preservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- National Government Decree No. 344/2015 (August 2015) is provided, which defines the churches with their surroundings as a reserved area, and indicates the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone with GPS coordinates and a detailed topographic map;
- Brief information about the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is presented;
- An outline is provided of the Sustainable Lalibela Project as an example of a people-centred approach to the conservation of the property;
- An outline is provided of an Ethiopian cultural heritage digital resource centre as part of the overall Ethiopian-French Lalibela programme;
- Preparatory training activities have been organized to activate the local advisory body envisaged in the above-mentioned parliamentary decree, involving students from the Lalibela Institute of Heritage Management in Lalibela, with the aim of revising the property’s management plan;
- A classification of the most typical types of damage occurring at the property is presented, as well as a brief summary of the stages of conservation activities at Lalibela in the 20th and 21st centuries;
- The consequences of both the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts on the site and its communities;
- The recommendations and conclusions of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Lalibela Restoration and Enhancement project;
- Analysis and Recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

In addition, following the State Party’s report on the general diagnosis of the conservation work previously carried out on the churches, assessing the durability and suitability of the various measures, the ESIA and HIA provide critical analysis of the previous work. The ESIA and HIA bring additional information to better assess the State Party’s view that the elimination of the main environmental impacts (e.g., rain and sunlight) on the structures is an effective measure to preserve the churches in the long term. They assist in deciding whether the installation of protective canopies over all the churches proposed to ensure the permanence of the conservation measures is the best option. They provide more information on challenges and opportunities for both the canopy options and traditional practices. Also, how the new shelters must mitigate the negative aspects of the existing canopies as identified by the religious authorities and visitors alike.

Based on detailed 3D documentation of all churches, courtyards and nearby voids, general considerations and design options for permanent roofing of all churches across the property are discussed. A preliminary conceptual design is proposed for the three main architectural groups, illustrated with digital architectural models, consisting of a large wave-shaped canopy structure covering the churches and their courtyards. The irregular heights and depths of the roof shape are to be

constructed with local labour and without machining, using lightweight, nationally available bamboo elements with concrete foundations anchored to the ground.

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

The state of conservation report indicates that the State Party has initiated a number of preparatory measures to improve the management system for the property at the national and local levels. It is noted that the boundaries of the property have been clarified at the national level, but the State Party has still not submitted a formal request for Minor Boundary Modification that includes a vision statement on the urban growth and development of the city of Lalibela and how the World Heritage property is related to it, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its last decision. It is also noted that the condition of the shelters was verified by independent certified experts, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its previous decision, in which it confirmed the integrity of the existing shelters. Although the visual inspection and on-site instrumentation are considered satisfactory, a formal computational analysis has confirmed that the new formal standards are not met under extreme wind conditions, as noted in previous studies by national experts. A maintenance strategy for the existing shelters is required to keep their functionality until their subsequent dismantling at a later stage. There is a need to continue the systematic collection of environmental data and its effects on churches and shelters over time to provide a basis for determining critical variables affecting the site.

Regarding the shelters erected over the rock-hewn churches to protect them from adverse weathering, the Advisory Bodies expressed their reservations about extensive roofing of the property as a proposed solution to the preservation problems of the excavated church structures, in their February, June and July 2021 technical reviews. They pointed out that the physical fabric of the churches varies throughout the property, and that there is insufficient data to predict the impacts and potential new threats from permanent sheltering, particularly with respect to changes in the microclimate inside the churches and shrinkage of materials due to desiccation, but also with respect to conservation and maintenance measures that must accompany any long-term strategy for the property. The final reports of the ESIA and HIA conducted on the conceptual stage of the proposed canopy solution submitted by the State Party have pointed out the same gaps.

On 31 January 2023, the State Party submitted reports including the results of detailed investigations carried out under the French-Ethiopian bilateral programme in support of Lalibela together with (ESIA) and (HIA). The reports show data and assess conservation efforts since the early 20th century for both sheltered and unsheltered churches. They contrast the results of preservation efforts under sheltered conditions allegedly to require less frequent preservation cycles with the results of preservation efforts that require regular maintenance and seasonal repair under unsheltered conditions. The State Party draws the conclusion that the most adapted viable solution is to protect all churches, but in a way that mitigates the negative impacts of current shelters as perceived by the local community and visitors. As such, a new approach to protection is proposed in which all churches and adjacent courtyards would be covered with large canopies so that the rock-hewn churches would not be exposed to the weather. The canopies would be made of a mesh of nationally available bamboo with a coloured textile on top that would harmonize with the stone colour of the churches. While these considerations are yet on a conceptual level, an open architectural competition relating to the construction of a protection and safeguarding canopy for the property is proposed to reach to a technical mature proposal. Since vernacular bamboo architecture is known in Ethiopia, it is assumed that such a structure would allow local community participation in construction and maintenance and thus the preferred solution proposed by the State Party.

The ESIA and the analysis of the HIA identify the risks associated with the proposed megastructure canopy solution as very high. The canopy supports would require non-reversible interventions to anchor the foundations deep in the ground around the churches to support the long spans of the roof structures. Given the limited life cycle of the material a program of replacement of the bamboo elements in-situ would be required after a few decades. The reports summarize that more data and information are needed, including evaluation of alternatives, considering the complexity of management and solutions adapted to the geological situation of the individual churches, before decisions can be made about long-term coverage of the churches.

The current report provided by the State Party is a step toward the direction indicated by the Committee to establish a sound scientific basis upon which a far-reaching decision of total coverage of the entire property might be assessed.

As pointed out by the ESIA and HIA reports, the Advisory Bodies still consider that not enough data has yet been collected to define a state of environmental equilibrium for each of the eleven churches,

adapted to their specific conditions, nor to set out precisely what impact shelters might have, in both positive and negative terms. The difficulty is that achieving such convincing data sets would take considerable time. The Advisory Bodies thus maintain their reservations towards extensive permanent sheltering as a viable approach to long-term preservation at the current time. Nevertheless, the Advisory Bodies recognize that the current shelters no longer meet formal safety requirements.

In these circumstances, and acknowledging the many uncertainties that exist, as well as the added complexities of climate change and societal transformations in the coming decades, the Advisory Bodies consider that new shelter options should be considered but as a temporary solution based on pilot tests as proposed by the ESIA and HIA and initially outside the perimeter of the churches. The experiences gained on the performance and acceptability of different technical solutions must be reconsidered and reassessed on the basis of ongoing monitoring and maintenance works as well as feedback from local communities. Further geotechnical, hydrological and other studies recommended by the Scientific Committee should also be considered.

Furthermore, the Advisory Bodies consider that shelters should be introduced on a partnership basis with the aim of involving local communities in dedicated monitoring, maintenance and conservation of the churches as part of regular management practices at the property. To achieve this, the Advisory Bodies reiterate their earlier recommendation to first improve the overall management system of the property, with conservation and maintenance being an integral part of a people-centred approach to preservation implemented by the local community of clergy and laity. This will require a monitoring system that provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact of the proposed canopies on the microclimate of the churches. Details on the dismantling of existing canopies and installation of new ones should be provided.

The proposed innovative and sustainable approach to the design of new shelters using tied bamboo as a structure is welcomed in principle. Further research on the feasibility of the use of bamboo as a structural engineering element of such a scale is needed to determine the critical factors that will allow this concept to become a reality. The current information does not yet suffice to provide the basis for a technical review through the Advisory Bodies at this stage, as pointed out in ESIA and HIA as well but the considerable progress made under difficult conditions is welcomed.

Following the end of the armed conflict, UNESCO conducted an information mission to Lalibela in January 2022, to meet local communities and management authorities. In addition, UNESCO dispatched an assessment mission from 23 to 28 May 2022 to assess the state of conservation of the property and to formulate urgent actions in collaboration with local actors and communities. The mission highlighted the importance of supporting local communities to maintain their cultural traditions, religious and customary practices, which are essential for the OUV of the site, as a living heritage. In addition, the mission stressed the need for improved infrastructures, notably in terms of electricity and water supply. The growing urban pressure and the degradation of the landscape are of increased concern. This mission will be followed by capacity-building activities to safeguard and promote the site.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.105** and **44 COM 7B.118**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party, including the studies from the Environmental Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), on the progress of preparations related to the Ethiopian-French bilateral Sustainable Lalibela project and the further elaboration of adapted design options for canopies proposed to cover all rock-hewn churches;*
4. *Welcomes the results of detailed investigations carried out under the French-Ethiopian bilateral programme in support of Lalibela to collect monitoring data and assess conservation efforts since the early 20th century for both sheltered and unsheltered*

churches and takes note of the recommendations of the ESIA and HIA regarding the current stage of the canopy sheltering proposal;

5. Notes the State Party's conclusion that one of the viable solutions to protect these churches from adverse weathering and stone deterioration is to cover them with permanent shelters, in ways that mitigate the negative impacts of current shelters as perceived by the local community and visitors;
6. Considers that the ESIA and the HIA pointed out that not enough data has been collected yet to define conclusively a state of environmental equilibrium for each of the 11 churches, nor precisely what impact shelters might have, to support the idea of permanent shelters, and requests that a robust monitoring and maintenance regimen be developed on a partnership basis with the aim of involving local communities and implemented as soon as possible, and therefore also considers that the shelter option should continue to be a temporary solution that could be reconsidered and reassessed in the future on the basis of feedback from local communities and ongoing monitoring;
7. Further considers that any new shelters should be introduced on a partnership basis with maintenance and conservation of the churches being an integral part of a people-centred approach to preservation implemented by the local community of clergy and laity;
8. Also takes note of the proposed innovative and sustainable approach to the design of new shelters using tied bamboo as a structure and requests the State Party to undertake further research needed based on data gained from small-size pilot tests as pointed out in the ESIA and HIA on the feasibility of the use of bamboo as a structural engineering element at such a scale, while also acknowledging that the provision of stabilizing anchors will be essential to mitigate the risks resulting from extreme uplift wind conditions;
9. Also requests the State Party, in order to allow final validation of the options proposed, to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision to realize the solution is taken, the following:
 - a) Reports of additional studies recommended by the Scientific Committee (geotechnical, hydrological and other studies deemed necessary),
 - b) Results of additional research conducted on the feasibility of the use of bamboo as a structural engineering element at the required scale,
 - c) Detailed plans for the conservation measures required for each architectural group, including maintenance and monitoring measures,
 - d) The Final Preliminary Design of the canopy options for each architectural group including but not limited to the anchoring system, the water drainage system, the dismantling approach for the existing shelter, and the regular maintenance requirements for the existing and potential new shelter structures, keeping in mind that the canopies should be considered as a temporary conservation solution until more data is available for each group,
 - e) A comprehensive overview of the different components of the Ethiopian-French collaboration project including a draft timetable of planned implementation;
10. Encourages the State Party to continue the dialogue with the French authorities, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the emerging bi-lateral project, to support the development of an integrated conservation plan, with a people-centred approach to conservation and management, based on long-lasting sustainable partnerships with all stakeholders involved;
11. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts in the operationalization of the Local Advisory Committee, according to the Reserved Area regulation, and further requests

the submission of a minor boundary modification that includes all management and planning provisions for the property;

12. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a Vision Statement on growth and development, in line with the 2015 Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention, that respects the OUV of the property and underpins the revised Structure Plan of Lalibela and the Local Development Plan;*
13. *Takes note with satisfaction of the May 2022 UNESCO assessment mission to the site, organized by the World Heritage Centre following the end of the armed conflict and encourages the State Party to implement all the recommendations of this mission;*
14. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

36. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

37. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

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/173/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1998-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 2009: USD 24,000 for the inventory of the public spaces in Zanzibar; 2011: USD 14,000 for capacity-building in managing digital inventory; 2013: USD 49,935 for participatory mapping of HUL (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust). 2010-2013; USD 400,000 for Zanzibar and two other African sites under the World Heritage Cities Programme (Flemish Funds-in-Trust), USD 40 000 for Zanzibar for emergency works and capacity building (Oman FiT)

Previous monitoring missions

May 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; January 2011: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September/October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October/November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/management plan
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Development and environmental pressures, particularly in relation to the Malindi port project (issue resolved)
- Natural disasters and lack of risk-preparedness
- Visitors/tourist pressures
- Housing pressure
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Lack of legal framework
- Commercial development (large shopping mall) particularly in relation to the Darajani Corridor project
- Lack of maintenance of the built fabric

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/> and reports on progress with regard to a number of issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- A draft of the Stone Town Conservation and Heritage Management Plan (STCHMP) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review in May 2021 and will be amended following the ICOMOS technical review;
- The amended management structure has been implemented. Legislative changes to the 2010 Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA) Act to give legal action to this new structure will be completed by June 2022. Spatial planning has progressed;
- The “Safe Mobility Program for Stone Town” Plan (traffic plan) is being implemented, funded by the World Bank Boosting Inclusive Growth in Zanzibar project. This Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The Malindi Container Port relocation is planned to be completed by 2027. The State Party commits to developing a master plan for this area of the property and to evaluating all proposals through Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA);
- The Darajani Corridor development will be aligned with the Michenzani Green Corridor plan, which focuses on the preservation of heritage structures, greening and pedestrianisation. An HIA of the new proposals was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and assessed through an ICOMOS technical review;
- The Bwawani Hotel area redevelopment plan has been aligned with the STCHMP and details will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The stabilisation of the House of Wonders has been completed. The State Party expresses its thanks for the support it received from UNESCO following the collapse in December 2020 and the joint UNESCO, World Monument Fund and Zamani Research Group mission. Plans are now being made for the reconstruction and reuse of this building in collaboration with the State Party of Oman, which has committed funding to the project;
- The State Party of Oman has also agreed to contribute to the stabilisation and restoration of the Palace Museum;
- A utilisation plan for the Tippu Tip House is under development in collaboration with a hotelier and will be submitted for review;
- The State Party and the management of the hotel in the Mambo Msiige building have agreed to gradually implement the mitigation measures and the State Party will submit a timeframe to this end;
- A 5-year implementation plan has been developed to address the Mambo Msiige mitigation measures, the traffic plan, improvement of the management system, capacity building and development controls.

The State Party's report includes again an invitation for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in 2023. It also reports difficulties in securing funds for conservation work and that 15% of the buildings in the property require immediate interventions to safeguard them. Other programmes, including addressing sea erosion and developing a Disaster and Risk Management Plan, urgently require funding.

On 5 February 2023, the State Party of Oman informed the World Heritage Centre of a signing ceremony with a contractor for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders.

On 23 April 2023, the State Party notified the World Heritage Centre of the partial collapse of the historic landmark 'Banayani' tree on the Stone Town waterfront during heavy rain and wind on 18 April 2023. The State Party reported that it would undertake attempts to rehabilitate the viable remains of this protected landmark.

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

The state of conservation of this property, management deficiencies and consequent lack of development have been of concern for a number of years. The collapse of a portion of the House of Wonders in December 2020 highlighted the perilous state of conservation of the property.

In this context, the completion of the draft STCHMP during 2020 is an important milestone. This Plan includes an inventorying of important built attributes, including that of the Malindi Harbour. ICOMOS' technical review of this document in 2021, however highlighted that essential improvements needed to be made to make it an effective tool for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The technical review concluded that the STCHMP should be resubmitted once the amendments have been made, including:

- Placing the protection and maintenance of the OUV central to the aims of the STCHMP, based on a full analysis and understanding of the OUV and the attributes that contribute to it;
- Analysis and identification of the attributes which convey OUV;
- Embedding HIA for proposed interventions as an essential component of the management system of the property;
- Alignment with the Operational Guidelines.

The new proposal for the Darajani Bazaar development was assessed through an HIA and found to support the OUV of the property. Other actions by the State Party, including the stated intention to develop the "Safe Mobility Program for Stone Town" and commitment to proactively developing a master plan for the Malindi Container Terminal and to assessing proposals through HIAs, are commended, but it remains unclear if any progress has been made in these regards.

The contribution of the State Party of Oman to redress the partial collapse of the House of Wonders and restore the Palace Museum is commendable, and actions, such as safeguarding construction elements from the collapsed portion of the House of Wonders, are welcomed. Following the joint UNESCO, World Monument Fund and Zamani Research Group mission, the State Party reports progress in developing plans for both these buildings. The proposed Scientific Committee for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders held its first meeting on 16 January 2023, but the agenda set by the State Party focussed on a proposal for the development of a bus terminal and parking garage (the Malindi Bus Stand) on the Malindi Grounds, which it must be recalled is a protected green space. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies recommended that the State Party submit additional information to allow for a review of the proposed project. In preparation for that meeting, the State Party submitted plans and outcomes of some of the investigations for the House of Wonders requested by the Committee (Decision **44 COM 7B.12**). While thorough technical investigations into the collapse, the geomorphology of the site, and the three-dimensional scanning of the building before and after the collapse have been completed, unfortunately, the rehabilitation proposals do not yet provide for an appropriate and holistic approach to the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders, one of the most emblematic monuments of the Stone Town. In addition, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not aware of either the proposed vision and plan for the monument or the details of the contract entered into with the Sultanate of Oman. The State Party has set up an external committee for the renovation activities in the House of Wonders. The Committee may wish to request all parties engaged in the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders to share any proposals with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, possibly through the forum of the Scientific Committee, as previously requested by the Committee.

The mitigation measures adopted for the Mambo Msiige building date to 2014, with minimum measures identified in 2016, but little progress has been made in their implementation despite repeated Committee requests (Decisions **39 COM 7B.45**, **40 COM 7B.21**, **42 COM 7B.51**). The indication that the State Party and the management authority of this building have agreed to implement these is a step forward, but the “gradual” nature of possible future implementation is not in keeping with past Committee requests.

Equally disconcerting is the report that the Tippu Tip House reuse is under development in collaboration with a hotelier. Previous Reactive Monitoring, Advisory missions, and ICOMOS technical reviews over the last decade have recommended its reuse as a public cultural facility, and the Committee has requested that it be given a public educational use, appropriate for its significant contribution to the OUV of the property (Decision **44 COM 7B.12**).

Likewise, the State Party’s reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission omits issues that are critical to the improvement of the management of the property and the maintenance of its OUV (Decision **44 COM 7B.12**). The reported 5-year implementation plan developed in response to the Committee’s Decision **44 COM 7B.12** (2021) should be submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted again, as in the 2021 State of conservation report, that the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property recommended that the property should not be considered for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at that time due to the positive steps initiated by the State Party. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in 2021 noted that should the lack of effective conservation management, combined with the perilous state of conservation of the property and development pressures not be addressed in the short term, this could warrant the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the Committee at its session in 2023, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies conclude that, despite the State Party’s efforts and the progress made, the future of the OUV of this property remains highly uncertain. Additional threats, including sea erosion, and traffic management, with uncontrolled mobility using motorcycles in the property are emerging in addition to the continued concern over the physical state of conservation of buildings and other issues. The State Party faces a daunting task to improve the state of conservation and the management and protection of this property, harmonise its continuous growth and enhance the good governance of the property, which is increasingly becoming weaker to face threats of uncontrolled transformation and even demolition with the property. Development and conservation, including but not limited to the Malindi Port redevelopment, must be beneficial to the inhabitants and the property to ensure its long-term sustainability. The Committee may wish to call on the international community to mobilise financial and technical resources for this aim.

A joint World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission to the property has been programmed in July 2023.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.55**, **39 COM 7B.45**, **40 COM 7B.21**, **42 COM 7B.51**, **and 44 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the completion in 2020 of the Stone Town Conservation and Heritage Management Plan (STCHMP), the implementation of the new management structure, and the State Party’s commitment to implement legislative changes to align the legal system with the STCHMP, and requests the State Party to resubmit the final STCHMP to the World Heritage Centre following its amendment, including:*

- a) *Placing the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) central to the aims of the STCHMP, based on a full analysis and understanding of the OUV and the attributes that contribute to it,*
 - b) *Analysis and identification of the attributes, which convey OUV,*
 - c) *Embedding Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as an essential component of the management system of the property,*
 - d) *Alignment with the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Commends the State Party for developing a new proposal for the Darajani Bazaar development and subjecting it to an HIA;*
 5. *Notes the State Party's commitment to developing a master plan for the Malindi Port area, to be assessed through HIA and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also requests that the Malindi Port area redevelopment be conceptualised with a focus on local communities and the property to ensure its long-term sustainability;*
 6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
 - a) *The documentation of the "Safe Mobility Program for Stone Town" and the reported 5-year implementation plan,*
 - b) *Detailed documentation for the proposed Malindi Bus Stand, before any decisions on its implementation are made that may be hard to reverse;*
 7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party that the 2016 mitigation measures for the Mambo Msiige building be urgently and fully implemented and that the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission be implemented;*
 8. *Expresses its thanks the Sultanate of Oman for its commitment to rehabilitating the House of Wonders and Palace Museum, and thanks the World Monument Fund and Zamani Project Research Group for participating in the joint expert's mission following the partial collapse of the House of Wonder and the World Bank for its support for the property through the Boosting Inclusive Growth in Zanzibar programme;*
 9. *Also notes the State Party's commitment to submit to the World Heritage Centre details for the reconstruction, restoration and reuse of the House of Wonders, the Palace Museum, the Bwawani Hotel and the Tippu Tip House, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement past Committee decisions in developing these plans;*
 10. *Requests the State Party, specifically in regard to the House of Wonders, to submit the results of the requested research project to investigate the chronological history of the House of Wonders and its construction technologies through archival and on-site investigations to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and urges the State Party to develop alternative proposals for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders advised by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the proposed Scientific Committee and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee;*
 11. *Recalling Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, request moreover the State Party engaged in the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders and other projects submit details of conservation approaches, contractual agreements, detailed designs and timelines for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders to the World Heritage Centre for*

review by the Advisory Bodies as feedback to enhance the proposal before any further contractual agreements for implementation are entered into;

12. Acknowledges the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2023 and requests moreover that this mission takes place to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and in particular, progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, the efficacy of the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders, and the Tippu Tip House, and to evaluate the proposals for the Malindi Bus Stand and report on other aspects critical to the maintenance of the OUV of the property such as mobility, and conservation works;
13. Expresses its utmost concern at the continued perilous state of conservation of this property and lack of effective conservation management coupled with weak governance and unharmonized development and transformation of the property, noting again that this trend may warrant a future inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines if these trends are not reversed;
14. Reiterates its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

38. 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 <https://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 <https://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 for the project Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo (URHC).

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/663>

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 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; January/February 2021: UNESCO Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake in 1992 (issue resolved)
- Inappropriate restoration works (issue resolved)
- Water (rise of the level of the groundwater table)
- 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
- Management system/management plan (Lack of a management system)

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>. This addresses a number of issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- A draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) and minor boundary modification proposal have been submitted; these will be evaluated separately by ICOMOS;
- A Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), including an integrated plan for the restoration and conservation of registered monuments, is under development and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2022;

- In line with recommendations in the second stage of the Urban Regeneration Project for Historic Cairo (URHC), the Prime Minister of Egypt in Decree No. 388 FY 2021 has approved a Steering Committee for the Historic Cairo World Heritage property to execute an integrated strategy for the preservation and urban regeneration of Historic Cairo, which will comprise high-level representation from relevant stakeholders;
- Substantive financial resources and technical support have been allocated to conserve and restore the property's registered monuments and urban fabric, as well as to revive local arts and traditional handicrafts;
- Under the heading 'Preserving Urban Landscape and Developing Local Community', overall mechanisms of urban intervention in the urgent areas of the URHC are outlined, and under the 'Regeneration Projects for Historic Cairo', details are provided of three current and planned conservation projects for Bab Zweila, Al-Hakim Mosque and Darb Al-Labbanah areas, in addition to information concerning on the architectural rehabilitation of historic streets;
- Studies on urban conservation, restoration and adaptive reuse, including on how to determine the value of buildings in the property, have been produced through the URHC;
- Several projects for the restoration and adaptive reuse of registered monuments and for urban rehabilitation and development have been undertaken, with more ongoing and planned;
- Demolition permits within the property remain paused by Decree 1097, and amendments have been made to Unified Building Law No.119 FY 2008, which regulates the demolition of unregistered residential buildings, to address illegal constructions. Penalties for violations, including unlicensed demolitions, have been strengthened through the adoption of Decree 1664;
- A cooperation agreement was signed between the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Urban Development Fund of the Ministry of Culture to produce and fund Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for all regeneration and development projects within the property boundaries;
- In response to reports of the construction of a road and related demolition of tombs and mausolea in the Southern and Northern cemeteries, known as the 'City of the Dead', the State Party reports that no road has been constructed within the property boundaries and that the World Heritage Centre will be kept informed of any such projects.

In May 2023, several media outlets reported on ongoing demolition of historical structures in the 'City of the Dead' to make a way for new main roads and flyover bridges. The World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the State Party in line with the Operational Guidelines.

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

The formal approval by the Prime Minister of a Steering Committee for the Historic Cairo World Heritage property to execute an integrated strategy for the preservation and urban regeneration of Historic Cairo is welcomed, as is its high-level representation. This is a crucial step towards operationalising a management structure for the property in line with its urgent needs.

Progress is reported on the development of a combined Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), for delivery to the World Heritage Centre, which is awaited and would be a welcomed step.

Meanwhile, the State Party has provided details and helpful plans and visualisations of projects being undertaken under the 'Regeneration Projects for Historic Cairo'. These cover three areas of Bab Zweila, Al-Hakim Mosque and Darb Al-Labbanah and aim to preserve and develop the built fabric, while also addressing intangible heritage and cultural industries. The projects range from simple cleaning and upgrading of public spaces to in-depth spatial analyses and reconfigurations of neighbourhoods, which take into consideration the traditional urban form, the relation between public and private space, local social practices, etc., and which seek to include or enhance the capacities of the local community. This approach is very evident for the Bab al Az'ib and Darb el Labbana proposals while the redevelopment of the Masjid al Hakim area appears to encompass in part extensive transformation of the urban fabric, including the demolition and reconstruction of entire blocks that do not appear to follow the traditional urban morphology.

Regarding the projects that pertain to the reconfiguration of public streets and traffic circulation, the information provided is too succinct to allow an appraisal and needs to be submitted with further elaboration, supporting mobility studies, and details of how the circulation relates to the wider context of

the city of Cairo, noting that media reports have raised the issue of planned road developments as well as road widening proposals.

While clearly considerable urban revitalisation work is being planned, with these initiatives being welcomed in principle, the overall framework for their development and implementation remains unclear. In 2017, the State Party agreed to the development of the three-phase UHRC Sustainable Development Plan for the revitalisation of Historic Cairo. This ambitious plan involved data collection as Phase 1, the introduction of institutional and legal framework as Phase 2, and the overall Plan as Phase 3. Phases 1 and 2 have now both been addressed. Where information is still needed is on progress with the development of the third and vital stage of the URHC, that is, the Sustainable Development Plan with the approach of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) – which the newly-appointed Steering Committee will execute. This is the key document that should draw together the different strands of management and ensure the protection of the OUV of the property integrated with sustainable urban development. Clarification is needed on whether the information provided on the ‘Development Strategy’, as well as the individual regeneration projects are all part of the envisioned ‘Sustainable Development Plan’. As the revitalisation of Historic Cairo is a Herculean task that might take decades, the Sustainable Development Plan, as a high-level strategic document, could provide the essential context for the revival of individual quarters as well as for the necessary infrastructure that needs to be delivered. The Committee may wish to request further details on progress with this overall Plan that was originally scheduled to be completed at the end of 2020.

In relation to the road built at the historic Northern and Southern Cairo cemeteries, the State Party has informed that no road was constructed within the boundaries of the property, and there was no demolition of any tombs or mausolea within the property. Nevertheless, reports circulated by third-parties including in the media during May 2023 are concerning.

The Committee may also wish to reiterate its request for such neighbourhood and road projects to be halted until the overall Sustainable Development Plan has been finalized and approved and a clear vision and principles for the way forward have been set out.

In terms of the legal framework, the State Party submitted a list of laws and decrees, which together should help prevent further degradation of the historic urban fabric from illegal demolition. Demolition permits remain paused in parts of the property. What remains unclear is whether this suite of documents addresses the issue of the protection of unregistered buildings, or demolition permissions issued for safety reasons in the longer term, and once all assessment and studies have been completed.

Despite important steps being taken towards the strengthening of the management system, including an increase in resources, the Sustainable Development Plan, a key element that needs to draw together different disciplines and set out an overall vision and policies for the property, remains to be completed. Concern remains that the specific urban morphology of different neighbourhoods, including their traditional commonplace buildings, which provide the context for listed buildings and contribute to OUV, appear to have little protection. Reassurances are needed that this challenge will be addressed by the Sustainable Development Plan and MCP.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made with the strengthening and operationalisation of the management system for the property through an increased allocation of resources and the inauguration of a Management Committee, which is tasked with delivering an integrated strategy for the preservation and urban regeneration of Historic Cairo;*

4. Also welcomes the work being undertaken on the development of a combined Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in due course for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Acknowledges the considerable work being undertaken on developing revitalisation projects for several quarters as well as the 'Regeneration Projects for Historic Cairo' in the areas of Bab Zweila, Al-Hakim Mosque and Darb Al-Labbanah that aim to preserve and develop the built fabric and take into consideration local communities, but expresses concern that the Masjid al Hakim project appears to encompass extensive transformation of the urban fabric in some parts, including removal and complete reconstruction of entire blocks, and requests the State Party to confirm the status of these projects and submit full details, including appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before further work is undertaken;
6. Notes the succinct project details provided for the 'Development Strategy', with the proposed reconfiguration of public streets and traffic circulation, and also requests the State Party to provide further details of the overall strategy and the specific projects, including mobility studies, and on how circulation relates to the wider context of the city of Cairo and to clarify the status of other planned road developments across the property as well as road widening proposals;
7. Also acknowledges the considerable progress made to complete Phases 1 and 2 of the overall Urban Regeneration Project for Historic Cairo (URHC), but regrets that no information was provided on the development of the third and vital stage of the URHC, that is, the Sustainable Development Plan with the approach of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), which was due for completion at the end of 2020, and further requests the State Party to clarify whether the information provided concerning the 'Development Strategy' refers to this key document and to provide an update on the completion date of this document that the Steering Committee will execute, ensuring the integration of the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property with its sustainable development, and to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that no major projects relating to rehabilitation of neighbourhoods or improvements to roads are undertaken until the Sustainable Development Plan and MCP have been completed, reviewed and approved;
9. Takes note that the State Party has informed that the road built across the historic Northern and Southern Cairo cemeteries did not involve the demolition of any tombs or mausolea within the property, nevertheless, expresses concern about the recently reported damages and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit as a matter of urgency technical information on any major project at the property, or its buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also takes note of the details provided in the legal framework with respect to the demolition of protected monuments, considers that it remains unclear how these relate to unregistered buildings or demolition permissions issued for safety reasons in the long term, and once all assessment and studies have been completed, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide the necessary clarification;
11. Reiterates its concern that the specific urban morphologies of different neighbourhoods, including their unprotected commonplace buildings that provide the historical and social context for listed buildings, appear to have no sufficient overall protection, and requests moreover the State Party to confirm that that this challenge will be addressed by the

Sustainable Development Plan and MCP in terms of approaches to documentation, contribution to OUV, and rehabilitation of these neighbourhoods;

12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, 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 46th session.*

39. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://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; May 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1401/documents/>.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property was undertaken from 8 to 11 May 2022. A summary of the mission report is also available at the above-mentioned web address.

The State Party report addresses a number of issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- All projects within the property or its buffer zone with a potential impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as well as the related impact studies, are being submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- Capacity building efforts initiated by the State Party and civil society have continued, notably in the form of technical workshops;
- New technical solutions to reinforce the dematerialisation effect of the Mohammed VI Tower have been integrated into the project;
- Technical and architectural solutions proposed to minimise the interference of the extension of the station with the historic wall and the Ibn Toumert garden shall be implemented. The future

restoration project of the original station building will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre beforehand;

- A new governance structure to ensure better management of the property has been put in place. The Foundation for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Rabat has launched the process of updating the Management Plan for the period 2022-2026. The urban areas of the inscribed perimeter are now covered by Special Development Plans (Plans d'Aménagement Spécial - PAS) and the legal protection of the buffer zone continues with a new PAS launched in November 2021. The decision-making processes have been improved and made more thorough to ensure heritage protection. Operations in the property or its buffer zone (whether for repair, restoration, rehabilitation, renovation or new construction) are required to apply for authorisation and undergo a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or evaluation by the Inspectorate for Historic Monuments and Sites prior to project approval and implementation. During the implementation and operation phase, the project sites will be subject to impromptu visits by a Control Commission to ensure the conformity of the works with the authorised project and the maintenance of the state of conservation of the sites;

ICOMOS has provided technical reviews of the Bab Fes project in the property's buffer zone, including the construction of an underground car park, the restoration and upgrading project for the Hotel Balima, located within the property boundaries, the construction of the Hotel Arsat Salama in the buffer zone, and most recently for the reconstruction of the Government's General Secretariat building within the New City, part of the property.

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

The State Party is to be commended on the significant steps taken towards an improved management and decision-making processes for future restoration and development projects with a view to enhance the protection of the OUV and heritage attributes as well as for a number of restoration projects of very high quality which are welcomed and appreciated. The updated governance structure defines the role of each institution involved in the protection and conservation of the property. These measures are to be welcomed, as is the commitment of the State Party to ensure optimal management of the property, focused on the protection of the OUV, and its focus on capacity building.

The improved decision-making process in relation to restoration and development proposals is welcomed, as it adequately enables the assessment of development proposals ahead of taking decisions on execution. While the criteria defining which proposals require an HIA could, however, be further defined in the Management Plan, the two-phased HIA undertaken for the planning and reconstruction of the Government's General Secretariat building is to be commended. The several capacity building efforts organized by the State Party are also welcomed.

The State Party has launched the process of updating the Management Plan for the 2022-2026 period, through the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and the creation of specialized commissions. The participatory process is welcomed in that regard, as well as the intention to include social and environmental dimensions. These dimensions, however, are not yet reflected in the thematic work that has so far been commissioned. It is also still unclear whether the objectives defined by the Management Plan will be integrated in the active PASs. The updating of the Management Plan is an opportunity to identify clearly the OUV and attributes of the Historic City of Rabat, to integrate sustainable strategies, and to consider the property in relation to its wider setting (the contemporary city) as recommended by the approach contained in the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation). The State Party should be invited to share further details on the updated Management Plan when available.

The State Party has provided a comprehensive overview of completed, on-going and planned restoration and development projects within the property and its buffer zone. While most projects were already submitted in previous state of conservation reports and some were subject to ICOMOS technical reviews, it is advised that additional information should be submitted on two newly-proposed projects: the upgrading of the Oudaïa Kasbah, which aims at revitalizing the historic fabric and improving the residential areas, and the landscaping and development of the interior spaces of the archaeological site of Chellah, including additional infrastructure and facilities.

The State Party has not yet submitted any specific additional information about the new technical solutions to reinforce the dematerialisation of the Mohammed VI Tower, which have been adopted by the contractors. For Rabat-Ville Railway Station, information on the restoration of the original part of the station, as requested by the World Heritage Committee, is yet to be received.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.134**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),
3. Takes notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property took place in May 2022;
4. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the State Party in addressing its previous recommendations and the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, particularly with regard to providing details of on-going and planned major restoration and development projects with related Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), and for the standard of the HIA for the Government's General Secretariat Building;
5. Welcomes the significant steps taken towards an improved management and decision-making process for future restoration and development projects, and the updated governance structure that defines the role of each institution involved in the protection and conservation of the property and also appreciates the very high quality of restoration works in recent projects;
6. Notes that information on planned projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also notes that a project to update the Management Plan has been launched and that this will include social and environmental aspects, recommends that the Plan incorporates the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, particularly in relation to the wider setting of the property, and requests the State Party to address how the revised plan will be integrated with the active Special Development Plans (Plans d'Aménagement Spécial - PAS);
8. Invites the State Party to submit the updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies before its final adoption;
9. Also requests that details of the project to restore the original Rabat-Ville Railway Station, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, when available, in addition to precise details of the new technical solutions used to reinforce the dematerialization of the Mohammed VI Tower;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

40. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2004-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 118,900

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38,398 by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the development of a sustainable tourism plan; 32,680 EUR by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decisions in relation to Boundaries and Strategic Conservation; USD 19,798 from the Heritage Emergency Fund; 25,000 EUR from the French Government for mitigation measures at both cultural World Heritage properties in Sudan.

Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2006, 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2011: joint 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

- Land conversion
- Climate change and severe weather events: Flooding and desertification (leading to deterioration)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Buildings and development: Housing; major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure; urban encroachment
- Management systems / management plan
- Local conditions affecting the property (wind)

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>. An updated report was submitted on 12 February 2023, which is also available at the above-mentioned web address. The reports provide updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- There have been new challenges in the implementation of the decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, arising from political and economic instability and the COVID-19 pandemic. After the resignation of its Director-General in summer 2021, changes in the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) led to the nomination of a new Director-General in December 2022 and an interim site manager for Gebel Barkal in late January 2023;
- The conservation monitoring system established at El-Kurru is being developed for the Barkal temples in close collaboration with archaeological missions;
- Means of preventing vehicles from accessing the property were implemented with the help of grants from the Ambassadors Fund of the United States of America and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) and through a UNESCO project funded by the French Government;

- Interpretative panels have been installed in Gebel Barkal's visitor centre and improvements to storage, display and cataloguing at the Museum continue;
- A new management and sustainable tourism plan is in progress and full support sought from all archaeological missions at the conference of the International Society for Nubian Studies in summer 2022. Workshops on tourism management approaches have occurred with the support of UNESCO and funding through the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust;
- As a first step towards addressing the issues concerning the boundaries and buffer zone of the property, new topographical maps were prepared for the five components of the property, in coordination with the Section Française de la Direction des Antiquités du Soudan (SFDAS);
- An assessment of threats from rising groundwater has been carried out with the support of the Emergency Assistance provided through the World Heritage Fund;
- Programmes of community engagement for education and site protection were activated in El-Kurru and Barkal, and a Community Heritage Centre is in preparation within a renovated house adjacent to El-Kurru;
- NCAM relies on international archaeological teams to support management and conservation. The NCAM-University of Michigan Project at Gebel Barkal submitted a workplan to the World Heritage Centre in November 2022, most of which was implemented, including conservation works at B600 and B700 temples, 3D-survey and clearing of spoil heaps, surface clearance, excavations and reburial on the East Mound, geomorphological coring campaign between the site and the Nile. The University Ca' Foscari, Venice Project have performed extensive conservation works on the royal district of Natakamani (B1500). At Nuri site, an extensive surface mapping (LiDAR) was carried out, along with localized remote sensing investigations for non-excavated areas. The reburial of known features was conducted for protection purposes;
- An initiative for local coordination between institutions and the community has been developed, with a proposal for a joint office of Antiquities and Tourism to monitor and assess the state of conservation and tourism for each component;
- Visits of ambassadors, filming of documentaries and fruitful collaborations with the World Monuments Fund (WMF) and SFDAS/ALIPH are reported.

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

To date, there has been no reported negative impact on the property as a result of the armed conflict that erupted in April 2023, noting that one of the property's component sites is located around 5 km from an area that reportedly witnessed clashes in the beginning of the conflict. Nevertheless, the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, is of great concern, and may affect the management capabilities at the property. It is recommended that the Committee call on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property.

The efforts and commitment of the State Party, despite new challenges and the unstable security context in the country impeding the full implementation of the decisions of the Committee and recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, are acknowledged.

However, the deterioration of many components of the property continues to have an adverse impact on its authenticity and integrity and to threaten the attributes, which convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Despite progress by the State Party, including the installation of barriers to prevent vehicle access to the property, extension of a monitoring system, 3D surveys, heaps clearance, investigations, pilot conservation measures, and interpretative actions at the Gebel Barkal Museum, additional efforts are required in the framework of an overall comprehensive approach to conservation and avoiding contradictory approaches between the different projects. It is recommended that the Committee continue to express serious concern at the overall state of conservation of the property, which remains seriously threatened, and urge the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the 2019 mission as far possible in the current context.

The 2019 mission recommended that the State Party elaborate a 5-year action plan to carry out activities to address the management structure and legal instruments, inventory and documentation, conservation and restoration, development and community involvement and tourism management. A proposal was elaborated in coordination with UNESCO, with the support of the Netherlands Fund-in-Trust (NFIT) project that was approved in 2021. A technical workshop was initially planned at UNESCO's headquarters on 27 and 28 April 2023, to assist in the finalization of the action plan, defining the

property's boundaries, and addressing gaps identified in the Management Plan. However, as a result of the prevailing conflict, the workshop could not take place.

A draft sustainable tourism strategy for the property has been developed following the workshops implemented by UNESCO in collaboration with NCAM, supported through the NFiT. It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to ensure that the actions set within the sustainable tourism strategy are reflected in the update of the management plan.

It is recommended that the State Party give high priority to the conservation of already existing or current excavation sites, and that no new archaeological excavation areas are opened, unless a holistic approach is taken into consideration with conservation as a priority. International archaeological missions are to be encouraged to assist with this process, as part of a programme for more effective coordination, as highlighted in Decision **43 COM 7B.54**.

Recent initiatives carried out prior to the recent conflict situation, such as surface scanning and non-invasive investigations at Nuri component site are to be encouraged and their use extended to all other component sites, within a comprehensive approach for the property.

Other mission and Committee recommendations, such as removing a hotel construction that has been halted in the vicinity of the property, and the building of improved tomb covers at Zuma, remain unaddressed. In light of the encroaching urbanisation, and potential development projects at the property and its buffer zone, it is recommended that the Committee again remind the State Party of its obligation to submit prior notifications of major projects, which may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Clarification of the property boundaries and the creation of a buffer zone have been in progress, with topographical surveys, but no information was provided on the revision of regulations and ownership status. Proposals for major changes in the boundaries of the property or the buffer zone should be shared with the World Heritage Centre before initiating any formal approval process. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard as a matter of urgency, in line with Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, and in coordination with the World Heritage Centre.

Following the mission that took place in 2020 to assess the impact of floods, with the support of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, a project within the framework of Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund was approved in July 2021, in order to study the rising groundwater occurrence at the component of al-Nuri. In this regard, a stakeholder's engagement and awareness workshop was organized, specifications for geophysical investigations for the study were developed and a monitoring network of the water level was designed.

Urgent measures remain essential to reverse the alarming level of deterioration. It is recommended that the Committee continue to call on the international community to support urgent protection and management measures through financial and technical assistance, to be implemented once conditions permit.

At its extended 44th session in 2021, the Committee allowed one more year before considering the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision **44 COM 7B.17**). In view of the progress reported above, which was prior to the recent conflict situation, and considering the ongoing threats and new challenges, it is recommended that the Committee request an updated state of conservation report for the property by 1 February 2024 for examination at its 46th session.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021),

3. Expresses its great concern about the armed conflict that erupted in April 2023 and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, and may further affect the management capabilities at the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
4. Commends the State Party for its efforts to implement some of its Decisions and recommendations of the 2019 mission, despite significant challenges, and prior to the recent conflict of 2023;
5. Continues to express serious concern at the overall state of conservation of the property, which is seriously threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, including heavy rainfall and potential flooding, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, ineffective coordination of archaeological missions, absence of an integrated strategy for the conservation of newly-excavated archaeological features, urban encroachment and development projects, all of which are impacting negatively on the attributes, which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Welcomes the works undertaken for the elaboration of a 5-year comprehensive action plan, as recommended by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, to address the management structure, legal instruments, inventories, documentation, conservation, restoration, development, community involvement and tourism management;
7. Requests the State Party to give high priority to the conservation of already existing or current excavations and to ensure that no new archaeological excavations occur, unless a holistic approach is taken into consideration with conservation as a priority, and encourages the international archaeological missions to assist with the necessary conservation works, once conditions permit;
8. Notes that urgent measures are required at the property to reverse the alarming level of deterioration, and also requests the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2020 UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund mission as a matter of urgency, when feasible;
9. Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any future works that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts with regard to defining the boundaries of the property, as a matter of urgency, and also reminds the State Party to submit a Minor Boundary Modification, with property delimitations of the buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Calls on the international community to continue to support the State Party's urgent protection and management work through financial and technical assistance;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 **46th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

44. Bagan (Myanmar) (C 1588)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

48. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea) (C 1319bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2009

Criteria (iii)(iv)(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/1319/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2023 March joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Commercial development
- Management systems/Management Plan (Development of a sustainable tourism management plan; Guidelines for appropriate development)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 June 2019, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third-party information to the State Party regarding the Changneung Public Housing Development project, in the vicinity of the Seoreung component sites (W1) of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty. The State Party responded on 30 December 2019, providing some information about the status of the Changneung project and promising to share details after the project plans had become more concrete.

On 4 September 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the State Party on the development proposals in the immediate vicinity of the Taereung and Gangneung components (M3). In a letter dated 28 September 2020, the State Party responded that, as concrete plans had not yet been drawn, it was “too early to evaluate the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value”.

Following further third-party submissions, the World Heritage Centre transmitted an ICOMOS Technical Review in January 2021 regarding plans to build high-rise apartment buildings near the Changneung, Taereung and Gangneung components of the property, which ICOMOS concluded would have a negative impact on the authenticity, integrity and setting of the property. In this Technical Review, ICOMOS advised the State Party to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for each individual project.

On 3 November 2021, the World Heritage Centre transmitted further third-party information to the State Party regarding the construction of apartment buildings in the vicinity of the Jangneung component site (W6), carried out without prior permission from the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea (CHA). On 23 November 2021, a delegation from CHA visited UNESCO to provide detailed information regarding the on-going apartment complex construction in the buffer zones of the Jangneung and other components of the property. CHA indicated that it was trying to resolve the issue through domestic legal procedures and undertook to submit its response to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

On 25 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property for consideration by the World Heritage Committee. On 28 April 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and on 13 April 2023, the State Party submitted an update, both of which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/documents/> and provide the following information:

- The State Party implemented all the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Decision **33 COM 8B.15**) by the end of 2010;
- Following the January 2021 ICOMOS Technical Reviews, two HIAs are currently underway to evaluate the impact of the high-rise developments on the Seoreung and Taereung components, respectively. Following their completion, they will be shared with the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- The State Party also presents information regarding the construction and further plans for apartment buildings, part of the state-led “Geomdan New Town” development project, in the vicinity of the Jangneung component;
- In May 2021, the construction of these apartment complexes was brought to the attention of the CHA, which immediately issued an administrative order to halt their construction as the CHA had not authorized it. In response to this order, the developers filed an administrative lawsuit against the CHA and, at the same time, applied for a suspension of execution, which was granted to the developers in December 2021, following which construction resumed, and in May, June and September 2022, the residents moved in these apartments;
- In July and August 2022, CHA lost all three cases in the first ruling and appealed the ruling immediately. At the time of writing this report, the appeals cases opposing the CHA and three construction companies are in progress.
- The State Party notes its concern that this housing construction in the buffer zone and setting of the Jangneung component is impacting the *pungsu* (geomantic principles), which played a critical role in the historical selection of a site for a royal tomb, thereby adversely impacting on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The State Party further mentions that the property and its buffer zones are generally systematically protected, as recognized in ICOMOS's 2009 evaluation. The current exception occurred due to differences in the interpretation of development guidelines and authorization procedures between various governmental organizations. In response, the State Party submitted a plan to strengthen information sharing between relevant government entities and public organizations to ensure a more integral understanding of heritage regulations;
- The State Party created a task force to come up with measures to prevent similar unauthorized development activities from happening again in buffer zones;
- The revision of the Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage with a view to incorporating HIA into the domestic heritage protection system is in progress.

The State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property from 13 to 17 March 2023, the report of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/documents/>. The mission which focused specifically on the three clusters most affected by development: Seoreung, Taereung/Gangneung, and Jangneung. The mission considered information provided by the State Party and found that, despite the State Party's excellent management of the inscribed component sites within their boundaries, its capacity to adequately protect the three components evaluated from significant impacts that often arise several kilometres away from these clusters is clearly limited by the scope of its legal and management purview.

The mission reports that, the very intrusive new developments, particularly at the Jangneung Cluster, affect the *pungsu* principles for which the property was inscribed, and they also affect the living heritage aspects at the sites, which have been in near-continuous use since their creation, with rituals and ceremonies being regularly held to this day. The mission expresses its concern that similar situations with recent, ongoing or planned developments located on the outer limits of the property's buffer zones or in the wider setting of the component sites are likely to be found at some (or even many) of the other 15 components, and might therefore have significant cumulative impacts on the property and its attributes of OUV.

Consequently, the mission provides the State Party with possible mitigation measures and recommendations. It also notes that, in the current condition, the highly visible developments in the vicinity of the Jangneung cluster and its impacts on the attributes of OUV are irreversible, considering that residents have already moved into apartments. The mission also stresses that ongoing HIAs should be completed as a matter of priority, in accordance with current guidelines, and recommended a thorough examination of the cumulative impacts of developments in the buffer zones and setting of all 18 components on the OUV of the property.

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

The State Party's efforts to implement the Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription in 2009, such as the sustainable tourism management plan and guidelines for allowable development, are welcome and should be continued.

The information provided by the State Party regarding two ongoing HIAs for development plans in the vicinity of the Changneung Royal Tomb in the Seooreung component and around the Taereung component, carried out in response to the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of January 2021, is noted.

It is regrettable that construction of apartment complexes has been largely completed in the vicinity of the Jangneung cluster, as part of the "Geomdan New Town" State-led urban development project, without benefiting from HIA procedures, prior consultation with the national authorities or notification under the provision of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is also of great concern that, in December 2021, the construction companies won an administrative lawsuit against the CHA's administrative order to halt construction. It is further noted that the CHA is currently involved in a legal dispute with three developers over this issue, on behalf of the State Party, and lost all three cases in the first rulings in July and August 2022, which it then appealed.

In view of the above, it should be commended that the State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to this property in March 2023 to examine the ongoing situation at three component sites and seek advice to define any necessary mitigation measures, especially in view of the ongoing second round of lawsuits between the national authorities and the development companies.

The State Party expressed concern that housing construction may impact adversely on the OUV of Jangneung component and its ability to demonstrate the attributes of OUV for which it was inscribed, especially since the *pungsu* (geomantic principles), an important attribute of the OUV, are affected. This position was echoed in the strong concerns expressed by the Advisory mission. The Jangneung component's landscape was already partly affected by a 2002 high-rise apartment complex, known as Samsung Apartments, built prior to inscription. However, the negative impacts of the much larger new developments on the attributes of OUV, and particularly the key sightlines to the south which determined the selection of the tomb site and its ongoing function as a ritual site, are far more significant. The Advisory mission could not identify any options to mitigate these impacts in the case of the Jangneung cluster, especially since these housing developments are already occupied.

The property and its buffer zones are generally systematically protected, as was recognised at the time of inscription. However, given the nature of the property's OUV and its reliance on its wider landscape setting and key sightlines, it is unfortunate that the current statutory protections and guidelines for development around the component clusters do not extend beyond their buffer zones.

Considering that the three clusters of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty visited by the Advisory mission currently face similar problems with public housing and commercial developments, the Committee may wish to recommend that the State Party establish urban plans that fully take into account the need to protect the integrity of this World Heritage property and its OUV, especially the protection of the components' wider settings and sight lines, in line with Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Committee may also wish to encourage the State Party to adopt legislation introducing mandatory impact assessments in line with the Guidance for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context for all major development projects within or around World Heritage properties and their wider settings, as a matter of urgency.

The effective management of this property and its wider setting may also contribute to sustainable development by harnessing reciprocal benefits for heritage and society. It is therefore welcome that the State Party has shared its plans to strengthen information sharing between relevant government entities, to ensure an improved integral understanding of heritage regulations by local governments and members of the public.

The State Party's efforts, such as creating a task force to come up with measures to prevent similar unauthorized development activities from occurring again in buffer zones, the revision of the Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage with a view to incorporating impact assessments into the domestic heritage protection system, should be commended. However, it should be noted that the task force's purview and the scope of legislative revisions should extend to the wider settings of World Heritage properties and not be limited to their buffer zones only.

The State Party should be further encouraged to fully implement the Advisory mission's recommendations to safeguard the OUV of the property, and notably to (a) carry out a full review of development impacts at each component of the property; (b) take into full account the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for the new impact assessment legislation and its implementation; (c) establish Standing Advisory Committees that include community members and representatives of municipal authorities to reinforce two-way dialogue.

The Advisory mission recommends that a thorough assessment of the overall state of conservation of the property should be carried out and brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee. The Committee may therefore wish to request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, report to the cumulative impacts of housing and commercial developments on its OUV, identify existing and potential impacts on key sightlines from the property, as well as other factors affecting the property's OUV at all 18 components of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 33 COM 8B.15, adopted at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's efforts to fully implement its recommendations formulated at the time of inscription, and commends the State Party's continued efforts to establish a set of development standards for each of the 18 buffer zones;*
4. *Notes that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are currently underway to evaluate the impacts of housing development plans on the conservation of Changneung Royal Tomb in the Seooreung Cluster and the Taereung Cluster, and that the State Party has committed to submitting these to the World Heritage Centre upon completion, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding the construction of apartment complexes by three private construction companies in the vicinity of the Jangneung cluster without prior consultation with the national authorities in charge of World Heritage conservation;*

6. *Notes with concern that pungsu (geomantic principles), which played a critical role in the selection of a site for a royal tomb and support the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), are impacted adversely by this housing construction;*
7. *Notes with concern that, in December 2021, the construction companies won an administrative lawsuit against the Cultural Heritage Administration's administrative order to halt construction, and that the State Party is still engaged in appeals of these decisions, having lost the first rulings in 2022;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide regular updates to the World Heritage Centre on the outcomes of the discussion and legal procedures currently ongoing for the construction of high-rise projects in the buffer zones and settings of all components of this property;*
9. *Commends the State Party for creating a task force to come up with measures to prevent similar unauthorized development activities from happening again in buffer zones, as well as for having invited an Advisory mission to this property to seek advice on conservation of the property's OUV and mitigation measures, requests that the terms of the task force be extended to also include the landscape setting of the components of the property;*
10. *Takes note of the outcomes of the Advisory mission, and especially its concerns that similar situations with recent, ongoing or planned developments located on the outer limits of the property's buffer zones and in the wider setting of the component sites are likely to be found at some of the other 15 tomb clusters and may represent significant, cumulative negative impacts on the property's ability to express the OUV for which it was inscribed;*
11. *Encourages the State Party to strengthen information sharing with relevant government entities to ensure a more integral understanding of heritage regulations by local governments and members of the public, recommends that all relevant urban plans in the Republic of Korea integrate measures to fully safeguard World Heritage properties, especially the properties' wider setting, in line with Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests the State Party to revise the Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage, with a view to incorporating impact assessments into the domestic heritage protection system;*
12. *Requests the State Party to fully implement the Advisory mission recommendations to safeguard the OUV of the property, in particular to:*
 - a) *Carry out a full review of potential, planned and existing development impacts at each component of the World Heritage property to establish the status of the erosion of OUV since inscription and an exhaustive mapping of key view cones from each components, especially those view cones that support the OUV of the property,*
 - b) *Take into full account the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for the new HIA legislation and, upon adoption, widely disseminate materials about this legislation, including user-friendly materials adapted to the national system,*
 - c) *Establish Standing Advisory Committees that include community members and representatives of municipal governments to ensure input from local communities, advance warning of pending issues and concerns, such as proposed large-scale developments, and to promote regular, two-way dialogue;*
13. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property with a view to thoroughly assessing the*

overall state of conservation of the property, the cumulative impacts of planned or ongoing housing and commercial developments, their existing and potential impacts on key view cones from the property, as well as any other factors affecting the property's OUV at all 18 component sites;

14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

49. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) (C 543)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

51. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

52. Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary) (C 772rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (v)

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/772/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the Austrian component; 2013: joint ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission to the Austrian component

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Buildings and development (housing and major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure; large scale Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project). Some other projects were resolved in the past (High-rise hotel development, Large-scale heart clinic development)
- Management and institutional factors (lack of an established intergovernmental management system)
- Renewable energy facilities (repowering of wind turbines in the Austrian component)
- Climate change and severe weather events (shortage of water in the lake)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, upon request from the World Heritage Centre, the State Party of Hungary submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Hungarian component of the property; its executive summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/documents/>.

In December 2021, the World Heritage Centre requested a joint state of conservation report following several third-party reports of potential threats to the property related to the planned Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project within the boundaries of the property, on the shore of the lake in Hungary.

An ICOMOS Technical Review of the 2020 state of conservation report by Hungary was transmitted to the State Party of Hungary in May 2021, to which the State Party of Hungary provided comments on 20 December 2021. ICOMOS provided its comments to the two States Parties on 16 June 2022.

On 28 February 2022, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session. The executive summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/documents/>.

The 2022 joint report provides information on the management system in place at the property and on recently adopted measures to reinforce it, as follows:

- In Austria, the 'Lake Neusiedl World Heritage Association' is the designated management organisation of the Fertő/Lake Neusiedl World Heritage Site in the Austrian/Burgenland part. The association implements, coordinates and initiates measures for the protection of the site. The most important instrument of the association, in addition to the existing management plan, is the 'Criteria for Building in the World Heritage Site' (since 2008/2009), which specifies the size at which construction projects in the region are 'relevant' to the World Heritage property and must be submitted to the 'World Heritage Planning Advisory Board' for review;
- In Hungary, all functions related to the protection of cultural heritage, including World Heritage, have been concentrated within the Prime Minister's Office, and Government Decree 335/2019 was issued to implement the World Heritage Act 2011. In 2020, World Heritage Planning Councils were introduced and, in 2021, a set of measures established to improve impact assessment of projects. In January 2022, a Hungarian World Heritage Council was established. The 'Fertőtáj World Heritage Hungarian Council Association' is the site manager on the Hungarian side of the property; it includes the municipalities around the Lake Fertő as members;
- A Common Landscape Observatory is being developed by Austria and Hungary within an EU-funded INTERREG project.

The report provides the following information with regard to the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project:

- The project area is on lakeshore land that was re-claimed between 1966 and 1992 through subsequent interventions. It was previously used for low-key tourism purposes and has long awaited rehabilitation;
- The project is articulated into two phases, with a total project area amounting to an extension ranging between 37.35 and 52.77 ha. It envisages the creation of a new canal and construction of an eco-centre, eco-park, 4-star hotel complex, main building, holiday resort, holiday terraced houses in front of the lake, two motel buildings, 37 bungalows, 25 motorhomes and 45 places for tents, as well as construction of new vehicular and pedestrian bridges, paths, new lagoons, a sports centre, two tourist ports for more than 1,200 vessels and parking for over 1,200 cars;
- Key project data are provided in the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) carried out for Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the project, reporting approximately 28,800 m² of built-up area in total, 49,200 m³ of built volume for Phase II, 321,000 m³ of dredging, 267,000 m³ of backfilling, and a paved surface of over 139,000 m² and a green surface of 215,000 m²;
- In operation, the project is expected to receive 4,400 users a day during peak season;
- According to the States Parties, this is the only viable area for tourism development and the only development envisaged along the Hungarian lakeshore, and EIAs carried out on the proposed development have not identified negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) or other heritage values. The project does not fall among those compulsorily subjected to transboundary EIAs.

On 21 December 2021, the States Parties submitted a joint letter concerning the development of the new joint Management Plan and the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project.

On 20 January 2022, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the States Parties a statement of the Department of Biological Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences on the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project, expressing concerns that the project would result in multiplying tourist pressures on the environment of the property and causing damage to its flora and fauna.

Two meetings with the Austrian and Hungarian authorities were held to discuss the state of conservation of the property and the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project in particular: on 28 January 2022, with the World Heritage Centre and on 23 February 2022, online, with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, IUCN and the Ramsar Secretariat.

On 16 June 2022, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the States Parties third-party comments to the executive summary of the joint state of conservation report published on the World Heritage Centre's website.

On 3 March 2023, the State Party of Hungary informed the World Heritage Centre that the Government had suspended in June 2022 the planning and construction works of the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort, that the design of potential alternatives was underway and that details would be shared with the World Heritage Centre when available.

In relation to tourism development in Austria, the report explains the following:

- No further expansion of the Mörbisch Lake stage is foreseen, and the proposed expansion of Breitenbrunn Beach has been subject to planning and consultation rounds that have resulted in a suitable concept;
- A plan (2016) for a hotel at Neusiedl am See was not continued, but associated holiday flats were built. The planning framework has since changed, and new zoning will be restricted in the vicinity of the lake. No plans currently exist for further development;
- Pressures on the northern side of the lake exist due to the vicinity of Vienna and Bratislava. In 2021, Burgenland Province amended the 2019 Burgenland Spatial Planning Act to counteract these factors, which will be further addressed in the new management plan;
- The regional development programme, which provides the framework for development restrictions at the municipal level, was reported to be in preparation, with adoption expected in 2022. Local development concepts have become mandatory and must be approved by Burgenland Province;
- Efforts to curb sprawling caused by the shopping centre expansion are underway.

Other reported issues include:

- The repowering of wind turbines at Weiden am See is proposed. A study of visual impacts through elaborate and state-of-the-art visualisation techniques has been undertaken, but not submitted to the World Heritage Centre yet;
- Regarding the recorded shortage of water in the lake since 2014, plans exist to divert water from the Mosoni-Duna to feed the Seewinkel groundwater body and Fertő-Neusiedl Lake. Preliminary studies suggest the suitability of the operation if specified conditions are respected.

On 23 March 2023, Hungary submitted a brief update reporting indicating that the Lébény-Hanyi Irrigation Canal project had been suspended, although the planned section of the canal was not considered to influence the water regime of the lake. The State Party also reported that the Austro-Hungarian Water Commission had not reached agreement on how to supply water to the lake to prevent it from drying up and that further analysis was required to make an informed decision. Lastly, Hungary reported that World Heritage matters have been transferred to the Ministry of Construction and Transport with a view to ensuring that developments at World Heritage properties are implemented without impairing their OUV.

In 2023, Austria did not submit an update to the state of conservation report submitted in 2022.

On 25 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation from the States Parties for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property on the following main issues: the redesign of the Sopron-Fertő Lake Resort project, the Lakeside Resort in Breitenbrunn already under construction, the water supply to Lake Fertő-Neusiedl and wind turbines in the vicinity of the property. The States Parties also invited the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to participate in this mission as an observer. The Advisory mission will take place in October 2023.

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

The States Parties show a willingness to strengthen their collaboration in jointly managing the property, through organizing meetings and developing a joint monitoring observatory.

Tourism-related development pressures at the property are not new, especially on the Austrian side, where several tourism facilities already existed at the time of nomination. The property's inscription has not brought development reduction, and its Retrospective Statement of OUV recognizes that tourism impacts on 'genuinely unchanging qualities of the way of life [...] based upon a traditional and sustainable exploitation of a limited range of resources', a key value of the property, and that 'insertion

of intrusively modern construction will need to be controlled'. In this regard, it appears necessary that the 'Criteria for Building in the World Heritage Site' be revised and the need for assessing impacts of proposed developments be based on their potential to adversely impact the OUV of the property and its supporting attributes and not on the size of the proposals. In fact, significantly negative impacts on OUV can be caused also by developments of limited size.

The Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project therefore cannot be considered in isolation, even if it is presented as the only development proposal on the Hungarian side, as Fertő/Neusiedlersee is one landscape system, already prone to the effects of development.

The project is sited in an artificially created area that needs rehabilitation, but the development proposes massive further artificialization of the area and substantial increase of built volumes, aiming to serve more than 4,000 users a day in high season, with significant impacts on the property's natural and cultural attributes. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), annexed to the state of conservation report in 2020, presents significant flaws in its evaluation of impacts. The conclusion that the project's impacts will be mostly positive or neutral appears unconvincing. The decision to carry out separate EIAs, annexed to the state of conservation report in 2020, for the two project phases has not facilitated a comprehensive assessment of impacts; furthermore, it appears that neither EIA considers transboundary impacts. Consultations requested by the relevant Hungarian authorities, and referenced in the States Parties report, mention caveats regarding the development's excessive size, such as reducing the planned built-up areas and removing traffic-generating activities, but these have not been considered.

Water shortages recorded at the lake have triggered proposals for remedial actions; additional development pressure on the lake will increase water consumption. Hence, despite the EIA and HIA conclusions, serious concerns about the scope of the project's potential adverse impacts on the property remain. The considerable scale of most of the buildings and facilities is very different from those that previously existed and is not consistent with 'the present character of landscape' nor the 'remarkable rural architecture' noted as an attribute of OUV of the property. The architectural expression has no relationship to the locale and does not respect the property's integrity, which 'is based on [...] regional and historic characteristics', such as 'the traditional and partly rural character of the settlements' and the 'vernacular architecture and a landscape based upon a traditional and sustainable exploitation of a limited range of resources.'

The project implies substantial new development and envisages a type and intensity of use that cannot be considered a continuation of the lake's 'bathing tradition' and would cause increased pressure on this sensitive ecological and socio-cultural system. The visual impact of the project in its current architectural design would impair the close surroundings. The Visual Impact Assessment's visualizations examine long-distance views, while short-distance views would show the project's impairment of the almost-natural character of the lakeshore landscape. The development's carbon and ecological footprints are also key aspects to be considered, alongside the substantial increase in motorized traffic. As currently configured, the project would lead to extensive artificialization, a significant increase in water resource exploitation and a large increase in traffic, with impacts on local settlements that would not seem to receive any benefits from the project, which includes all leisure functions within the same area and is planned some kilometres away from the closest village.

If this location is seen as the only possible area for tourist development on the Hungarian side, a more inclusive and sustainable approach would be highly desirable that allows local communities to derive some benefits. A significantly downsized proposal in terms of built volumes, created tourism facilities and prospective users along the lakeshore should be seriously considered, together with dispersed locations for other structures away from the lakeshore, and, where possible, the use of renewable materials that respect this highly sensitive location and are consistent with the traditional built environment.

Although development on the Austrian side is reportedly now significantly restricted via planning mechanisms, projects have been implemented until very recently and pressures continue.

Before any finalization of the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project, it would be highly desirable that a joint approach to tourism development could be agreed. An updated, jointly carried out inventory of existing and planned tourism facilities along the entirety of the lakeshore and an assessment of the cumulated adverse impacts that existing and planned development, including the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort, have had or may have on the property, would be indispensable before proceeding with any project. This would form the basis for laying down joint strategies for achieving a sustainable, equitable and shared use of the lakeshore, including for tourism purposes. Such an assessment should also consider how water

consumption in the lake region, particularly for civil and tourism purposes, impacts on the water supply to the hydraulic lake system, which is vulnerable due to progressive water shortage. In this regard, the proposal to divert waters from the Mosoni-Duna to feed the Seewinkel groundwater body and Fertő-Neusiedl Lake may cause significant changes in the lake's hydrological system and would need to undergo a thorough and rigorous transboundary HIA. In this regard, both States Parties should consider suspending the planning of tourism-related development projects along the lakeshore, until such an inventory of all existing and planned tourism facilities has been jointly established by both States Parties.

With regard to the potential repowering of wind turbines at Weiden am See, the information that an impact assessment is being carried out is welcomed, but the outcomes of such an assessment should be submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any final decision is taken.

The States Parties' invitation for an Advisory mission to the property is welcomed.

The information provided by the State Party of Hungary in March 2023 that the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project and the Lébény-Hanyi Irrigation Canal planned section were suspended in 2022 is to be welcomed; this will allow enough time to carry out the above-mentioned joint inventory of tourism facilities and for the Advisory mission to provide relevant advice to both States Parties.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Welcomes the States Parties' commitment to achieving the joint management of the property and encourages the States Parties to strengthen their dialogue to collaboratively address the complex issues affecting the transboundary lacustrine cultural landscape;*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the scale of the original Sopron Fertő Lake Resort, welcomes the decision to suspend the project but notes that any future project cannot be regarded solely as a rehabilitation project, and that its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will need to be assessed in cumulation with the existing tourism infrastructure along the entire lakeshore;*
4. *Invites the States Parties to consider suspending the planning and implementation of all tourism-related development projects along the lakeshore until an inventory of all existing and planned tourism facilities along the lakeshore has been jointly carried out and an assessment of cumulative adverse impacts on the property's attributes prepared;*
5. *Also welcomes the States Parties' invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, extended to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, which will provide recommendations to the States Parties regarding tourism development projects, including the re-designed Sopron Fertő Lake Resort, water supply to the lake and wind turbines in the vicinity of the property;*
6. *Requests the States Parties to jointly develop a vision for the future of the property and lay down a shared strategy, including a strategy for tourism infrastructure and management, to ensure a sustainable and equitable use of the property compatible with its OUV;*
7. *Requests that the 'Criteria for Building in the World Heritage Site' developed by the Lake Neusiedl World Heritage Association be revised and the need for an impact assessment be based on the potential of developments to adversely impact the OUV of the property and its supporting attributes rather than on the size of proposals;*

8. *Equally welcomes the decision to suspend the implementation of the project of the Mosoni-Duna section of the Lébény-Hanyi Irrigation Canal thus giving the planned joint Advisory mission time to assess the proposal and make recommendations thereon;*
9. *Notes the progressive water shortage recorded at the lake, and requests the States Parties to submit detailed documentation, including a transboundary Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), of the proposed project to divert waters from the Mosoni-Duna to feed the Seewinkel groundwater body and Fertő-Neusiedl Lake, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a final decision is taken on this proposal;*
10. *Also notes the preparation of an HIA of the proposal to repower the wind farm site at Weiden am See, and urges the State Party of Austria to submit the outcomes of the HIA to the World Heritage Centre before any final decision is taken;*
11. *Recalls that, in a World Heritage context, HIAs should be carried out on the basis of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that a more specialised tool, the Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context, is also available online;*
12. *Requests furthermore the State Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.*

53. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France) (C 600)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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/600/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission took place on 28 and 29 March 2022.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fire at the Notre-Dame Cathedral of Paris on 15 April 2019

Illustrative material: see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, in response to Decision **44 COM 7B.46** of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/documents/>. On 28 and 29 March 2022, a joint World Heritage

Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission took place. On 14 September 2022, the State Party submitted additional information. The progress made is presented below:

- The security-consolidation phase was completed in the summer of 2021. In parallel, a programme of restoration work was defined during the first half of 2021, based on the diagnostic studies and in accordance with the guidelines of the National Commission for Heritage and Architecture (*Commission nationale du patrimoine et de l'architecture* - CNPA);
- The restoration work includes:
 - The reconstruction or consolidation of the vaults, the restoration of the gable walls, the walkway and the side walls, the restoration of the great attic and its oak frame and the restoration of the belfries;
 - The identical reconstruction of the Viollet-le-Duc spire and the lead roof;
 - The decontamination of the elevations and the various interior spaces in the Cathedral and the sacristy, the restoration of the floors and the furniture;
 - The decontamination and reinstallation of the great organ and the complete replacement of the choir organ instrument, the case being preserved and restored,
 - The complete overhaul of all the Cathedral's technical installations, including the fire safety systems which will be completely redesigned.
- As the reopening of the Cathedral is scheduled for 2024, it is planned to immediately repair the direct damage caused by the fire as well as that caused by certain previous pathologies. This work includes:
 - The cleaning and restoration of specific areas, along with the decontamination of the interior spaces and evacuated furniture,
 - Restoration of the stained glass windows removed for security purposes and decontamination *in situ*, without restoration of the remaining stained glass windows,
 - The restoration and *in situ* decontamination of the case of the great organ,
 - Exterior work on the Cathedral, in particular certain work to secure weakened elements (pinnacles), or to ensure the watertightness of collaterals and chapels;
- Old pathologies aggravated by the fire will be repaired after the opening of the Cathedral. The consolidation and restoration of the buttresses that were put on arch supports following the fire, as well as the external restoration of the Cathedral's chevet, are among the most urgent operations. The details of their implementation would be defined later;
- With regard to fire protection, a fire defence and safety project was developed in March 2022 to meet the objectives of limiting fire sources and improving the building's fire detection systems, fire containment and defence systems, and emergency response capability. The improvements will focus in particular on the large roof space. The project documents were submitted to the CNPA on 30 June 2022, which issued a favourable opinion;
- A project to redevelop the area around the Cathedral was selected as part of a competitive dialogue process and submitted to the CNPA for opinion. The winning project was made public on 27 June 2022, as announced on the City of Paris website. The State Party has not informed the World Heritage Centre of the progress of this project, and in particular the opinion of the CNPA.

On 26 May 2023, the State Party organised a presentation on the challenges of restoring Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, at UNESCO Headquarters. The President of the public institution in charge of the conservation and restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral reported on the progress of work on several sites:

- Completion of the cleaning and restoration of the interior walls (choir galleries, wall paintings, choir enclosure and bas-reliefs);
- Restoration of all the vaults, with the exception of the transept crossing;
- Start of the scaffolding for the reconstruction of the spire.

On this occasion, the State Party confirmed the reopening of the Cathedral before the end of 2024, thus respecting the five-year deadline for its reconstruction work, as declared by the President of the Republic at the time of the fire.

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

The main objective of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission (28 and 29 March 2022) was to discuss the exterior restoration, the liturgical development and the development of the square and the surroundings of the Cathedral, as well as the prevention of the risks of possible new disasters, while bearing in mind the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the inscribed property "Paris, Banks of the Seine", of which Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral is a component. As part of the mission, a visit to the reconstruction site was made in order to report on the progress of the consolidation and restoration work.

The modalities for implementing the restoration of the exterior of the Cathedral, as well as the projects related to the liturgical arrangement and its surroundings, as presented to the mission team, are compatible with the OUV and its attributes, re-establishing the Cathedral as one of the major Gothic architectural masterpieces within the "Paris, Banks of the Seine" World Heritage property. It should be noted that the mission took place when certain decisions concerning the restoration of the Cathedral and its surroundings had already been taken. Other decisions were to follow in the months following the mission and would be based on information that was not yet available at the time of the mission. It should be noted that the State Party has not responded to the World Heritage Centre's invitation to submit updates on any significant changes in the state of conservation of the property since the submission of its last report in February 2022 and the Advisory mission. The mission report noted that the two main projects determining the restoration of the exterior of Notre-Dame were the reconstruction of the entire lead roof and the reconstruction of the spire. There is sufficient information available to carry out the work according to the original execution techniques, using the same materials as those used for the construction of the Cathedral and the craftsmanship necessary to restore it to its original state. However, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to submit a clear timetable of the work planned to carry out the reconstruction and restoration of the roofs, the restoration of the façades and the interiors, specifying the options for cleaning techniques and the justification for the choice of the expected result (especially in relation to the historical frame of reference and possible specific findings) and identifying the key phases of decision-making concerning the restoration options and their actors, and to share with the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, detailed information on the progress of the reconstruction and restoration work on the cathedral.

In the various implementation options examined by the State Party at the time of the Advisory mission, the reflections concerning the project for development around the Cathedral and the liturgical development, their integration adapted to the reception of visitors and the faithful, and their articulation with the restoration project of the building, were likely to succeed, without compromising the attributes on which the OUV of the property is based.

The mission report had recommended that the outcome of the competitive process involving international design teams and the final design of the liturgical layout be communicated to the World Heritage Committee as soon as possible. It is therefore recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of the details of the selected project for the redevelopment of the surroundings of Notre-Dame, as well as the planned timetable for its validation by the competent national bodies and its implementation.

The development of a detailed fire safety project for the cathedral, received on 14 September 2022, is very positive. It is recommended that the State Party be reminded of the need for an integrated management plan for the "Paris, Banks of the Seine" property, while recognising the systems in place and the complexity of the task. To this end, the mission recommended the creation of specific interim management plans for each major component of the property, starting with the Cathedral and the surrounding area, followed by a plan for the Ile de la Cité, which could be followed by an integrated management plan for the entire property. A strategy for the management of public use of the Cathedral's surroundings from 2024, pending the completion of restoration work on the building, should be developed as soon as possible and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is also recommended that the new finalized risk prevention and management plan form part of the integrated management plan for the property and be communicated to the World Heritage Centre.

Finally, it is further recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to engage in a regular and strengthened dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in order to promote a clearer understanding of the various restoration options and decisions envisaged or retained for the building and its surroundings, with a clear timetable for their implementation.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 44th extended session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the efforts made to safeguard Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral and for the successful completion of the security and consolidation work;*
4. *Thanks the State Party for the successful organization of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission;*
5. *Welcomes the compatibility of the modalities for the implementation of the restoration of the exterior of the Cathedral as well as the projects related to the liturgical layout and surroundings, as presented to the mission team, with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its attributes;*
6. *Notes that the mission took place at a time when some decisions concerning the restoration of the Cathedral and its surroundings had already been taken, while other decisions were to follow in the coming months, based on information that was not available at the time of the mission;*
7. *Endorses the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission and invites the State Party to implement them, notably by submitting as soon as possible and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines:*
 - a) *A clear timetable of the works planned and carried out for the reconstruction and restoration of the roofs, the restoration of the façades and the interiors, specifying the options for cleaning techniques and the justification for the choice of the expected result (particularly in relation to the historical frame of reference and any specific findings) and identifying the moments when key decisions will have to be taken concerning the restoration options and the actors involved,*
 - b) *The technical information about the restoration of the façade before the start of the works,*
 - c) *The outcome of the competitive process on the design of the Cathedral's surroundings and the final design of the liturgical arrangement,*
 - d) *A strategy for managing the public use of the Cathedral's surroundings from 2024 onwards, pending completion of the restoration work on the building,*
 - e) *The new finalized risk prevention and management plan;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the works since the submission of its last state of conservation report and the joint Advisory mission in March 2022, including detailed information on the progress of the reconstruction and restoration work on the Cathedral as well as the details of the project*

retained for the redevelopment of the surroundings of Notre-Dame and the planned timetable for its validation by the competent national bodies and its implementation;

9. Welcomes the development of a fire defence and safety project for Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral;
10. Notes the need to create an integrated management plan for the “Paris, Banks of the Seine” property, while recognizing the systems in place and the complexity of the task, and recommends the creation of interim management plans specific to each component of the property, followed by an integrated management plan for the entire property;
11. Also recommends that the new risk prevention and management plan should form part of the integrated management plan for the property;
12. Also requests the State Party to strengthen coordination with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in order to maintain a regular dialogue and ensure a clear understanding of the various restoration actions planned for the Cathedral, as well as other actions planned for the redevelopment of the Cathedral square and its surroundings and for the property as a whole;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

54. Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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/400/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 800 million HUF (ca. 2.7 million EUR) EU support for the “Street of Culture” project

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2007, February 2018: ICOMOS Advisory missions; February 2013, April 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Large scale reconstruction
- Building heights and regulations
- Demolition and inappropriate development in the buffer zone known as the 'Jewish Quarter'
- Inappropriate use of public areas and street amenities
- Lack of conservation of residential housing in the area inscribed as World Heritage
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (increased traffic volume)
- Management System/Management Plan
- Legal framework
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents/>. The report, together with an update received in March 2023, provide information on the measures implemented by the State Party in response to the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), as follows:

- Several modifications to legal instruments were introduced, including to the World Heritage Act, the Government Decree on World Heritage Sites Designation Procedure, Content Requirements and Drafting Procedures for World Heritage Management Plans, and the Pre-emptive Rights in the World Heritage Property (World Heritage Decree). At the end of 2021, new amendments were introduced, including to the World Heritage Design Guide, the Hungarian World Heritage Council, and the World Heritage Complex Impact Assessment. The World Heritage Design Guide for Budapest is in preparation;
- A new regulation regarding the World Heritage Complex Impact Assessment was adopted that relates to heritage and visual impact assessments being requested prior to an intervention to assess potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) during the permitting phase in cases where the impact on the OUV cannot be ascertained based on the available documentation. The Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) will be prepared based on the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (2011) and the Visual Impact Assessments (VIA) need to be carried out using adequate tools, including geoinformation based programmes;
- The preparation of the Management Plan has progressed. A chapter on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) will be included in the Management Plan. Public consultations are part of the preparation of the management plan;
- The State Party stresses once again the 'ideological basis' of the NHP and recalls the research conducted by the VERITAS Historical Research Institute that the NHP reflects the 'national identity'. It is stated that all relevant documents related to the NHP had already been provided, and that neither individual projects nor the NHP have negative impacts on the OUV, nor on the authenticity and integrity of the property;
- Following the development of the online platform, 'Budapest World Heritage Attribute System', which aims to observe and analyse the OUV of the property, attribute-groups of the property have been identified and potential value-bearing buildings and urban structures have been listed on the system. The adaptation of the attribute-groups should offer a framework to discuss conservation issues. The assessment of the state of buildings and their photo documentation has commenced. A further survey is planned for 2022;
- The State Party is planning to develop rules and procedures for the protection and management of the OUV and monitoring tools in line with Chapter II.F of the Operational Guidelines;

- Two online meetings were held, on 28 January and 28 March 2022, in the framework of the ICOMOS advisory assistance on the Buda Castle Quarter, which the Committee requested the State Party to initiate as a matter of urgency. The State Party expresses its commitment to continue to benefit from this assistance and its intention to finalise the establishment of the corresponding contract with ICOMOS International;
- In January 2022, the Hungarian World Heritage Council was established, a body which shall support the work of the Prime Minister's Office. The council, composed of experts in the field of heritage protection, works to ensure that World Heritage properties in Hungary are given priority protection;
- The building of the Hungarian Opera House underwent a full monumental reconstruction, completed in March 2022 and complemented by the collection of photogrammetric and laser scanning data. 2D and 3D spatial data was developed also for a number of other buildings within the property.

Since the extended 44th session of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre has received information from third parties concerning the potential modification of the citadel within the boundaries of the property and planned developments that might negatively impact on the Budapest skyline. The information was transmitted to the State Party, in line with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, on 1 March 2022 and 27 February 2023 respectively. At the time of writing this report, the State Party has not provided the World Heritage Centre with any clarification regarding the third-party information.

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

The State Party report addresses some issues raised in the previous World Heritage Committee Decision, including the governance and regulatory framework for the management and protection of the property. Several modifications and amendments in this regard are noted, in particular the amendments concerning the World Heritage Design Guide, the Hungarian World Heritage Council, and the World Heritage Complex Impact Assessment. However, no detail has been provided on the relationship between state and municipal legislation, which has been an issue in the past.

It is welcomed that future HIAs will be prepared in accordance with existing impact assessment guidance, noting that the State Party should now rely on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. However, in accordance with this guidance, an HIA supplemented by a VIA can only be requested during the *'permitting phase in cases the impact on the OUV cannot not be ascertained based on the available documentation.'* It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party that, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, conducting impact assessments is a pre-requisite for development projects within and around a World Heritage property, and request that they be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The development of the management plan is still in progress. In this context, an online platform for the Budapest World Heritage Attributes System to visualize the OUV and its attributes has been developed. The efforts of the State Party to document and monitor the current state of the buildings using a geospatial database is acknowledged.

Furthermore, the State Party is planning to establish rules for the protection and management of the OUV. It is recommended that the State Party be invited to provide further information to the World Heritage Centre on the ways in which the planned rules will align with the provisions of Chapter II.F. of the Operational Guidelines.

The emphasis on public consultations during the preparation of the management plan is welcome. However, the timeline for the development of the management plan is unclear. A realistic timetable for the development of the management plan should be established so that it can begin as a matter of urgency. Previous Committee requests to finalize the management plan as soon as possible, including details on the protective measures and regulatory regimes, should be reiterated, for submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the NHP at the Buda Castle Quarter has a national significance for the State Party. However, no information has yet been provided that would allow a full understanding of the scope of the entire project. The documentation on selective projects reviewed by ICOMOS in 2020 is not sufficient and cannot substitute for documentation on the whole project, which therefore remains necessary. Neither the documentation for the whole project, nor the conservation plan for the NHP, nor an indication

of the halting of all ongoing and planned works in the Buda Castle area were provided, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 7B.49**. The continuation of the NHP works has thus been negatively impacting the state of conservation of the property, with potential cumulative negative impacts on its OUV, including its authenticity and integrity, as noted in the last Committee Decision.

The close collaboration between the State Party, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, requested by the Committee in that same Decision, to develop alternative conservation approaches for development interventions in the Buda Castle Quarter, remained in preliminary stages, almost two years after the above-mentioned request. At the time of writing this report, only two online meetings have been held, in January and March 2022, focusing only on the innovative approach to the definition of the attributes underlying the property's OUV. The discussion on the Buda Castle Quarter has not yet started despite the Committee's request. It is also regrettable that the State Party has not yet formalised the relevant contract with ICOMOS International, despite its stated intention to do so.

Even though some progress can be observed in the implementation of the last Committee Decision by the State Party, including the initiation of ICOMOS advisory assistance and the World Heritage Complex Impact Assessment, the state of conservation of the property has been and continues to be negatively impacted by the large-scale reconstruction and development works, including the NHP.

Nevertheless, the State Party has not reported substantial progress in addressing the Committee's Decision **44 COM 7B.49** or the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and the main threat of on-going work on the NHP project remains.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its request to the State Party to consider halting work on the NHP, and to encourage the State Party to formalise and extend its online assistance with ICOMOS to provide sufficient time for meaningful collaboration to take place to allow a way forward for the NHP to emerge, based on a shared understanding of the full documentation of the project. In the absence of substantial progress, inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be considered at the 46th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the modifications and amendments concerning the World Heritage Design Guide, the Hungarian World Heritage Council and the World Heritage Complex Impact Assessment as well as plans to conduct Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) supplemented by a Visual Impact Assessments and requests the State Party to conduct HIAs in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context as a pre-requisite for all development projects within and around the World Heritage property and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Acknowledges the progress made regarding the development of the management plan and the development of the online platform 'Budapest World Heritage Attributes System' as an innovative tool to visualize attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and welcomes public consultations organised by the State Party during the preparation of the management plan;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the management plan as soon as possible, including details of the protective measures and regulatory regimes, and to*

submit the final draft of the plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;

6. *Also acknowledges* the State Party's efforts to document and monitor the current state of conservation of the property, including by using a geospatial database, and *invites* the State Party to provide further information to the World Heritage Centre on the ways in which the planned rules for the protection and management of the OUV will align with the Operational Guidelines;
7. *Regrets* that all on-going and planned work on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) has not been halted as requested by the Committee, that no information has yet been provided that would allow a full understanding of the scope of the entire project or its full impact, and nor has a Conservation Plan been submitted;
8. *Considers* that the continuation of the NHP works has thus been negatively impacting the state of conservation of the property, with potential cumulative negative impacts on its OUV, including its authenticity and integrity, as noted in the last Committee decision;
9. *Reiterates its request* to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive information on the NHP to allow an understanding of the scope of the entire project;
10. *Reiterates its concern* that the works in the context of the NHP are still ongoing, that the state of conservation of the property has been negatively impacted by planned reconstruction and its full potential impacts; *reiterates its request* to the State Party to consider halting all ongoing and planned works at the Buda Castle Quarter to allow dialogue on how the project might be modified;
11. *Urges* the State Party to re-start the online ICOMOS advisory assistance for the Buda Castle Quarter, originally initiated in January 2022, to allow the State Party to benefit from this process over an extended period of time and to allow meaningful collaboration on the NHP between the State Party, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre based on full documentation on the entire project;
12. *Requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger..**

57. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (C 1488)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

58. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

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

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/356/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1986-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 452,208

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 211,900 (Conservation of Hagia Sophia); USD 36,686.30 (Convention France-UNESCO); USD 155,000 (in the framework of the International Safeguarding Campaign for Istanbul and Göreme)

Previous monitoring missions

November 1997: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 1998: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2000, May 2001, 2002, December 2003, 2004: World Heritage Centre missions; April 2006, May 2008, April 2009, November 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; October 2020: UNESCO Advisory mission; January/February 2021: UNESCO Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial and touristic development
- Ground/underground transport infrastructure
- Low impact research/monitoring activities
- Management System/Management Plan
- Development/renovation/renewal projects
- Loss of integrity and authenticity: decay and loss of Ottoman/vernacular architecture
- Impact of change of status of Hagia Sophia and Chora Museum

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2021, the State Party submitted a detailed progress report in response to Decision **44 COM 7B.58**, and on 2 February 2022, a report on the state of conservation of the property, the Executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents/>. Both documents outline progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee as well as current projects, as follows:

- Administrative and legal changes have led to the property now being located in an area declared a 'Special Environment Protection Area' under the authority of the Ministry of Environment and Public Works. With the approval of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the site Management Directorate's Advisory Board members were updated, and the Board met in late December 2021;
- Several repair works were completed in Hagia Sophia, including conservation works on the Northern tympanum, emergency repairs on the interior surfaces, the South-West Atrium Landing Ramp at the museum gallery floor and the North, South and East facades of the Hagia Sophia museum. Preparations for conservation works are ongoing for the Minarets, the North and South Courtyard Walls, the Sabil of the South Courtyard Wall, the Fountain of the South Wall and the Water Reservoir in the Tombs Courtyard. These works have sought to interfere as little as possible with the building: the use of materials is suitable for traditional architecture; new methods of material analysis allowed for new data to be determined and restorations decisions were

updated accordingly. The Hagia Sophia Madrasa reconstruction, previously positively assessed through an ICOMOS Technical Review, continues. The renovation of the Hagia Sophia toilets was completed;

- The restoration work on Chora is ongoing and was planned to be completed by the end of August 2022;
- Following the recommendations of the UNESCO Advisory missions, the State Party foresaw:
 - An ongoing landscaping project, including an 'archaeological garden' regrouping the archaeological remains in the courtyard and gardens of Hagia Sophia,
 - The organization of an international seminar on the conservation of mosaic and frescoes at the end of 2022;
- Information has been provided on completed and ongoing large-scale restoration and landscaping projects on the Sultanahmet Mosque, Suleymaniye complex hospital and lower floor soup kitchen, Topkapi urban park, Molla Gurani Mosque, Kasturya Synagogue, Kalenderhane Mosque, Sogukcesme Military High School, as well as numerous other mosques, madrasahs, schools, burial sites, fountains, cisterns and baths;
- Maintenance and repair have been carried out on eleven vernacular architecture examples in the Zeyrek Area, mainly involving façade and roof insulation, coating and painting works, doors and windows repairs, and addition of zinc pipes and canals. More works on derelict vernacular architecture are proposed in the Fatih district and its borders and in the Nişanca Renewal area;
- Reported works at the Grand Bazaar relate to preventing and repairing damage caused by earthquakes, fire and ground settlements, as well as reshaping the appearance of the bazaar;
- A restoration project for the refunctioning of the Yedikule Fortress aims at repairing the losses related to its original structure in the courtyards, walls and towers by applying the materials and techniques suitable for authentic composition and by repairing surfaces and cleaning. The Fortress is intended to become an accessible outdoor museum and exhibition centre. Restoration works will therefore also take into account accessibility arrangements for the entire area and the assignment of new functions, including a permanent exhibition, as well as the reconstruction of a masjid and a prayer room lost in the early 1900s;
- Works are being undertaken on the Land Walls within the national garden project, with the aim of improving spatial conditions by fitting the recreational needs of locals and visitors and reducing security problems;
- Various constructions such as a High School and University Development projects, residential housing and urban transformation projects are ongoing;
- A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Kazlıçeşme Marina Project was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by ICOMOS;
- The Yedikule Yenikapi Coastline Renewal Area has received approvals in its different phases;
- The 'Istanbul Cultural Properties Inventory Project' is compiling a register of historical artefacts in a digital database based on information collected in the archives and on-site documentation and has become the basic infrastructure for systematically generating information documents, maps and carrying out the analytical work necessary for the actions within the Historic Peninsula Management Plan.

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

The maintenance and repair of vernacular architecture reconstruction projects for 20th century civil architecture buildings, and the repairs of the building facades are all welcomed. The digitization of the inventory, and the systematic survey of the condition of the structures by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation is also welcome in providing a quantitative basis for urgent action on 'buildings at risk'. However, the State Party has not elaborated on how the building projects relate to the long-term strategy for timber buildings requested by the Committee in Decision **42 COM 7B.31** and reiterated in Decision **44 COM 7B.58**.

While the scope of the many restoration projects being undertaken at the property is also to be welcomed, the lack of submission of appropriate technical documentation remains a concern. Although

some of the documentation previously requested by the Committee has been submitted, this has occurred after decisions have been taken to proceed and/or works have commenced or have been completed, contrary to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. For a number of projects, no HIA has been prepared despite the Committee's request in Decision **44 COM 7B.58**.

A further issue is that the Committee's request that a roadmap including a short- and long-term strategy covering all types of projects which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be developed has not been implemented and no road map been developed for the Hagia Sofia area. Although the State Party has submitted a finalized Management Plan dated 2018, this had not been submitted for review prior to adoption nor revised to define the attributes of OUV and the recommendations of recent missions have not been addressed, as requested by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.58**.

The State Party has reported on the completed works of reconstruction for the Hagia Sophia Madrasa and lavatories and is in the process of implementing the establishment of an 'Archaeological Garden' regrouping the archaeological pieces scattered in the southern area of Hagia Sophia. The State Party has not reported on a Master Plan for the entire Hagia Sophia area, which would be beneficial for a long-term vision of the area. Information on the level of humidity created by the carpet on the original floor has not been provided in response to one of the Advisory missions' recommendations. Regrettably, no update on these points, nor on the international seminar on the conservation of mosaic and frescoes reported to be organised before the end of 2022 was provided by the State Party before the 1 March 2023 deadline.

While the 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission report noted that the ground floor mosaics depicting scenes of Christianity were covered with canvasses but made visible to visitors outside of prayer hours, the World Heritage Centre has received third party information suggesting their permanent covering. Documentation of damage to the oak wood of the 15th century old Imperial Gate, scraped and removed wall plaster, fountains and doors used to store shoes, and damaged marble slabs in Hagia Sophia, and serious concerns about its preservation in view of the massive daily presence of visitors and the celebration of religious events, received by the World Heritage Centre from third parties, were shared with the State Party authorities on 3 May 2022, 30 June 2022 and 12 September 2022. The State Party responded on 13 June 2022 and 6 October 2022, stating that the change of status of Hagia Sophia had not had a negative impact on its accessibility and state of conservation, and that the necessary repairs to the Imperial Gate had been undertaken, a technical personnel unit had been established, and that increased security measures, training and measures to prevent physical contact of visitors with the building were being taken. The State Party also stressed that the restoration and conservation work at Hagia Sophia is carried out in accordance with internationally accepted contemporary conservation principles under the supervision of the Scientific Committee of Hagia Sophia, and that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is preparing a visitor's plan, which has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre to date.

On 27 October 2022, the World Heritage Centre requested from the State Party detailed information on the visiting conditions in place at Hagia Sophia since February 2021 in view of the concerns regarding the coverage of mosaics outside of prayer times. No response has been received from the State Party.

Considering the outstanding symbolic significance of Hagia Sophia in particular, the Committee may wish to express its concern about the reported damage and degradation and invite the State Party to regularly share all detailed information on the different measures taken to address them as well on its monitoring efforts, and, in addition may wish to call on the State Party to take into account the recommendations from previous missions, and request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the status of their implementation and of any proposed plans for major restoration or new constructions that may affect the OUV of the property, as well as to pursue international cooperation and dialogue, before any further major changes are implemented at the property.

The State Party informed that the large-scale restoration and presentation project undertaken at the Saint Saviour in Chora (Kariye) was due to be completed by the end of August 2022, but no update was provided by the State Party by the deadline of 1 March 2023. No information on a potential Master Plan for the Chora area, as recommended by UNESCO Advisory missions, was provided. The World Heritage Centre has also received information expressing concern about the duration of the restoration works and the removal of objects of historical and/or religious value from the Chora. This information was also shared with the State Party authorities on 3 May 2022, 30 June 2022 and 12 September 2022. The State Party replied on 13 June 2022 and on 6 October 2022 affirming that the restoration process in Chora is under the Scientific Committee's supervision. The State Party also affirmed that mosaics in

Chora are to be covered only during prayer times, as was mentioned for Hagia Sophia in the UNESCO Advisory mission report by the Special Advisor to the Director General.

Work carried out at the Grand Bazaar addresses maintenance and repair needs, although there is a danger that loss of original fabric and patina will reduce the authenticity of the precinct. The Synagogue work appears to be a reconstruction project based on the excavated plan and pre-demolition records, which, while not authentic, does recognise the Jewish contribution to the Ottoman City. The extensive scheme of repair for the Fortress generally appears to follow a 'minimum intervention' approach to surviving historic fabric, with the reconstructed tower roofs restoring a distinctive skyline element, evident in historic views. However, the works also seem to involve developing the fortress as a tourist attraction and international exhibition centre, including a new administrative and restaurant building in modern style inside the fortress. These works clearly warrant careful consideration and should be subject to a HIA undertaken in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, which should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS prior to commencement of the works.

The ICOMOS Technical Review of the Kazlıçeşme Yacht Marina project, for which an HIA was provided, concluded that, although a marina should not be precluded at this location, significant further work is needed to revise this project, including preservation of the line of sight to the Marble Tower, improved visual links generally, anticipation of the impacts of supporting development to the north of Kennedy Caddesi, use of three dimensional modelling, and that revised plans should be prepared and submitted.

In view of the large number of reconstructions undertaken within the World Heritage property without systematically conducting HIAs and/or late notifications of projects (once the works have already started or even been completed), the lack of a strategic roadmap for all types of projects, of a Master Plan for the entire Hagia Sofia area and for Chora area, of a long-term strategy for repairing timber buildings, or of an updated Management Plan, and the fact that previous requests of the Committee, notably in its Decision **44 COM 7B.58**, remain unanswered, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the overall state of conservation of the property, to assess and review the different types of projects undertaken in and around the property for their possible impact on the property's OUV, and to consider progress with the development of a long-term strategy of timber buildings, and a strategic road map for projects.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.31** and **44 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the maintenance and repair of Ottoman timber houses and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on how this relates to a long-term strategy for timber buildings within the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the inventory digitization and the systematic survey of the condition of structures by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Directorate of Cultural Heritage Conservation, in providing a quantitative basis for urgent action on 'buildings at risk';*
5. *Notes the large number of infrastructure and other development/reconstruction/restoration projects proposed at the property, and regrets that for all of these projects appropriate documentation was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner and that for a number of them no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was prepared despite the Committee's request in Decision **44 COM 7B.58**;*

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a comprehensive roadmap, including short and long-term strategies covering all types of projects which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before any irreversible decisions are taken, and to submit this road map to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2024**;
7. Notes with concern the third party reports of damage and degradation at Hagia Sophia and invites the State Party to regularly share information with the World Heritage Centre on the measures taken to remedy this situation, on the visiting conditions in place since February 2021 and on its efforts to monitor the overall state of conservation of the property, and to take into account the recommendations from previous missions,
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review details of the restoration works at Chora, indicating the level of progress, and to report on the progress in the development of a Master Plan for the Chora area;
9. Further requests the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the UNESCO Advisory missions that took place in October 2020 and January/February 2021, taking into account the potential impact that changes at Hagia Sophia and Chora may have on the OUV of the property and to inform the World Heritage Centre of their status of implementation and of any plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property;
10. Further notes the submission of the HIA of the Kazlıçeşme Marina project and requests the State Party to revise the project in line with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review, including three-dimensional modelling and preparation of a final HIA in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
11. Also requests the State Party to undertake HIAs, as well as Tourism Environmental Impact Assessments for all large-scale projects, including the Yenikapi Cruise Port, the proposals for the development of the Fortress as a tourist attraction and international exhibition centre, as well as of works at the Grand Bazaar, with a view of mitigating, if not avoiding, their negative impact on the OUV of the property, and to submit these reports to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are taken;
12. Notes with regret that the Management Plan submitted by the State Party was officially adopted in 2018 without defining the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, and without submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption, and requests the State Party to submit a revised draft defining the attributes that convey the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
13. Further calls on the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as possible, in order to examine the overall state of conservation of the property and the level of implementation of previous Committee Decisions and recommendations from previous Advisory missions, to review and assess the different types of projects undertaken in and around the property for their possible impact on the property's OUV, and to consider progress with the development of a long-term strategy of timber buildings, and a strategic road map for projects;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, in the format of submission included in Annex 13 of the Operational Guidelines, and on the

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

59. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

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

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/527/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1998-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 74,665

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May 1999: ICOMOS expert mission; April 2006: expert mission (Italian Funds-in-Trust); March 2009, November 2010, April 2013, March 2017 and February 2020: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; May 2019: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- Legal framework
- Management System/Management Plan
- Urban development pressure
- High-rise buildings that could compromise the panorama of the historical monastic Dnipro river landscape (built)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/>

Current conservation issues

On 10 January 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/198253>. The report provides information on the measures taken by the State Party in response to Decision **44 COM 7B.59** of the World Heritage Committee and underlines threats and challenges in the protection and conservation of the property since the outbreak of the war, as follows:

- The development of the Management Plan is being completed and its submission to the World Heritage Centre was foreseen by 1 February 2023. The determined use regimes of the buffer zone are differentiated, they regulate construction in the buffer zone and, through their provisions, eliminate possible risks of loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The war situation has stalled the progress in establishing a Supervisory Board for the property, the finalisation of the 'Historical and Architectural Key Plan of Kyiv' and the city's Mater Plan;
- Six monuments within the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra component of the property were selected in 2021 in the framework of the Great Restoration Programme aimed at the conservation of the immovable cultural heritage, but restoration works could not be completed due to the war: no funding was allocated to these projects in 2022;

- In 2020-2022, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine submitted to the World Heritage Centre 12 notifications about planned urban transformations in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- Currently, the property faces not only the risk of a direct hit by Russian missiles and drones, but also the impact of shock and sound waves from the bombing of the city. Vibration loads may cause deterioration of the load-bearing capacity of the property's structures and provoke a significant threat in the detachment of mosaics and ancient plaster decorated with frescoes. An additional threat is associated with emergency and rolling blackouts resulting in the shutdown of special equipment that maintains constant conditions at the property (microclimate, etc.).

The cultural and natural heritage of Ukraine remains under constant threat since the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022.

UNESCO has expressed its deep concern, including through its statements, over the consequences of the war for the people of Ukraine and for culture in Ukraine, while reiterating the obligations of international law, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols.

The war significantly raises the level of threat to Ukraine's properties, especially those located in big cities such as Kyiv, L'viv and Odesa. Kyiv has suffered physical damage in the buffer zone of the World Heritage property. The 'Historic Centre of Odesa' was inscribed simultaneously on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger on 25 January 2023, at the 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee.

The World Heritage Centre has not, at the time of writing this report, received the new Management Plan for the property.

On 18 January 2023, the World Heritage Centre, after having been alerted by the media of the approval of Law 5655 'On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Reform of the Urban Development Sphere' by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's Parliament), requested the feedback of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and any other competent body in the field of heritage protection on this new law. In particular, clarity is being sought about the impact this law may have on the protection of cultural properties and the fulfilment of Ukraine's obligations under the Convention.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party:

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are cooperating closely with the Ukrainian authorities and other cultural heritage stakeholders as well as international partners in order to support Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of its cultural heritage.

On 18 March 2022, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict invited Ukraine to request enhanced protection for all cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' (Decision **2 EXT.COM 5**).

Moreover, in cooperation with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO is monitoring cultural sites through satellite imagery analysis. As of 20 July 2023, UNESCO has verified damage to 270 sites since the beginning of the war. In this context, the status of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', consisting of two separate components – Saint-Sophia Cathedral and its related monastic buildings and the monastic complex of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra with the Church of the Saviour at Berestovo – is being monitored on a regular basis. The Kyiv region is the third most affected by damage to cultural property according to data on the damage assessment of cultural property in Ukraine conducted by UNESCO.

On 9 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre organized an online consultation meeting for the Ukrainian National Focal Points for the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage site managers, with the participation of the Advisory Bodies. The meeting, attended by the Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, aimed at giving the Ukrainian authorities and cultural heritage managers a platform to share information on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties and possible damage and threats, as well as to identify needs to protect the properties from the threats and impacts of the war. Among the concerns shared by site managers, the following stand out:

- the protection of vulnerable structures and the storage of movable heritage in safe shelters;
- the impact of the war on restoration work;

- the lack of risk preparedness plans for World Heritage properties prior to the war.

ICCROM, through its flagship programme on First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), in partnership with the Maidan Museum and the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI), organized a two-day online workshop in April 2022 on developing a collaborative damage and risk assessment methodology for heritage sites damaged or at risk of destruction. The workshop brought together more than 77 professionals representing museums, art institutions, memorials, archives, departments of culture, research institutes, universities, and non-governmental and private cultural institutions from Kyiv and 14 regions in the country. ICCROM is continuing to work with partners on other potential capacity building activities according to the needs expressed by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine. In addition to the Ministry, potential partners for these initiatives include HERI, ICOMOS, and the European Commission.

UNESCO, ICCROM and the Maidan Museum have translated the manual *Endangered Heritage: Emergency Evacuation of Heritage Collections* (Спадщина у небезпеці – Екстрена евакуація культурних цінностей <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381112>), into Ukrainian. UNESCO has supported the distribution of some 2,000 printed copies across Ukraine, to areas with limited internet access. The *First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis – Handbook and Toolkit* are also currently being translated in collaboration with the Prince Claus Fund. ICCROM is also working with professionals in Ukraine on the design and development of damage assessment forms and an accompanying app for use in the field for damage assessment. With the support of the Government of Poland, the “Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage” (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1826>), which was developed in May 2018, was translated into Ukrainian.

ICOMOS has been closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine and has provided a variety of assistance, ranging from advice and capacity building on monitoring and documentation to the provision of funding and equipment, including a supply of water-mist fire extinguishers for wooden churches with instructions and advice on their use prepared by heritage professionals as well as two documents (translated in Ukrainian) on how to protect iconostases and stained glass windows in order to contribute towards the safeguarding of Ukrainian properties and the implementation of effective crisis management and risk assessment measures. ICOMOS is working to support the functionality of its Ukrainian National Committee, to advocate for the enhancement of local heritage and traditions as key values for reconstruction, to provide expert training and to support the involvement of local communities in the recovery process. To this end, an active database of support, initiatives, scholarships, and opportunities for individual Ukrainian professionals, scholars or students in the arts and the heritage field has been set up and is available on the ICOMOS website.

UNESCO is continuing its efforts to support the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy in the coordination of international initiatives in support of the culture sector. Three meetings were convened in March, May and November 2022, gathering Ukrainian and international partners, including the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, to share information on actions undertaken to assess damage to cultural property in Ukraine. The fourth international coordination meeting for Culture in Ukraine was held on 27 March 2023, to present the latest update of the impact of the war on cultural heritage and the priorities of the culture sector, detailed findings of the UNESCO-led Culture chapter of the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA2) undertaken jointly by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations and to coordinate the next steps for the safeguarding of Ukrainian cultural heritage, in particular through a joint Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine for 2023 and beyond.

A UNESCO mission to Ukraine was undertaken from 6 to 11 July 2022. The mission aimed at consolidating an initial assessment of the impact of the war on Ukraine’s culture sector, coordinating the Organization’s support in this field with the government authorities and partners, and defining priorities for recovery and reconstruction. The mission team visited the World Heritage property ‘Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra’ and met with relevant stakeholders, who highlighted the most urgent needs for Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, namely the provision of equipment to digitise the collection of old books and manuscripts, and the continuation and/or securing of restoration works that were approved under the Great Restoration Programme in the National Preserve ‘Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra’.

An ICOMOS and ICCROM mission was undertaken to Ukraine from 9 to 16 July 2022. The mission aimed to provide support to the efforts made by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, as well as heritage organizations and professionals in the country, in the current war situation. The main

purpose was to assess the damage caused to cultural heritage, identify immediate needs, and offer technical assistance for the preparation of a systematic and coordinated national strategy for first aid interventions and rapid response and coordination mechanisms for cultural heritage in crisis, and recovery planning of cultural heritage. The mission was at Kyiv and visited the World Heritage property of 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and the two separate components: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and its related monastic buildings and the monastic complex of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra with the Church of the Saviour at Berestovo. The mission met with relevant managers of the property and discussed the most urgent needs as the preparation of an active risk preparedness strategy with precise definition of blast waves impacts and risk mitigation measures.

A second UNESCO mission to Ukraine took place from 16 to 25 January 2023 with the objective, among others, to conduct preliminary assessment of the scale of the restoration needs at the Lavra. The mission team also assessed the progress made by the National Preserve in the digitalisation of the documentary heritage of the Lavra, which is supported by the use of a high-resolution scanner for books, manuscripts and archives donated by Austria and made available to the Lavra in August 2022 with the logistical support from the World Heritage Fund.

UNESCO is implementing, in cooperation with ICCROM and ICOMOS, a large project (USD 4.065.000) for emergency assistance for culture in Ukraine, funded by Japan in the framework of a Funds-in-Trust agreement concluded in January 2023. The project focuses, amongst others, on emergency preparedness and protection of Ukraine's World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative List, as well as selected damaged cultural heritage sites, through necessary plans, documentation and protective measures and urgent repair work (70% of the budget). As part of the project, UNESCO will support the most urgent restoration works in the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, which were interrupted by the war.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

It is commendable that the State Party pursues efforts to implement the previous Committee decisions and the mission's recommendations despite extremely challenging circumstances it has been facing since the beginning of the war.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that, as a result of the war in Ukraine, optimal conditions are no longer met to fully guarantee the protection of the OUV of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra'. In accordance with Article 11.4 of the World Heritage Convention and paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies consider that the property is threatened by serious and specific dangers. The war constitutes a potential danger to the property, as set out in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines that defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that the World Heritage Committee should call upon the involved parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to cultural heritage of Ukraine, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain concerned that risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential vibrational impacts on building fabric of nearby missile strikes, and measures to address these impacts. Therefore, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to give high priority to the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Deplores the war prevailing in Ukraine and the loss of human life;
4. Commends the State Party for its strong commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', as well as the other World Heritage properties in Ukraine, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property;
5. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement the previous decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the mission, and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise and submit, as soon as circumstances permit and prior to its formal adoption, the new Management Plan for the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Welcomes the various actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of the property and its cultural heritage more generally and encourages further assistance and support;
7. Considers that optimal conditions are no longer met to fully guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that it is threatened by potential danger due to the war, in accordance with paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. **Decides, in conformity with Article 11.4 of the Convention and Paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
9. Further requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 46th session;
10. Calls upon all parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
11. Expresses its concern that risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential vibrational impacts on building fabric of nearby missile strikes, and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are able to provide through the support of Japan;
12. Furthermore, invites the State Party to continue taking all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;

13. Requests the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted;
14. Also calls on the international community to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage and launches an appeal to the neighbouring countries and to the international community to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural properties coming from Ukraine;
15. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

60. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (ii)(v)

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/865/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2004: ICOMOS-German World Heritage Foundation mission; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- New construction within the historic centre
- Lack of valid detailed planning documents
- Inadequate infrastructure, including the sewage system
- Housing
- Management System/Management Plan
- Solid waste

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/>

Current conservation issues

The cultural and natural heritage of Ukraine remains under constant threat since the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022.

UNESCO has expressed its deep concern, including through its statements, over the consequences of the war for the people of Ukraine and for culture in Ukraine, while reiterating the obligations of international law, including the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols.

The war significantly raises the level of threat to Ukraine's properties, especially those located in big cities such as Kyiv, L'viv and Odesa. The 'Historic Centre of Odesa' was inscribed simultaneously on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger on 25 January 2023, at the 18th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee. On 6 July 2023, a missile attack hit historic buildings in L'viv located in the buffer zone of the property, some 2 km from the property's nearest component, the ensemble of St. Yuri.

On 18 January 2023, the World Heritage Centre, after having been alerted by the media of the approval of Law 5655 'On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Reform of the Urban Development Sphere' by the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament) requested the feedback of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and any other competent body in the field of heritage protection on this new law. In particular, clarity is being sought about the impact this law may have on the protection of cultural properties and the fulfilment of Ukraine's obligations under the Convention.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are cooperating closely with the Ukrainian authorities and other cultural heritage stakeholders as well as international partners in order to support Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of its cultural heritage.

With the support of UNESCO, cultural property in Ukraine was marked with the Blue Shield emblem of the 1954 Convention, in particular within the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre'. On 18 March 2022, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict invited Ukraine to request enhanced protection for all cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage, including 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre' (Decision **2 EXT.COM 5**).

Moreover, in cooperation with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO is monitoring cultural sites through satellite imagery analysis. As of 20 July 2023, UNESCO has verified damage to 270 sites since the beginning of the war. In this context, the status of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', consisting of two component sites: the larger area, encompassing the castle, its surrounding area and the city centre, and a smaller area to the southwest, on St. Yuri's Hill comprising the ensemble of St. Yuri's Cathedral, is being monitored on a regular basis.

On 9 March 2022, the World Heritage Centre organized an online consultation meeting for the Ukrainian National Focal Points for the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage site managers, with the participation of the Advisory Bodies. The meeting, attended by the Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, aimed at giving the Ukrainian authorities and cultural heritage managers a platform to share information on the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties and possible damage and threats, as well as to identify needs to protect the properties from the threats and impacts of the war. Among the concerns shared by site managers, the following stand out:

- The protection of vulnerable structures and the storage of movable heritage in safe shelters;
- The impact of the armed conflict on restoration work;
- The lack of risk preparedness plans for World Heritage properties prior to the war.

ICCROM through its flagship programme on First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAR), in partnership with the Maidan Museum and the Heritage Emergency Response Initiative (HERI), organized a two-day online workshop in April 2022 on developing a collaborative damage and risk assessment methodology for heritage sites damaged or at risk of destruction. The workshop brought together more than 77 professionals representing museums, art institutions, memorials, archives, departments of culture, research institutes, universities, and non-governmental and private cultural institutions from L'viv and 14 regions in the country. ICCROM is continuing to work with partners on other potential capacity building activities according to the needs expressed by the Ministry of Culture. In addition to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, potential partners for these initiatives include HERI, ICOMOS, and the European Commission.

UNESCO, ICCROM and the Maidan Museum have translated the manual *Endangered Heritage: Emergency Evacuation of Heritage Collections* (Спадщина у небезпеці – Екстрена евакуація культурних цінностей <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000381112>), into Ukrainian. UNESCO has supported the distribution of some 2,000 printed copies across Ukraine, to areas with limited internet access. The *First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis – Handbook and Toolkit* are also currently being translated in collaboration with the Prince Claus Fund. ICCROM is also working with professionals in Ukraine on the design and development of damage assessment forms and an

accompanying App for use in the field for damage assessment. With the support of the Government of Poland, the “Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage” (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1826>), which was developed in May 2018, was translated into Ukrainian.

ICOMOS has been closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine and has provided a variety of assistance, ranging from advice and capacity building on monitoring and documentation to the provision of funding and equipment, including a supply of water-mist fire extinguishers for wooden churches with instructions and advice on their use prepared by heritage professionals, in order to contribute towards the safeguarding of Ukrainian properties and the implementation of effective crisis management and risk assessment measures. ICOMOS is working to support the functionality of its Ukrainian National Committee, to advocate for the enhancement of local heritage and traditions as key values for reconstruction, to provide expert training and to support the involvement of local communities in the recovery process. To this end, an active database of support, initiatives, scholarships, and opportunities for individual Ukrainian professionals, scholars or students in the arts and the heritage field has been set up and is available on the ICOMOS website.

UNESCO is continuing its efforts to support the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy in the coordination of international initiatives in support of the culture sector. Three meetings were convened in March, May and November 2022, gathering Ukrainian and international partners, including the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, to share information on actions undertaken to assess damage to cultural property in Ukraine. The fourth international coordination meeting for Culture in Ukraine was held on 27 March 2023, to present the latest update of the impact of the war on and the priorities of the culture sector, detailed findings of the Culture chapter of the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA2) undertaken jointly by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank, the European Commission and the United Nations and coordinate the next steps for the safeguarding of Ukrainian cultural heritage, in particular through a joint Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine for 2023 and beyond.

A UNESCO mission to Ukraine was undertaken from 6 to 11 July 2022. The mission aimed at consolidating an initial assessment of the impact of the war on Ukraine’s culture sector, to coordinate UNESCO’s support with the government authorities and partners, and to define priorities for recovery and reconstruction. The mission visited the World Heritage property of ‘L’viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre’ and observed the safeguarding measures implemented in the property against foreseeable effects of armed conflict, such as the installation of fire protection equipment, measures limiting the negative effects of blast waves and the preparation for possible evacuation of movable property.

An ICOMOS and ICCROM mission was undertaken to Ukraine from 9 to 16 July 2022. The mission aimed to provide support to the efforts made by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, as well as heritage organizations and professionals in the country, in the current conflict situation. The main purpose was to assess the damage caused to cultural heritage, identify immediate needs, and offer technical assistance for the preparation of a systematic and coordinated national strategy for first aid interventions and rapid response and coordination mechanisms for cultural heritage in crisis, and recovery planning for cultural heritage. The mission visited L’viv and briefly visited the World Heritage property of ‘L’viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre’ and could observe the measures implemented for mitigation of the negative effects of blast waves on the most decorative façades, stained glass windows of various churches and other important exterior and fragile ornamentation.

Following the signing of a letter of intent between UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine on 30 August 2022 by which priority areas of cooperation were defined, two major projects relevant to the World Heritage property of ‘L’viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre’ are underway. With the support of the UNESCO/Spain Funds-in-Trust, the creation of a cultural hub is underway in L’viv. It will host a series of capacity building activities in the field of culture for governmental actors at all levels, cultural professionals, stakeholders and communities. The premises to host it, located in the buffer zone of the property, are being renovated. The hub is expected to open in autumn 2023.

Another major project implemented by UNESCO in close cooperation with ICCROM and ICOMOS is supported by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust. The project focuses, inter alia, on the development of emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plans for Ukraine’s World Heritage properties and Tentative List sites, as well as on damage assessment of other cultural properties and first aid work.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that, as a result of the war in Ukraine, optimal conditions are no longer met to fully guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre'. In accordance with Article 11.4 of the World Heritage Convention and paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies consider that the property is threatened by serious and specific dangers. The war constitutes a potential danger to the property, as set out in paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines that defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies suggest that the World Heritage Committee should call upon the parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the cultural heritage of Ukraine, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain concerned that risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential vibrational impacts on building fabric of nearby missile strikes, and measures to address these impacts. The lack of a Management Plan and a Master Plan for the site and its wider setting is also of concern as is the lack of details on the total area of the buffer zone adjusted by Decision **32 COM 8B.69**. Therefore, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to give high priority to the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Deplores the war prevailing in Ukraine and the loss of human life;
3. Commends the State Party for its strong commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', as well as the other World Heritage properties in Ukraine, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property;
4. Welcomes the various actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in the protection and safeguarding of the property and its cultural heritage more generally and encourages further assistance and support;
5. Considers that optimal conditions are no longer met to fully guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and that it is threatened by potential danger due to the outbreak of the war, in accordance with paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. **Decides, in conformity with Article 11.4 of the Convention and Paragraphs 177 to 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
7. Further requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 46th session;

8. *Calls upon all Parties to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;*
9. *Expresses its concern that risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential vibrational impacts on building fabric of nearby missile strikes, and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are able to provide through the support of Japan;*
10. *Furthermore, invites the State Party to continue taking all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;*
11. *Requests the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted;*
12. *Also calls on the international community to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage and launches an appeal to the neighbouring countries and to the international community to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine;*
13. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

62. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

II. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2023

NATURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

70. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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/1161/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 19,950

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Renewable energy facilities (geothermal energy exploration)
- Absence of strict development control process (issue resolved)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/>

Current conservation issues

On 22 February 2023, 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/1161/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Funds have been made available to amend the relevant sections of the Physical Planning and Development Act to integrate the recommendations of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study of the property;
- Outstanding landscape view monitoring was undertaken to ensure that the scenic views are not significantly altered from the baseline of 2013;
- Challenges with development pressures are noted, particularly on private properties. The monitoring report indicates that there is some development, in particular in Sugar Bay, which does not comply fully with the Policy Area Design Guidelines of the LAC study. There has been no visible progress on the Freedom Bay Development project;

- The property management collaborates with relevant local and national agencies through the Pitons Management Area Advisory Committee (PMAAC) to undertake other relevant monitoring activities for the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Funding has been secured for the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP), formally known as the Geothermal Resource and Development Project (GRDP). The State Party has recently agreed to exploratory drilling to determine the viability of the geothermal source. This will be accompanied by the necessary Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA);
- Demarcating the boundaries of the property remains a priority activity, in particular defining the zonation within the property, buffer zone boundaries, as well as the marine boundaries. Funds have been secured to undertake this exercise;
- The management authority implemented other activities geared towards increasing public awareness of the property, preserving its World Heritage status and enhancing the sustainable management of the property including a 'Restoring the Pride Campaign' and an Annual Summer Camp.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is welcomed that funding has been secured to integrate the LAC study into the relevant legal and regulatory frameworks. The State Party should be requested to ensure that the recommendations of the LAC study are integrated into legally binding regulations under the Physical Planning Act for Saint Lucia, and to report to the World Heritage Centre, upon adoption of the amended Act.

The confirmation that the Freedom Bay Development Project has continued to not see any noticeable progress is noted. However, it remains of concern that development, particularly in Sugar Bay, has occurred, which does not comply fully with the Policy Area Design Guidelines of the LAC, and noting the potential visual impact on the World Heritage values, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure compliance of all approved projects with the LAC regulations.

Recalling the State Party's reported intention to revise the 2003 Management Plan for the property in 2020, it is regrettable that no update has been provided on this matter. Given the importance of an updated Management Plan to create a framework for the protection and management of the property, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide an update on the progress to revise the 2003 Management Plan, which should in particular fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study and submit this draft revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre.

It is noted that funding has been secured for the World Bank RESDP and that exploratory drilling has been agreed to under the project in order to determine the viability of the geothermal source. It is recommended to reiterate the Committee's previous request (Decision **44 COM 7B.116**) that the State Party ensure the property remains off-limits for any future geothermal development activities, and to request the State Party to confirm that drilling will not take place within the property. Further recalling its commitment to undertake the necessary ESIA for any geothermal energy activities, the State Party should be requested to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV of the property from such activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive ESIA, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that no activities are approved that would threaten the OUV of the property.

Noting that lack of funding has previously delayed the demarcation of the boundaries of the property, it is welcomed that funding has been secured to undertake this process. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to complete this process, including to formalize the status of the buffer zone of the property through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, given also the potential future exploratory drilling overlapping this area.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.116**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes that funding has been secured to integrate the recommendations of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study into the legal and regulatory framework of Saint Lucia and requests the State Party to undertake the process to amend the Physical Planning and Development Act as soon as possible;
4. Notes with concern the reported development, in particular in Sugar Bay, which does not comply fully with the Policy Area Design Guidelines of the LAC and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that these -and any other projects being considered for implementation- are fully compliant with the provisions of the LAC study;
5. Recalling the revision of the 2003 Management Plan for the property was planned for 2020, also requests the State Party to provide an update on the progress of the revision, submit the draft updated Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Noting that exploratory drilling for geothermal energy sources has been agreed under the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP), urges the State Party to confirm that exploratory drilling will not be undertaken in the property and to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any geothermal development activities in the future in line with previous Committee decisions;
7. Further requests the State Party to ensure that any potential impacts from geothermal energy development activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that no such activities are approved that would threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
8. Also welcomes that funding has been secured for the demarcation of the boundaries of the property, encourages it to complete the process, and again urges it to:
 - a) Formalise the status of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property as a 'formal buffer zone' through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) Clearly define the types of activities permitted in this buffer zone, ensuring their compatibility with the conservation of the property's OUV;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

AFRICA

72. Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo) (N 1380rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ix)(x)

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/1380/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 250,000 Euros from 2008 to 2013 and 700 000 Euros from 2016 to 2021 through the Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) funded by the European Union

Previous monitoring missions

October 2016: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Congo and Central African Republic components of the property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest
- Poaching
- Mining
- Road and river transport project
- Optical fibre project in the vicinity of the property
- Forestry exploitation permits in the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the States Parties submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/documents>, which provides the following information:

- The updating of the management plans for the property's components continues: in Cameroon, the revision is currently being finalized, while a new plan is awaiting validation in Congo. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the plan expired in December 2020; a review has just begun, with the launch of work to draw up a simple management plan for the Community Hunting Zone;
- Several initiatives in support of local communities and indigenous populations aimed at strengthening their empowerment and access to resources, as well as their participation in the property's conservation actions, have continued. In Congo, the Park's management authority is helping indigenous populations to obtain their birth certificates, in order to facilitate their access to services and their legal rights when interacting with the State and other stakeholders. In Cameroon, the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) and an association representing Baka indigenous communities, aimed at securing their access to the Park's natural resources, is currently being revised. In CAR, a mechanism for complaints management and conflict resolution has been set up, and the new wildlife and protected areas management code takes into account the concerns of local populations and indigenous peoples;

- In Congo, the Djeke Triangle, an important biodiversity zone outside the boundaries of the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (PNNN) but within the buffer zone of the Sangha Trinational (TNS), will be the focus of enhanced conservation measures. The Park accompanied local communities and indigenous populations in a participatory mapping of their use areas to ensure that they are committed to and approve the management project for this area;
- The population of emblematic fauna has remained relatively stable over the past five years. By 2025, a harmonized methodology will enable a property-wide wildlife census;
- Capacity-building activities were organized for the Wildlife Crime Control Unit and agents of the Village Anti-Poaching Committees (COVILABs) in Cameroon. 16 new eco-guards were trained and 34% of existing eco-guards were retrained in Congo. Equipment has been acquired for SMART wildlife monitoring and data collection, and 4 Ba'Aka and 3 women are among the 25 newly trained eco-guards in CAR;
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) have been carried out for a number of major infrastructure projects whose completion is imminent and which could have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, and have been submitted with the report. These include the Ouesso-Pokola road project (50 km), including the construction of the bridge over the Sangha (660 m) and the treatment of critical points on the Pokola-Enyelle-Betou-Gouga section (450 km), as well as the development of the Gouga - Mbaiki - Bangui road (211 km). All future infrastructure or development projects will be subject to an ESIA, which will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken;
- No mining or petroleum exploration or exploitation activities currently encroach on the property. The only mining exploration permit overlapping with the property in CAR was cancelled in October 2022. The SCED-Ndéléngué artisanal mining zone (ZEA) project aims to reduce the harmful effects of anarchic exploitation and will be the subject of an ESIA, the report of which will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party of Congo will send official correspondence to the World Heritage Centre to clarify the situation of oil exploitation permits in its component of the property;
- All the logging concessions located around the property benefit from certification under various labels, with the exception of the two logging concessions in the property's buffer zone in CAR;
- Despite the consolidation of cross-border cooperation, poaching is still a problem in the area, even though the number of elephants poached has fallen;
- For cross-border patrols, a code of ethics and good conduct for the property's eco-guards is currently being developed. The standardization of data collection from the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and the merging of the various databases to create a single property-wide database are scheduled for 2023.

On 18 June 2021, the State Party of Cameroon informed UNESCO of its intention to secure Lobéké National Park by opening a road within the property. In its response of 8 July 2021, the World Heritage Centre shared its concern about the potential impact of this project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and stressed the need to not authorize this project before an assessment of its potential impacts on the OUV, and to submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by IUCN. It also suggested the organization of a virtual technical consultation on this subject. No reply was received to this correspondence.

In addition, on 22 December 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party of Cameroon requesting information on the concessions of new timber sales being put out to tender around Lobéké National Park. In its reply of 3 January 2023, the State Party confirmed that no new timber sales projects encroach on the buffer zone of the property in its Cameroonian part.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts undertaken to improve the efficiency of the management of the property by continuing to update the management plans, the eventual harmonization of the wildlife census methodology across the property, the acquisition of equipment for the collection of ecological and monitoring data, the fight against wildlife crime, the recruitment and training of new eco-guards, the renewal of partnership agreements and the consolidation of local collaboration as well as cross-border cooperation are positive.

The strengthening of consultations and exchanges with indigenous and local populations with a view to recognizing and respecting their rights and empowering them is appreciated. In particular, efforts to

guarantee the rights of indigenous populations through the granting of birth certificates, the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding for access to resources by Baka indigenous communities, the inclusion of the FPIC principle (free, prior and informed consent) in the reinforcement of conservation measures, the establishment of a complaints management and conflict resolution mechanism and the drafting of a code of ethics and good conduct for TNS eco-guards are positive developments. Recalling again the concerns previously raised in the independent review initiated by WWF International, it is recommended that the States Parties be encouraged to continue to address the concerns in accordance with relevant international standards, the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy, as well as the recommendations of the independent review, and to report on the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review in the next state of conservation report for the property.

While noting the decrease in elephant poaching cases, the persistence of poaching in the property and its periphery, despite ongoing efforts by States Parties, remains a cause for concern, and it is recommended that monitoring efforts be intensified, notably through cross-border cooperation, in order to control illegal activities in the property. Ongoing efforts to standardize data collection using the SMART tool and to set up a single property-wide database could also facilitate effective monitoring.

The cancellation of the mining exploration permit overlapping with the property in the Central African Republic, and the confirmation of the non-existence of mining and oil exploration or exploitation activities currently encroaching on the property are welcomed. Explanations concerning the SCED-Ndélégué artisanal mining zone (ZEA) project are noted. It is recommended that the State Party of Congo be requested to provide clarifications concerning the oil exploration permits as soon as possible by official correspondence as mentioned in the report, and to encourage States Parties to pursue their commitments in the implementation of the Convention, as well as the World Heritage Policy which underlines the incompatibility of oil, mining and gas exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status.

The various major infrastructure projects proposed around the property raise concerns. The fact that the property is surrounded by a vast buffer zone in all three countries, which takes into account the close ecological links between the proposed property and its surroundings, is the basis of its ecological integrity. Furthermore, the remoteness of the TNS has always been an additional natural protection against resource exploitation. The various infrastructure projects planned, and in particular the proposed Ouesso-Bangui-Ndjamena road in the Pokola-Enyellé section, which will pass just south of the property in Congo, could drastically change this isolated situation. An IUCN assessment of the ESIA reports reveals that, although these projects are important for facilitating the movement of goods and people and thus stimulating the integration and economic and social development of the CAR, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad, the potential impacts of these projects and particularly of the Pokola-Enyellé road section on the OUV of the property, especially in its Congolese component, have not been addressed. IUCN therefore recommends that the report be revised to specifically integrate the potential impacts of this project on the OUV of the property in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre for IUCN review.

It is regrettable that the State Party of Cameroon has not provided any response to the correspondence of 8 July 2021 concerning the potential impact on the OUV of the property that the project to open another road in the property may have. Recalling that any project with a potential impact on the OUV of the property must be subject to an ESIA, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Cameroon to provide updated information on the status of this road project.

In addition, the commitment to carry out an ESIA for all future infrastructure and development projects is noted.

It is also noted that in response to the request for information on concessions for new timber sales around Lobéké National Park, the State Party of Cameroon has confirmed that no new timber sales projects encroach on the buffer zone of the property in its Cameroon component. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party of Cameroon to avoid the development of any new concessions in the buffer zone that would have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, and to continue to ensure that no timber sales concessions encroach on the property.

The lack of progress in the certification of the two forest concessions in the buffer zone of the property in CAR remains a cause for concern. Although these two concessions (PEA 189 and 190) have approved management plans through the signature of conventions with the Central African Government,

it is recommended to reiterate to the State Party of CAR the need to prioritize the certification of these two concessions in order to avoid any potential impact on the OUV of the property.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the States Parties continue to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44COM 7B.174** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties and their partners to improve the effectiveness of the management of the property by continuing to update the various management plans, harmonizing the wildlife census methodology throughout the property by 2025, acquiring equipment for ecological monitoring and surveillance of the property, recruiting and strengthening the capacities of eco-guards to combat wildlife crime effectively, and consolidating local collaboration and cross-border cooperation;
4. Welcomes the strengthening of consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities with a view to the recognition and respect of their rights and empowerment, as well as their involvement in the management of the property, and recalling again the concerns previously raised in the independent review initiated by WWF International, requests the States Parties to continue to address all concerns in accordance with relevant international standards, the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy, while taking into account the recommendations of the independent review, and to report on the implementation of the recommendations of the independent review in the next state of conservation report for the property;
5. Noting the decrease in elephant poaching cases, remains concerned by the persistence of poaching in the property and its periphery, despite the continued efforts of States Parties, also requests the States Parties to intensify monitoring efforts in order to better control illegal activities in the property, notably through cross-border cooperation;
6. Also noting the consensus reached on the planning of synchronized wildlife inventories as early as 2025 for an estimation of animal populations throughout the property, further requests the States Parties to continue their harmonization efforts in order to obtain accurate and comparable data at the scale of the property for all species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
7. Welcomes the decision to cancel the mining exploration permit straddling the Central African component of the property, as well as the confirmation of the non-existence of mining and petroleum exploration or exploitation activities currently encroaching on the property, in line with the Committee's position that mining exploration and/or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status;
8. Further requests the State Party of Congo to provide clarifications concerning the petroleum exploration permits around the property;
9. Notes with concern the various major infrastructure projects proposed around the property, in particular the Ouesso-Bangui-Ndjamen road project which will pass just to the south of the property, and which could have a negative impact on its OUV, particularly

its integrity, takes note of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, regrets that the potential impacts of these projects, and in particular the Pokola-Enyellé-Bétou-Gouga road section, on the OUV of the property, notably in its Congolese component, have not been addressed, and further requests the States Parties that the ESIA be revised to take into account the potential impacts of this project on the OUV of the property, in line with the orientations contained in the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before it is resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

10. Also regrets that the State Party of Cameroon has not provided a response to UNESCO's correspondence of 8 July 2021, in which the World Heritage Centre shared its concern in relation to the potential impact on the OUV of the property of the project to open a road in the property at the border between Congo and Cameroon, and urges the State Party of Cameroon to provide updated information on the status of this road project;
11. Noting the confirmation by the State Party of Cameroon that no new timber sales projects encroach on the buffer zone of the property in its Cameroonian part, also urges the State Party of Cameroon to avoid the development of any new concessions in the buffer zone that would have a negative impact on the OUV of the property and to continue to ensure that no timber sales concessions encroach on the property;
12. Reiterates its request to the States Parties to ensure that ESIA's are carried out for all projects planned in and around the property in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submitted to the World Heritage Committee prior to any project approval;
13. Recalling the commitment of the States Parties to define strategic guidelines to minimize the effects of logging on ecological connectivity, reiterates its request to the States Parties to promote certification that minimizes the impacts on biodiversity of all logging concessions in the buffer zone, and to the State Party of the Central African Republic the need to prioritize the certification of its two logging concessions in the buffer zone of the property in order to avoid any potential impact on the OUV of the property;
14. Also requests the States Parties to continue to implement all the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission;
15. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

74. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/289/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1986-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 147,423

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 45,000 in 2019 through the UNESCO-Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 300,000 in 2021-2023 through UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation

Previous monitoring missions

March/April 2014: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March/April 2022: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities
- Invasive / alien freshwater species
- Management systems/ management plan
- Surface water pollution
- Oil and gas exploration/exploitation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 April 2023 the State Party of Malawi submitted a state of conservation report for the property available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>, reporting the following:

- Continuous effort to strengthen management capacity, including through resource allocation, enhanced community participation, patrols and law enforcement which cover a greater area, in partnership with Government and other partners;
- Research cooperation and international support including from the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and UNESCO assistance with management and monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial components of the property, tourism development and community-based conservation efforts;
- Based on the above, resource use guidelines are being developed, and management effectiveness assessment conducted;
- Demarcation and clarification of the terrestrial and aquatic boundaries have been continued, with a topographic map produced;
- Awareness raising and environmental education programmes continue;
- Oil exploration licences valid until 2022 have been issued for blocks 2 and 3 of the total three blocks overlapping with the lake, in the northern and central basin, away from the property located to the south;
- Property extension or establishment of buffer zones would be difficult due to growing demand for farmland and fishing grounds;

- All proposed projects potentially affecting the property would be subject to impact assessments as per World Heritage guidance;
- Expansion of enclave settlements and tourism construction outside the property, pollution and fish trade are among the identified threats.

On 27 July and 15 December 2021, the World Heritage Centre sent letters to the State Party in response to its submission of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Mangochi Potable Water Supply project within the property. On 29 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transferred to the State Party third-party information reporting severe coastal siltation caused by the project.

On 7 July 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on the planned upgrade and rehabilitation of the Monkey Bay-Cape Maclear Road project in response to the State Party's notification.

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place between 27 March and 2 April 2022 in line with Decision **44 COM 7B.82** (the mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reported efforts of the State Party, in partnership with several partners, to strengthen the management and protection of the property is commendable. By enhancing operational, monitoring and research capacity, and improving cooperation with local communities and across Government departments, these activities address management priorities, but also require careful coordination to ensure efforts are coherent and contribute to the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). All major outputs, such as the assessment on management effectiveness and the resource use guidelines, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and shared with IUCN. The State Party submitted, for review by World Heritage Centre, a topographic map which may assist the conclusion of the Retrospective Inventory of the property boundaries by the World Heritage Centre. Support from partners is an opportunity to implement and feed into the next update of the 2019-2024 Management Plan, and to address the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the need to address the excessive resource use and illegal agricultural encroachment within the property, enhance and implement a comprehensive monitoring protocol for the property, and to monitor the ecological health of the lake.

While the 2022 mission confirmed the State Party's notable progress, it noted that due to its small size and serial configuration (with 16 separate component parts), the property remains very vulnerable to human pressures, originating both within and beyond its boundaries. Cape Maclear peninsula within the property was reported as significantly degraded through excessive resource use, and over-fishing and long-term water quality changes alter the lake ecology. To better protect its OUV, the mission also re-confirmed the desirability of an extension of the property, as it has been noted previously by the Committee (see e.g., Decision **44 COM 7B.82**). The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the State Party to assess the feasibility of a potential extension, notably within the lake, and to request International Assistance and technical support for this work as required. Such a feasibility study would document the constraints due to land and resource use pressure but also the potential benefits including sustainable fisheries.

In agreement with the State Party, the 2022 mission reviewed the proposed Mangochi water supply project on the small Nkhudzi Hills component of the property. However, at the time of the mission, the construction was already at an advanced stage limiting the mission's possibility to provide technical inputs to the project design and execution to ensure protection of the property's OUV. Recent reports note severe coastal siltation due to runoff caused by vegetation that was cleared for the access road to the hill-top water tank. This affects the habitat of the cichlid fish, and visual integrity, and could therefore have a direct impact on the OUV and impact the viability of the project; regrettably no updated information was received from the State Party. Furthermore, in March 2022, the European Investment Bank (EIB) initiated a Complaints Mechanism process for the SRWB Water Supply and Sanitation Programme and its Mangochi component (<https://www.eib.org/en/about/accountability/complaints/cases/srwb-water-supply-and-sanitation-programme-sg-e-2022-05>), which will review the recommendations stemming from the 2022 mission.

While access to clean and safe drinking water is essential, the mission reported that the project had moved forward without sufficient consideration of alternative locations, environmental safeguards and regard for stakeholder concerns raised at the proposal stage. Any damage caused to date should be fully documented and restored as fully as possible using the best available practices that avoid further

deterioration, including through further tree cutting, siltation, introduction/expansion of invasive species and illegal resource harvest. Independently verified mitigation measures should be implemented as set out in the project ESIA. This documentation, including the accompanying emergency response plan and heritage management plan proposed by the State Party, should have been made available before the start of any works, and it is of concern this work has proceeded without prior assessment and with apparent direct impacts on the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that construction of any new major infrastructure projects should in principle be planned outside this very small property.

In view of the significant challenges faced with the water supply project, it is welcome that the State Party is committed to ensure that all future projects with potential impact on the property's OUV, including for oil exploration and tourism development in areas with potential to impact the property are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context. Noting with concern that oil exploration has been pursued in the northern and central blocks of Lake Malawi and that consultations are ongoing on the mining sector policy, as noted by the 2022 mission, the State Party should also clarify the status of the issued licences and this work. No update was received from the State Party on the Monkey Bay-Cape Maclear Road project, which should undergo an ESIA before any construction starts.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission in full and report on progress made.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.92**, **42 COM 7B.93** and **44 COM 7B.82** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the significant efforts made by the State Party, in partnership with several partners including local communities, to strengthen the management and protection of the property, including through enhanced operational, monitoring and research capacity, and encourages the State Party to ensure effective coordination of the activities to ensure their effectiveness and assure their contribution to the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Noting the findings of the 2022 mission that the property remains very vulnerable to human pressures, originating both within and beyond its boundaries, due to its small size and serial configuration, also recalls its request to the State Party to assess the feasibility of a potential extension, and to request International Assistance and technical support from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for this work as required;*
5. *While acknowledging the necessity of providing clean and safe water to local communities, regrets that the Mangochi water supply project within the Nkhudzi Hills component of the property commenced without sufficient consideration to alternative locations, environmental safeguards and regard for stakeholder concerns raised at the proposal stage, and with apparent risks and ongoing potential to negatively affect the property's OUV, which may also impact the viability of the project;*
6. *Urges the State Party to ensure that all damage caused to date by the Mangochi water supply project is documented, and restored as fully as possible using best available practice that also avoids further deterioration, including through unnecessary tree cutting, siltation, introduction/expansion of invasive species and illegal resource harvest,*

and to implement independently verified mitigation measures as set out in the project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA);

7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to ensure that all projects with potential to impact the property's OUV are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context, which should include the Monkey Bay-Cape Maclear Road project, also recalling that, for each project, it is essential that an EIA:
 - a) Is completed before any final decisions are taken or construction works commence,
 - b) Integrates all stakeholder consultations and allows sufficient time for meaningful participation, including by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN,
 - c) Includes consideration for alternative options, allowing project details to be revised as necessary;
8. Reiterates its concern regarding the continuation of oil exploration activities in blocks 2 and 3 covering a large part of Lake Malawi, which pose a potentially severe risk to the lake ecosystem and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests the State Party to clarify at the earliest opportunity on the status of the oil exploration licences and related EIAs within Lake Malawi, report on the outcome of the mining sector policy consultations, and to ensure that EIAs are developed in accordance with the highest international standards and in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any potential exploratory drilling is permitted to proceed;
9. Finally requests the State Party to implement all of the recommendations from the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and report on progress, including:
 - a) Resolve recommendations related to the Mangochi water supply project and the status of oil exploration as stated above;
 - b) Continue to encourage and support the local communities in the enclave villages,
 - c) Finalise demarcation of the property boundary, resolve illegal agricultural encroachment and address resource use in the property;
 - d) Improve agriculture and other land use practices in the headwaters of the river catchments;
 - e) Enhance ecological monitoring of the property and the lake, and ensure that non-native species of fish (especially top-level predators) are not introduced into the lake or its catchment areas;
 - f) Strengthen the capacity of the Park and other institutions, including through enhanced inter-agency synergies and collaboration;
 - g) Continue to promote sustainable tourism initiatives, and further examine the feasibility of the extension of the property.
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

75. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

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/156/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 59,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential impacts of dam projects on the Mara river in Kenya
- Reduced and degraded water resources
- Air transport infrastructure (resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Illegal activities, including poaching
- Pressure from tourism

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents>, with the following information:

- A Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for Tanzania for the Mara River, including an Environmental Assessment flow, has been finalized and approved in 2020. It is envisaged that the WAP will be harmonized with that of Kenya by developing a Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP). This will be coordinated through the East Africa Community by the established Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat (LVBC);
- The State Party of Tanzania has no further update on planned dam development in Mara River Basin in Kenya;
- The proposal to annex the Speke Gulf to the Serengeti National Park has been approved. The boundary modification and compensation to the affected communities will be done in accordance with the Committee's decision and subject to prevailing Tanzania Laws regarding the matter;
- The documents requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.36** will be made available during the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested in 2018 and 2021;
- Re-confirmation that the stretch of the northern road crossing the Serengeti National Park from Tabora B to Klein's gate in the property will remain under the management of TANAPA and will be maintained as a gravel road;

- Renewed commitment to subject any major development project planned to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), taking into account cumulative short and long term impacts;
- Readiness to welcome the requested Reactive Monitoring mission after confirming the dates and agreeing on Terms of Reference (ToR). The State Party also remains ready to invite the State Party of Kenya to join the mission as requested;
- Willingness to cooperate with the State Party of Kenya for the nomination of “The African Great Rift Valley – The Maasai Mara”, included in the tentative list of Kenya.

On 14 March 2023 the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party third party information received regarding the construction of a golf course near Fort Ikoma in the vicinity of the property. According to the information received, the golf course was under construction and part of the project was completed. To date, no reply has been received from the State Party.

On 15 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting an invitation letter to conduct the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission. On 6 June 2023, the State Party sent an invitation letter to the World Heritage Centre to undertake the mission. The World Heritage Centre is discussing with IUCN to determine the dates for this mission.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing efforts by Tanzania and Kenya to develop a Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) for the Mara River basin are welcomed. However, it is of concern that no update is available on the status of all dam projects in the Mara River basin, in particular the different projects proposed in Kenya. It needs to be recalled that the water of the Mara River and its tributaries are vital for the survival of the wildlife in the property, to maintain the ecological functioning of the wider Serengeti ecosystem and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both the property and the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage property. Already water levels in the Mara river are reported to be low because of the recent drought in Kenya, which is likely linked to climate change. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its concern on the proposed dam project and urge again not to make any decisions on infrastructure development that could affect the water flow into the Mara River before the JWAP is agreed and the impacts on the OUV of the property are thoroughly assessed. The assessment of the status of the dam projects and their potential impact on the OUV of the property will be a focus of the requested Reactive Monitoring mission, hence it is crucial for the State Party of Kenya to provide the update on the status of the dam projects ahead of the mission and to ensure their inclusion in the mission.

The approval of the planned inclusion of Speke Gulf into the park is welcomed as it would provide wildlife in the property with a crucial access to the permanent water supply of Lake Victoria in the event of drought. Once the inclusion in the National Park is completed, it is recommended that the State Party prepare an extension of the World Heritage property to reflect the new area of the park.

It is regrettable that the State Party did not submit the documents requested by the Committee, regarding: (1) the approved 2014-2024 Management Plan for the property, including details of any changes to the zonation of the property, (2) the Route Option Selection Report for the southern bypass route and the feasibility study and preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments and (3) the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan. It is important that these documents are transmitted to the World Heritage Centre in advance of the planned Reactive Monitoring mission.

The State Party report also does not provide an update on the status of the southern bypass route as an alternative to develop the northern road crossing the northern part of the property. While it is welcomed that the State Party had re-confirmed its commitment that the stretch of the northern road crossing the Serengeti National Park in the property will remain under the management of TANAPA and will be maintained as a gravel road, it did not specify its previous commitment to reserve the road mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision **35 COM 7B.7**) as requested in the previous decision.

The information that a golf course is under construction near Fort Ikoma is concerning. This location is part of the Ikoma Wildlife Management Area and while not included in the property, it is situated on the main migration route of the wildebeest. It is therefore likely that this development would further hamper the migration. There is increasing evidence that the wildebeest divert their migration patterns to avoid anthropogenic infrastructure. The increasing density of lodges, tented camps and other tourism infrastructure in the property and along the migration routes in the wider Serengeti ecosystem is

therefore likely to impact the wildebeest migration, one of the main attributes of the OUV. Given its potential to impact OUV, the golf course development should be subject to a full ESIA, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Noting that the State Party invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as requested by the Committee (Decision **44 COM 7B.15**) on 6 June 2023, it is recommended that the mission takes place as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.94**, **42 COM 7B.96** and **44 COM 7B.15** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 38th (Doha, 2014), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its continued concern about the proposed dam projects upstream of the property in the Mara River basin, which could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties;*
4. *Welcomes the ongoing efforts by the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to develop a Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) for the Mara River basin but notes with concern that no update is available on the status of all dam projects in the Mara River basin, in particular the different projects proposed in Kenya;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and before the requested Reactive Monitoring mission takes place, an update on the status of all dam projects proposed in the Mara River basin and urges them again not to make any decisions on infrastructure development that could affect the water flow into the Mara River before the JWAP is agreed and the impacts on the OUV of the property are thoroughly assessed;*
6. *Also welcomes the approval by the State Party to expand the Serengeti National Park to include the ecologically important Speke Gulf and encourages the State Party to submit a boundary modification to reflect this extension on the World Heritage property in line with the provisions in the Operational Guidelines as soon as the proces of the extension under national law is completed;*
7. *Regrets that in spite of its previous request, the State Party did not submit the various documents requested in Decision **42 COM 7B.96** and also urges again the State Party to submit the following documents as soon as possible, and before the requested Reactive Monitoring mission:*
 - a) *The approved 2014-2024 Management Plan for the property, including details of any changes to the zonation of the property,*
 - b) *The Route Option Selection Report and the feasibility study and preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments,*
 - c) *The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan;*

8. While noting the confirmation that the State Party will maintain the northern road traversing the property as a gravel road under Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) management, reiterates its request to the State Party to confirm its previous commitment to reserve the road mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision **35 COM 7B.7**) and to abandon the construction of the proposed northern highway (Decision **38 COM 7B.94**);
9. Expresses concern about the reported construction of a golf course in the Ikoma Wildlife Management Area, adjacent to the property and a key main migration corridor for the wildebeest, and requests the State Party, given its potential impact on the OUV of the property, to pause the further development of this project until a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, is submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by IUCN, in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also notes with concern that the increasing density of lodges, tented camps and other tourism infrastructure in the property and along the migration routes in the wider Serengeti ecosystem is increasingly likely to impact the wildebeest migration, one of the main attributes of the OUV;
11. Further notes that the State Party finally invited the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and also requests that the mission be undertaken as soon as possible to review the state of conservation of the property, including all the threats and issues cited above, as well as to assess the implementation of the previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/302/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 81,854

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 200,000 in 2023 from the Government of Norway for conservation activities.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching
- Oil exploration programme (issue resolved)

- Mining project
- Tourism development
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents>, and reports the following:

- Anti-poaching operations are continuing with improved communication, anti-poaching vehicles and road maintenance, as well as through a collaboration with the Zambia Wildlife Authority on joint river patrols along the Zambezi River, meetings, and intelligence sharing;
- Efforts to ensure the adoption of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in the Zambezi Valley region are underway;
- Community engagement includes establishing conservation clubs and community rangers in schools to foster an appreciation of nature conservation and liaising with local communities;
- Studies underway to monitor the movements of elephants in the Zambezi Valley region through satellite collars have shown that some elephants have crossed the Zambezi River to Zambia utilising areas close to the river, as also observed by tourism operators;
- The management authority has undertaken several wildlife surveys including on large mammals, leopards, hippo, African painted dogs and elephants with support from international partners;
- A 2021 aerial survey recorded the population density of elephants and other large herbivores in the Zambezi Valley region. A 2022 study on trends in elephant poaching in the Mid-Zambezi Valley showed a gradual decline in elephant poaching with a decrease by at least 0.055 elephants/year. Aerial surveys have traditionally informed wildlife management policy and strategy in the property and are critical for effective management;
- The General Management Plan (GMP) is expected to be approved in January 2023 and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA) is underway;
- Hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and the northern part of Chewore Safari Area continues to be suspended since 2016 to allow species recovery. 101 elephants were translocated from Savé Valley Conservancy to the Sapi Safari Area to increase the population;
- There has been no uncontrolled development within the property. Developments that have taken place are within the parameters of the Management Plans, Policies and Acts, with a statutory requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before any development;
- Prospecting is permitted in Zambian protected areas. There is a strong possibility that an opencast copper mine will be developed in the Chiawa Game Management Area (CGMA), as well as gold and copper in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP), which could be a major threat to the property's biodiversity conservation programmes.

In March 2022, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a letter to the State Party of Zambia raising concerns about third party information regarding a license for a copper mining project in the LZNP and its potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. No response was received.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued strengthening of anti-poaching measures, including through joint operations with the State Party of Zambia and support from technical and financial partners, is welcomed.

The monitoring of wildlife populations remains an important factor in the management of the property. Noting the continued implementation of anti-poaching measures, it is encouraging that the 2022 publication (based on 2015-2019 data) reports a decreasing trend in elephant poaching in the Zambezi Valley region. Whilst these efforts are recognized, it is unclear from the report to what extent poaching

continues, and efforts should be continued to monitor and fully address this issue. It is positive that surveys of key wildlife that constitutes the OUV of the property have been undertaken, however since no survey results were provided, the current status of these species remains unclear. It is recommended to the State Party to continue surveys and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre as previously requested. Noting that further studies since the last state of conservation report show some elephants are crossing the Zambezi River into Zambia, it will be important for the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to ensure a coordinated approach for the effective transboundary protection and management of elephants. In this regard, the establishment of the TFCA should be completed as soon as possible.

The continued suspension of hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and the northern part of Chewore Safari Area is noted, however no clarification was provided regarding the extent of hunting in the area referred to as a buffer zone, nor clarity on this area. It is recommended that the State Party be requested again to provide these clarifications. Noting the translocation of 101 elephants to the Sapi Safari Area, it is critical that anti-poaching efforts are sustained or enhanced and continue to be monitored. Any future translocation projects should also be undertaken in accordance with international best practice, including in line with the IUCN guidelines on translocations, to ensure a prior assessment of the suitability and risks before implementation.

It is positive that no uncontrolled tourism development has taken place within the property. Noting developments are subject to a legislated EIA process, and recalling the potential impact of tourism on the OUV of the property, impact assessments should be carried out in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The reported approval of a copper mining project in the LZNP by the State Party of Zambia without an assessment of the potential impacts of the mine on the OUV of the property, which has been repeatedly requested by the Committee, is of significant concern given the potential serious impacts on the OUV. Noting that no response was provided by the State Party of Zambia to the March 2022 letter, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party of Zambia to provide information on the reported decision to permit the proposed opencast mining project in LZNP (Decisions **38 COM 7B.97** and **44 COM 7B.178**). It is of serious concern that there is 'strong possibility' that several copper and gold mining operations will be developed in LZNP and CGMA, and it is recommended to request the State Party of Zambia to provide information on any such mining projects, to ensure their potential impacts on the OUV of the property are assessed in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, especially in relation to pollution of the Zambezi River and impacts on wildlife moving across the Zambezi River into the property, before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.97**, **40 COM 7B.84** and **44 COM 7B.178**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued strengthening of anti-poaching measures, including joint operations with the State Party of Zambia, and with support from technical and financial partners;*
4. *Appreciates the collaboration between the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to strengthen transboundary conservation and encourages again the States Parties to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA);*

5. *Welcomes the gradual decline in elephant poaching following the strengthening of anti-poaching measures, and noting that some elephants are crossing the Zambezi River into Zambia, requests the State Party to ensure a coordinated approach with the State Party of Zambia for the effective transboundary protection and management of elephants;*
6. *Regrets that no update has been provided on the status of other key species that constitute the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and also requests the State Party to continue surveys and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre once available;*
7. *Acknowledges the progress made towards the finalization of the General Management Plan and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and submit it to the World Heritage Centre;*
8. *Noting the continued suspension of commercial hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and the northern part of Chewore Safari Area, but recalling that the State Party previously also reported that the suspension applied to the area referred to as the buffer zone, also reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the status of this area, which has not yet been formally adopted by the Committee;*
9. *Also notes the translocation of 101 elephants to the Sapi Safari Area to increase the population, and further requests the State Party to ensure anti-poaching efforts are sustained or enhanced and continue to be monitored, and that any potential future translocation projects are undertaken in accordance with international best practice including in line with the IUCN guidelines on translocations, to ensure a prior assessment of the suitability and risks before implementation;*
10. *While noting that no uncontrolled tourism development has taken place within the property, requests furthermore the State Party ensure that any activity that may have the potential to impact on the OUV of the property, including all proposed tourism infrastructure be subject to an impact assessment in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;*
11. *Notes with significant concern the report that the State Party of Zambia has approved an open cast copper mine in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP) without due consideration of the potential impact on the OUV of the property, reiterates again its concern regarding the potential serious impact of this project on the OUV and urges once again the State Party of Zambia not to proceed with the project;*
12. *Notes with concern the reported strong possibility that several copper and gold mining operations will be developed in LZNP and Chiawa Game Management Area (CGMA), which adjoin the property separated only by the Zambezi River, and requests with urgency that the State Party of Zambia to provide details of all proposed mining projects in LZNP and CGMA, and to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

79. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia) (N 368bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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/368/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (proposed cableway) (issue resolved)
- Fires (Unprecedented fires that affected more than half of the property)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/documents/> and reports the following:

- Following the unprecedented bushfires of 2019–2020, some areas of the property and particular plant and animal species appear to be recovering well, while other areas experienced high to catastrophic ecological impacts from the fires;
- Monitoring has been put in place to track the ongoing health and recovery of areas and species impacted by the 2019–2020 fires, including a new assessment methodology to incorporate the use of remotely sensed spatial data. Additional monitoring and research are required to assess the impact of fire and climate change on other species;
- Recovery actions and adaptive management strategies are in place to strengthen the resilience of the property against future natural disasters. These reflect a strong collaborative effort by the Australian, New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland governments in partnership with other stakeholders and rightsholders, including First Nations peoples and local communities. First Nations communities are involved in on-the-ground fire management through cultural burning;
- The national Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 has been released, which sets out a pathway for recovery of threatened species and threatened ecological communities over the next ten years, including species which occur in the property;
- Surveys on the impact of Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) found its symptoms and damage in all survey sites in fire-affected areas of the property;
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the National Natural Disaster Arrangements is underway, with progress reported on the National Emergency Management Agency website;

- The flooding events of early and mid-2022 along the east coast of Australia, following similar events in previous years, caused further landslides, tree falls, flood debris, and major repeated damage to facilities and infrastructure including roads, fire trails, bridges, causeways and walking tracks across the property, particularly in NSW, which resulted in property-wide and local closures for visitor safety. Damage is still being assessed in more remote areas. Implementation of some of the bushfire recovery actions has been delayed as a result of the flooding also;
- Australia has increased its commitment to action on climate change including strengthened climate ambition through legislated targets as an enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement to reduce Australia's emissions by 43% on 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve zero net emissions by 2050.

On 17 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to verify information received from a third party concerning a water mining license reportedly granted to extract water from the vicinity of Springbrook National Park, a component of the property, which might negatively impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). On 20 April 2023, the State Party replied to inform that under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), any action that will have, or is likely to have, a significant impact on the OUV of a World Heritage property must be referred to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment for a decision. The State Party notes that at this stage the water mining license proposal has not been referred but that it is quite common for proponents to progress approval processes at the state level before referring an action to the Australian Government, and the Australian Government will advise the World Heritage Centre if this proposed action is determined to require assessment for potential significant impacts on the OUV of the property in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

On 23 May 2023, the State Party sent a letter to the World Heritage Centre to provide updates, including publication of updated climate variability assessment of World Heritage properties in Australia and a climate change toolkit for Australia's World Heritage property managers to undertake comprehensive climate change adaptation planning.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Continued collaborative efforts in post-fire monitoring and recovery actions by the Australian, NSW and Queensland governments and other stakeholders and rightsholders including First Nations peoples are appreciated. However, the impacts on the OUV of the property as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires remain of utmost concern, particularly considering that the property contains sensitive ecosystems which are not adapted to fires. Whilst it is encouraging that some areas of the property and particular species appear to be recovering well, it is concerning that high to catastrophic ecological impacts from the fires have been observed in some other areas of the property.

It is recalled that the State Party was requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, an update on the process of assessing the impacts of fires on the OUV of the property and its recovery prospects. The information regarding recovery of species that contribute to the OUV of the property, including the brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*), as well as efforts to understand the impacts of the fires on other species such as the Nightcap oak (*Eidothea hardeniana*), and promote their recovery is noted. It is of concern that symptoms and damage caused by Myrtle rust, a plant pathogen that causes severe die-back in species of the Myrtaceae family, were found in all fire-affected survey sites in the property.

Acknowledging that some recovery activities have been delayed due to the flooding in the wider region and recalling the commitments of the State Party in its immediate management response to the bushfires, the State Party should be encouraged to continue the management actions to support the recovery of the property. These actions should include the monitoring of ongoing health and recovery of areas and species, including those that require additional research to understand the impacts of the fires and climate change, as well as recovery actions and adaptive management strategies.

Furthermore, it is important that the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements are implemented in order to strengthen emergency management as well as climate and natural disaster risk reduction. It is welcomed that the lessons learned from the 2019–2020 bushfires, including cultural fire management by First Nations communities, are made available through the reports and weblinks to promote knowledge exchange on fire management strategies for other States Parties facing similar threats to their World Heritage properties, as well as the publication of the updated climate variability assessment and climate change adaptation toolkit for the site managers.

As climate change is an increasing threat to this and other World Heritage properties in Australia, the Committee should welcome the continued efforts of the State Party to build understanding of projected changes resulting from climate change in relation to the property's OUV, and request that knowledge and understanding gained through these processes are used to guide adaptive management strategies to strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of the property.

The response of the State Party on the third party information concerning the granting of a water mining license to extract water from the vicinity of Springbrook National Park is noted and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre once the Australian Government has received the proposal referral and determined whether the proposed activity will be subject to further impact assessment in relation to the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) session,*
3. *Noting with appreciation the State Party's continued collaborative efforts in post-fire monitoring and recovery actions, expresses its utmost concern about the negative impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires to the attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular species that are vulnerable to the impacts of fire;*
4. *Also recalling that the State Party initiated an immediate management response following the fires including assessment of impacts, planning and funding commitments to ensure long-term recovery, takes note that some recovery efforts have been delayed due to the recent flooding in the region, and encourages the State Party to continue management actions to support the recovery of the property, including the monitoring of ongoing health and recovery of areas and species, as well as recovery actions and adaptive management strategies;*
5. *Notes with concern the impact of Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) across fire-affected areas of the property, requests the State Party to continue monitoring to address its impact on the property's OUV;*
6. *Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to develop an understanding of projected changes resulting from climate change in relation to the property's OUV, also requests the State Party to utilise the knowledge and understanding gained through these processes to guide adaptive management strategies to strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of the property;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements in order to strengthen emergency management as well as climate and natural disaster risk reduction; and also welcomes the development of an updated climate variability assessment methodology and climate change toolkit for the World Heritage properties;*
8. *Appreciates the efforts of the State Party to share the lessons learned with other States Parties to the Convention facing similar threats, promoting knowledge exchange on fire management strategies at World Heritage properties;*

9. *Also noting the information that the approval process for the granting of a water mining license to extract water from the vicinity of Springbrook National Park is not completed, requests furthermore the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre once the Australian Government has received the proposal referral and determined whether the proposed activity will be subject to further impact assessment in relation to the property;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

80. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://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

- Air transport infrastructure (construction of the Western Sydney Airport)
- Mining
- Water infrastructure (proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall)
- Unprecedented fires that affected large parts of the property

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917/documents/> and reports the following:

- Bushfires of 2019–2020 impacted approximately 739,906 hectares (71%) of the property. Fire intensity varied across the property, resulting in variable impacts in different areas. These areas, and the species they contain, are expected to recover at different rates, and comprehensive monitoring has been put in place to track their ongoing health and recovery;
- Recovery actions including targeted feral animal and weed control, upgrades to fire trails, erosion control, First Nations-led healing of Country and threatened species conservation activities are underway. The property is also a priority under the national Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032;
- The State Party supports in principle, all recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements (Royal Commission) directed to the Commonwealth. The

recommendations are under implementation, and the details of the implementation of the 80 recommendations are available on the National Emergency Management Agency website;

- Between 2020 and 2022, the New South Wales (NSW) Government provided funding packages of over AU\$275 million (ca. USD 180 million) in response to the NSW Bushfire Inquiry, and increased the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) capacity for hazard reduction and bushfire response;
- Lessons learned from the 2019–2020 bushfires in the property are available to other States Parties in reports and web links;
- The flooding events of early and mid-2022 along the east coast of Australia caused landslides, tree falls, flood debris, and major repeat damage to facilities and infrastructure. Damage is still being assessed in more remote areas. Subsequent NSW Parliamentary and independent flood inquiries provided a number of recommendations which have been supported or supported in principle by the NSW Government. Implementation of some bushfire impact assessment and recovery actions, such as pest and weed control activities, was delayed as a result of the flooding;
- The proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall would temporarily inundate areas of the property and is being subject to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
- The residual risk to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as a result of mining in areas adjacent to the property remains low. The NSW Government decided, in December 2021 and May 2022 respectively, not to open up for exploration the Hawkins and Rumker, and Ganguddy-Kelgoola areas, near the property, for environmental, cultural and commercial reasons;
- Preliminary flight path design for the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport began in 2021, and once complete, the final design will be assessed through an EIS process, including identifying impacts on OUV;
- An update of the 2009 Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan is underway, including consideration of all potential threats to the property.

On 29 September 2021, the State Party submitted information to the World Heritage Centre, that the EIS for the Warragamba Dam Wall Raising project had been made available for public review and comment, and invited the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to submit comments. On 10 January 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party conveying third-party information concerns regarding the EIS for the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall and proposed mining activities adjacent to the Wollemi National Park component of the property.

On 12 January 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party transmitting IUCN's technical review of the EIS and, on 7 March 2022, a letter requesting clarification on the subsequent approval process. On 19 January 2022, the State Party transmitted the assessment of potential cumulative impacts of mining on the property.

On 5 April 2022, the State Party responded to the letters of 10 and 12 January and 7 March 2022, confirming details of the EIS and project approval processes, and highlighted the findings of the mining assessment in response to third party concerns. IUCN's technical review of the mining assessment was transmitted to the State Party on 22 November 2022.

On 22 November 2022, the State Party sent a letter to the World Heritage Centre inviting comments by IUCN on the *Priority Infrastructure (PI) Report* and *Response to Submission (RTS) Report* on the Warragamba Dam EIS.

On 28 February 2023, the State Party acknowledged receipt of the IUCN review of the mining assessment and confirmed further consideration of how the findings of the review align with environmental impact assessment processes.

On 4 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted IUCN's review of the RTS Report, noting the conclusion of the review that the project, as proposed, would have direct impacts on the OUV and strongly recommending the State Party not to proceed with the project as proposed.

On 23 May 2023, the State Party sent a letter to the World Heritage Centre including the information that work on the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall has ceased after receiving formal direction from Infrastructure NSW that the project will not proceed. In addition, updates were provided on investments to support post-fire recovery; funding to undertake consultations with First Nations to

guide strategic management of the property and publication of updated climate variability assessment of World Heritage properties in Australia and a climate change toolkit for Australia's World Heritage property managers to undertake comprehensive climate change adaptation planning.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Extreme weather events in the form of bushfires and flooding between 2019 and 2022 have posed major management challenges for the property. While the property is recognized for its dynamic interactions with natural processes including fire, the scale of the 2019/20 bushfires, affecting around 71% of the property raises great concern for its recovery. Noting the reported varied degree of impact and anticipated recovery in different areas of the property, as well as the delay in the assessment of impacts due to flooding, it will be important to continue to monitor the ongoing health and recovery of these areas and species. The funding to support activities in this regard is noted with appreciation. The State Party should be encouraged to continue the recovery actions, including on invasive species and erosion control, fire management, and threatened species conservation activities.

The recommendations of the Royal Commission address important measures in order to strengthen emergency management in response to future disasters within the property as well as climate and natural disaster risk reduction, and therefore the State Party should be requested to continue implementing the recommendations in order to promote the recovery of the property from previous disasters, and to increase its resilience to climate change. It is welcomed that the lessons learned from the 2019-2020 bushfires have been made available by the State Party through reports and weblinks published online, as well as the publication of the updated climate variability assessment and climate change adaptation toolkit for the site managers.

Regarding the impacts of the flooding on the ongoing management of the property, the State Party should be requested to implement the recommendations of the inquiries into the floods. The State Party should also be requested to fully assess any damage to the attributes of the property's OUV from flooding alongside efforts to restore infrastructure essential for the effective management of the property.

It is welcomed that the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall will not proceed, given that the wall raising would result in periodic temporary inundation of areas within the property, and therefore would have been likely to directly affect the OUV of the property, including cultural associations linked to its integrity.

The conclusion of the assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of mining adjacent to the property that the residual risk to the OUV of the property is considered to be low is noted. The State Party should be requested to use the findings of the assessment to inform a strategic approach for the approval of future and management of current mining projects, which avoids cumulative impacts from mining activity to the OUV of the property and considers the other recommendations made in the IUCN technical review of the assessment.

The updating of the 2009 Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan is encouraging and the State Party should ensure that potential threats to the property from activities outside its boundaries, in particular mining activities, are fully considered in the development of this management framework.

It is noted that the preliminary flight path design for the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport began in 2021, including confirmation that the final design will be assessed by an EIS process. The State Party should be requested to ensure that the impact assessment process is in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.180, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*

3. *Notes again its utmost concern regarding the impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires, which affected 71% of the property, welcomes the funding to support post-fire recovery of the property, and encourages the State Party to continue monitoring the ongoing health and recovery of areas and species impacted by the fires and to continue the recovery actions including invasive species and erosion control, fire management, and threatened species conservation activities, in particular noting that flooding has delayed some of these actions;*
4. *Requests the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements in order to strengthen emergency management in the property as well as climate and natural disaster risk reduction, also welcomes the development of an updated climate variability assessment methodology and climate change toolkit for the World Heritage properties;*
5. *Appreciates the efforts of the State Party to share the lessons learned with other States Parties to the Convention facing similar threats, promoting knowledge exchange on fire management strategies at World Heritage properties;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the New South Wales (NSW) Government and independent inquiries into the floods and to continue efforts to understand impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and support the recovery of attributes of the property's OUV as well as its management function;*
7. *Noting that the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall would have inundated areas within the property, which would have affected directly its OUV, further welcomes the decision not to proceed with the project;*
8. *Takes note of the findings of the assessment of potential cumulative mining impacts to the property and further requests the State Party to use the findings to inform a strategic approach for the approval of future and management of current mining projects, which avoids cumulative impacts from mining on the property and considers all the recommendations made in IUCN technical review of the assessment;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that potential threats to the property from activities outside its boundaries, in particular mining activities, are fully considered in the development of the revised Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to fully assess the potential impacts of the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport on the OUV of the property, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

81. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://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 (within 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)
- Poaching (apparent decline in wildlife populations suspected to be a result of trade in wildlife and wildlife derivatives)

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

Current conservation issues

On 22 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/> and reports the following, including to address the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission:

- Mineral resource extraction is strictly prohibited within the property and buffer zone and is monitored to prevent the reoccurrence of illegal mining; measures include the use of satellite images, video surveillance and patrols on the ground, as well as integrated management information systems operated by the Yunnan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration (YFGA);
- Former mining sites continue to naturally regenerate supported by enforced prohibition of access and selected reforestation measures. Since 2021, the Yunnan Province has taken measures including allocating funding, building a database of restoration experts, and formulating standards and procedures to promote the restoration of post-mining sites in the property and buffer zone;
- The institutional arrangement in place involves counties, townships, villages and conservation stations with local residents serving as forest rangers; supervision and evaluation is conducted by the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration (NAFGA);
- Since the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), YFGA allocated funding and tasked a team to review applicable guidance and initiate consultation. Due to COVID-19, online exchange with IUCN is preferred over an IUCN Advisory mission encouraged by the Committee in this context;

- Further progress on the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) includes ongoing consultations involving various administrative levels, experts and the public; a consolidated and ratified version will be shared with the World Heritage Centre. The multiple protected area categories imply involvement of the State Council, NAFGA and the Yunnan provincial government;
- Management effectiveness assessment (MEA) efforts are evolving but are not yet operational;
- Some components of the property are in the process of becoming national parks with strong implications in terms of the legal and policy frameworks, planning and MEA;
- The Dulong River power transmission line project, which crosses the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property and its buffer zone to benefit the Dulong ethnic community, was completed in May 2022 and trial operation initiated. The geographical space determined that any route selected would cross the property and buffer zone, that site selection is the “*best option that will suffice the power needs of the communities (...) and mitigate the impact on the OUV of the property and its buffer zone*” [OUV: Outstanding Universal Value];
- No other requests for power generation projects within the property or its buffer zone have been received, and any power transmission project within these areas will be identified based on the needs of resident communities.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's position to strictly prohibit mineral resource extraction in the property and its buffer zone, and corresponding reported monitoring and enforcement, are welcomed, including measures to prevent illegal mining from reoccurring. Similarly, the further clarifications on the approach taken regarding active and passive restoration of former mining sites are welcomed. It is recommended the State Party systematically continue regeneration measures, including to monitor the regenerating sites and inform future measures.

The considerable complexity of managing a large serial property with multiple administrative layers is appreciated. The ongoing reforms, including the State Party's efforts to create overlapping national parks under the umbrella of its emerging national park system, come with an opportunity to further enhance the clarity and coherence of the governance and management approach to the property. The SEA requested by the Committee would serve as a valuable tool and framework to guide decision-making beyond the level of individual development projects and the level of single components of the property. Recalling that the Committee urged the State Party to further improve and finalise the SEA so that the results can inform management and decision making for future developments, it is regrettable that progress on the SEA remains limited. In light of the State Party's initial request for further advice, and that travel restrictions are for the most part lifted, it is again recommended that the State Party be encouraged to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to address the SEA. Such mission would also enable helpful dialogue regarding the ongoing institutional reforms and the reported creation of national parks overlapping with the property, as well as on the ongoing elaboration of the CMP prior to its submission to the World Heritage Centre as requested by the Committee. It would also provide an opportunity to discuss the evolving overarching MEA system.

The reported completion in 2022 of the Dulong River power transmission project, which crosses a large section of the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property and its buffer zone, raises concerns, given that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) submitted in 2021 had identified impacts during both the construction and operation phases on flora and fauna and on the scenic values of the property, and the Committee subsequently requested the State Party to explore an alternative option that will not impact the OUV (Decision **44 COM 7B.182**). It needs to be recalled that the 2013 mission already requested the State Party to avoid the construction of transmission infrastructure within the property and its buffer zone (Decision **44 COM 7B.182**). Whilst the State Party's emphasis on the socio-economic benefits for the local community, and statement that it is ensuring the OUV, are noted, it is unclear whether this project impacts the OUV and what mitigating measures have been taken to address the issues raised in the EIA prior to construction. It is critical that strict measures are implemented to ensure the protection of the OUV throughout the ongoing operation of the line and it is recommended the State Party report on these.

Important concerns regarding cumulative impacts of the proposed power line with the construction of Dulongjiang Highway completed in 2015 within the same component are also recalled. Furthermore, while the State Party reported that no other power or infrastructure projects have been proposed within the property or its buffer zone, it is recalled with concern that the State Party confirmed via a letter in

March 2019 four other power transmission projects crossing the property and its buffer zones, including two ongoing projects in Deqin County 1) 'Sancha River first stage and second stage hydropower station transmission and transformation projects' under construction since April 2018 and 2) '110KV Power Transmission and Transformation Construction Project' in an EIA process at that time. Concerns also continue to remain regarding the potential indirect and cumulative impacts of hydropower and related infrastructure along the three main rivers and tributaries and associated catchments, as detailed in the previous report by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. Specifically, recalling the importance of the north-south longitudinal connectivity within each valley as an essential passageway for wildlife, and that dams not only constitute physical barriers but interrupt natural flow and flood pulse dynamics, sediment and nutrient transport, and lead to ecosystem fragmentation. The aforementioned SEA provides a strategic approach to assess such development proposals in the context of ensuring the protection of the World Heritage values. In this regard, it is important that any proposed project that may impact the OUV, whether located within the property, its buffer zone or its wider setting, is assessed for its potential impact (including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.12**, **43 COM 7B.5** and **44 COM 7B.182**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for its unequivocal commitment to strictly prohibit mineral extraction within the property and its buffer zone;*
4. *Appreciates the further clarifications regarding the evolving governance and management framework for the complex serial property, including post-mining restoration, and requests the State Party to continue the implementation and monitoring of active and passive activities to ensure the ecological restoration of former mining sites in the property and its buffer zone;*
5. *Notes that discussions regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are ongoing, but regrets the limited tangible progress and urges once more the State Party to further improve and finalise the SEA, in line with international best practices and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to ensure that the SEA includes an assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts of both the upstream and downstream catchments of Nujiang, Lancang and Jinsha Rivers, so that the results can inform management and decision making for future developments;*
6. *Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to that effect;*
7. *Also recalling the recommendation of the 2013 mission to avoid the construction of transmission infrastructure within the property and its buffer zones and Decision **44 COM 7B.182** in which the State Party was requested to explore alternative options to the Dulong River power transmission line as proposed, expresses its utmost concern that the transmission line project, which crosses the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property and for which an Environmental Impact Assessment identified impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, has been completed and is operational, and also requests the State Party to urgently provide*

details of the alternative options it assessed, and the mitigating measures it took during construction and is now implementing to ensure the protection of the OUV during the operation of the transmission line;

8. Further recalling concerns expressed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN over other power transmission projects crossing the property and its buffer zones confirmed by the State Party via letter in March 2019, including two ongoing projects in Deqin County 1) 'Sancha River first stage and second stage hydropower station transmission and transformation projects' and 2) '110KV Power Transmission and Transformation Construction Project', and further requests the State Party to provide updates on the status of these projects;
9. Notes with appreciation ongoing consultations about the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) involving various administrative levels, experts and the public, but reiterates its request to expedite the development of the CMP and Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system in line with the recommendations of the 2013 mission, requests furthermore the State Party to submit the updated draft CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and encourages the State Party to widen the scope of the possible IUCN Advisory mission so as to also encompass dialogue about the CMP and the evolving MEA system;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

83. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-2011

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 165,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Between 2007 and 2015, the property benefited from a programme funded by the India World Heritage UNF to enhance management effectiveness, build staff capacity and increase the involvement of local communities.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1992: IUCN mission; January 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March-April 2005, February 2008, January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Forced evacuation of Park staff) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Poaching and illegal logging)
- Crop production (Subsistence agriculture inside the property)

- Financial resources (Slow release of funds by central Government)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Impact of tourism/visitor/recreation (Uncontrolled infrastructure development by local tourism groups)
- Military training (Attempts by paramilitary group to set up base camps in the property) (issue resolved)
- Land conversion
- Water infrastructure (Impacts of upstream dam development)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- Wildlife-related offences have been significantly reduced through upscaled anti-poaching efforts, including the creation and renovation of anti-poaching camps and solar fencing in and around the property, along with capacity building and training for relevant officers and conservation partners. The rhino population increased to 50, compared to 34 from the last estimate in 2018;
- Baseline data on keystone species in Manas was generated for the first time through the latest annual wildlife monitoring using state-of-the-art technology. Following the success, a grant was provided by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to institutionalize state-of-the-art wildlife monitoring in daily management;
- No new encroachment occurred. Agricultural encroachment has been taken up at a political level, while efforts are being made to benefit local communities through revitalization of Eco-Development Committees (EDC) and eco-tourism initiatives;
- Habitat management in Manas is guided by the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan on a scientific basis;
- Field-level cooperation between the States Parties of India and Bhutan continues across the Manas landscape;
- A revised proposal for the extension of the property requires a holistic approach, involving rehabilitating encroached areas as well as considering the “1st addition area” immediately west to the property. This is only feasible if the questions related to the encroached areas and related socio-political concerns of the indigenous communities are addressed. The proposed joint feasibility study on a possible transboundary extension requires clearance by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and should be initiated by the State Party of Bhutan;
- A Memorandum of Understanding with the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has entered into force to support conservation efforts in Manas through REDD+ carbon financing. The Government of India foresees allocating additional funding to the property;
- Other initiatives include the establishment of an Interpretation Centre for Conservation and Education and the vaccination of livestock in adjacent areas to prevent disease transmission to wildlife.

It is noted that the park authorities, which prepared the report, do not have the authority to provide further information on the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project or provide the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requested by the Committee in earlier Decisions. No further information concerning the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project or the EIA was provided by the States Parties of India or Bhutan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The reported increase in the population of rhino is welcome, and the State Party’s upscaled anti-poaching efforts, which resulted in a significant reported reduction in wildlife-related offences are noted with appreciation. It is unclear to what extent the increase in rhino numbers is a result of population growth or further translocations from other protected areas. The generation of baseline data for keystone species in Manas for the first time, with a view to institutionalising the holistic and state-of-the-art wildlife monitoring, is also welcomed, and the State Party should be requested to provide these baseline population data as part of the next report on the state of conservation of the property.

The State Party should be also commended for its efforts to mobilize additional funding for the conservation of the property, not only through increased government funding, but also through REDD+ carbon financing. The State Party should be encouraged to report on how the carbon finance initiative benefits the property, so that lessons learnt could be shared widely.

The revitalization of EDCs and eco-tourism initiatives that aim to benefit local communities and promote their positive engagement in conservation activities are welcomed. However, while it is noted that no new encroachment took place, it is of concern that existing agricultural encroachment remains unresolved. While acknowledging that there is no easy solution to resolve this issue, the State Party should be encouraged to further expedite efforts to address the issue at a political level, with due respect to the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and full implementation of relevant international norms.

While it is noted that habitat management of the property is guided by the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan, the State Party report does not provide a clear update on whether an Action Plan for the sustainable management of the grassland-woodland ecosystem has been finalized and implemented, despite being urged to do so by the Committee in Decisions **43 COM 7B.7** and **44 COM 7B.185**. The State Party should therefore be requested to provide this update, including on the implementation of control measures against the spread of invasive plant species, notably *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha*.

It is positive that transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Bhutan continues at a field level. However, it is regrettable and of the utmost concern that neither India nor Bhutan provided information concerning the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, nor its EIA and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), despite repeated requests by the Committee since 2012, given its potentially significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which is located downstream of the project site (see Decision **36 COM 7B.10**). It is recalled that the dam has potential to negatively affect the forests and water bodies of the property in a way which would reduce the ability of the property's ecosystems to support wildlife, given that the Mangdechhu rivers contribute to the flow of the Manas-Beki river system, which sustains the property. The Mangdechhu dam is likely to further exacerbate the impacts of the existing Kurichu dam if no adequate mitigation measures are planned.

According to the official press release by the State Party of India dated 18 August 2019 which was shared with the Committee in the working document for its extended 44th session, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) website, the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, implemented by the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan, was jointly inaugurated in August 2019, following the preparation of EIA and EMP. On the assumption that the project is already in operation, despite the fact that neither State Party provided any information to the World Heritage Committee regarding its impact on the property, it is recommended that the Committee urge again the States Parties to (a) submit a copy of the EIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by IUCN, including an assessment of the project's impact on the property's OUV, notably its integrity; and (b) provide details on the EMP, its implementation and the measures that have been taken to ensure that any negative impacts on the OUV are avoided. In this regard, it is anticipated that a high-level technical consultation will be invited by the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the concerned States Parties, the authorities responsible for the dam, and IUCN to agree an appropriate course of action to ensure the long term conservation and protection of the OUV of the property in relation to the impacts of this project, including an assessment of the need for a mission to the property, and the degree to which the property is faced with specific and proven imminent danger.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 36 COM 7B.10, 41 COM 8B.36, 43 COM 7B.7 and 44 COM 7B.185, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*

3. Welcomes the reported increase in the Indian rhinoceros population in the property, and notes with appreciation the upscaled efforts against poaching and the subsequent reduction in wildlife-related offences and the generation of baseline data for keynote species in Manas for the first time, with a view to institutionalising holistic and state-of-the-art wildlife monitoring, and requests the State Party to provide these baseline population data as part of its next report on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Commends the ongoing efforts to mobilize additional funding for the conservation of the property, including through REDD+ carbon financing, and encourages the State Party to report on how the carbon finance initiative benefits the property, so that lessons learnt could be shared widely, and also welcomes activities undertaken by the State Party aiming to benefit local communities, notably through the revitalization of Eco-Development Committees and eco-tourism initiatives;
5. Notes with concern that the impacts of agricultural encroachment on the property remain unresolved, and therefore also requests the State Party to continue ensuring that no further expansion of encroachment occurs within the property, while strengthening efforts to address the issue at a political level with due respect to the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and respecting all relevant international norms;
6. Notes that habitat management of the property is guided by the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan, but regrets that the State Party did not provide a clear update regarding the finalisation and implementation of an Action Plan for sustainable management of the grassland-woodland ecosystem, despite its earlier requests, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide an update on the implementation of the Action Plan on the ground, including on the implementation of control measures against the spread of invasive plant species, notably *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha*;
7. Also notes with appreciation the continued transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of India and Bhutan at a field level and also encourages the State Party to continue the reflection on the possible preparation of a revised proposal for the extension of the property and engage in dialogue with the State Party of Bhutan on a possible transboundary extension of the property, in line with the previous Committee decisions;
8. Reiterates its serious concern about the potential impacts of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and noting that this project is reported to have been jointly inaugurated by the Government of India and the Royal Government of Bhutan in August 2019, deeply regrets that neither State Party has provided any information about the project, nor its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) despite continued requests by the Committee since 2012;
9. Urges again the States Parties of India and Bhutan to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, by **1 February 2024**:
 - a) A copy of the EIA for the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, which should include an assessment of the project's impact on the property's OUV, including its integrity,
 - b) Details on the EMP and a report of its implementation, including confirmation of effective measures taken to ensure that any impact on the OUV is being avoided;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

84. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2019: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (River engineering, in particular dams, impeding or restricting fish migration, including major runs of salmonids)
- Aquaculture (Management of commercial fisheries, including coordination and cooperation with neighbouring States Parties)
- Hyper-abundant species (Excessive population density of Sika Deer affecting forest regeneration and vegetation more broadly)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation and Management system/Management plan (Tourism and visitor management)
- Climate change and severe weather events (Anticipated effects of climate change)
- Management activities (Management of the Western Steller sea lion population)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/> and reports the following:

- The predicted impacts of climate change on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are being reinvestigated and the government is aiming to establish an adaptive management strategy by 2024 to minimize climate change-driven impacts. Effects of climate change are generating greater concern, and there is insufficient data for grasping biological responses brought by climate change.
- The populations of Steller sea lions that migrate to the Japan Sea have been managed in line with a Basic Management Policy, which aims to minimize the damage they cause to the fishing industry “*within a range where there is no risk of extinction*”. The policy will be revised in 2024, under which the number of individuals in the migratory population will be estimated based on data acquired in the breeding area, migration and other trends of Stellar sea lions that migrate to Japan including the Nemuro Strait. Management will be based on scientific evidence with consideration of the precautionary principle;

- The damage caused by Stellar sea lions to the fishing industry in the waters around Nemuro decreased by 36.8% from 357 million yen (approximately USD2.6 million) at the highest recorded level in 2013 to 131 million yen (approximately USD972,000). However, the value of fishery landings also decreased significantly during this period, therefore the damage caused by Steller sea lions continues to be a threat to the sustainability of coastal fisheries. Until the Basic Management Policy is revised, non-lethal measures such as reinforced fishing nets will be continued, however since only limited effects have been achieved, the current catch quota will be maintained within a range where there is “*no risk of extinction of the Asian population*” of Steller sea lions based on past records;
- A Comprehensive Evaluation Report of the 2012-2021 Long-Term Monitoring Plan for the property (LTMP) was published in 2022 (annexed to the State Party report), which evaluated the property to have maintained its natural World Heritage value. The LTMP revision is expected to be completed by March 2023. It will set out enhanced monitoring of climate change driven impacts from 2022 and reflect biodiversity attributes under Criterion (x). Scientific evaluation of the status of the OUV is to be continued based on the results of this monitoring;
- Improvement work regarding dam modifications on the Rusha River is expected to be completed in 2024 in line with the roadmap developed based on hydraulic modeling and numerical simulation. Monitoring includes riverbed topography, numbers of migrating salmon, spawning beds, and juveniles migrating downstream. Factors affecting the distribution of spawning beds (e.g. water depth, flow velocity, riverbed materials, distribution of driftwood) are analyzed, and the improvement of the natural spawning environment and reproductive efficiency of salmon associated with dam modifications will be evaluated.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Noting that effects of climate change are generating greater concern and that there is a lack of data to monitor climate change impacts, the State Party’s commitment to researching predicted impacts of climate change on the attributes of OUV is positive, and the development of an adaptive management strategy by 2024 that is expected to minimize such impacts is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit the finalised strategy to the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party’s concern that Steller sea lions continue to be associated with a reduction in fisheries catch is noted. It is also noted that the Basic Management Policy will be revised in 2024 based on the data acquired on population dynamics and will give more consideration to the precautionary principle. Recalling however that the Western Steller sea lion is classified as ‘Endangered’ since 2012 it remains concerning that culling will be continued under the Basic Management Policy until it is revised in 2024 (since non-lethal methods are considered to be less effective), and it remains an important priority for authorities to reconcile sustainable fisheries operations with the conservation of the Steller sea lion as an attribute of the OUV. The potential further reduction of the sea lion population in the absence of clear population dynamics remains concerning and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to accelerate the development of a population dynamic model to inform the planned 2024 policy revision as soon as possible, and that it urge again the State Party to reconsider, reduce or eliminate current levels of culling, and to consult the IUCN Species Survival Commission, as needed. The update of the policy should be based on scientific population data.

With the 2012-2021 LTMP concluding in 2021, it is positive that an evaluation of the heritage values of the property was undertaken by the Scientific Council in consultation with the Regional Liaison Committee, and that a new LTMP is being finalised in 2023. While noting the conclusion of the evaluation report that the natural heritage values have been maintained, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned about the reported decrease by half of some seabird populations (cormorants and gulls) since inscription, the reason for which is unknown, and recall that seabird populations are an important attribute of the OUV. It will therefore be important to ensure that the monitoring and management priorities identified through this process, such as climate change related impacts, a decrease in sea bird and fish populations including the Dolly Varden which is representative of the ichthyofauna of the property, conflicts between brown bears and humans, or an increase in sika deer, are addressed in the new LTMP and that measures are implemented to effectively manage pressures on the OUV going forward. The noted inclusion of biodiversity-related attributes under Criterion (x) will allow management authorities to respond to pressures as they arise.

The report that improvement work to address dam modifications on the Rurua river is expected to be completed in 2024 is positive, noting also that the evaluation report highlights a growing interest in dam improvement among fishers and promotion of more active dam improvement in the context of OUV. Recalling that the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission observed that models did not adequately represent the natural biological functions of the river needed to accurately inform decision making, the reported monitoring of factors related to salmon spawning and migration processes is important. The State Party should be encouraged to continue to explore additional tools that could enhance the current understanding of river restoration approach and options in line with the mission recommendations.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.30**, **43 COM 7B.10** and **44 COM 7B.186**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Noting that effects of climate change are generating greater concern and that there is a lack of data to monitor climate change impacts, welcomes the planned development by 2024 of an adaptive management strategy that minimizes climate change-driven impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and reiterates its request for the State Party to submit the final strategy to the World Heritage Centre and to ensure that full support is provided for its implementation and the ongoing protection of the OUV of the property;
4. Also noting that Stellar sea lions, including their impacts on fisheries, have been managed in line with a Basic Management Policy and that research on population dynamics is underway, however reiterates its concern regarding the continued culling of sea lions in the continued absence of population data, and urges the State Party to continue to accelerate the development of a population dynamic model to inform the revision of the Basic Management Policy in 2024;
5. Urges again the State Party to reconsider, reduce or eliminate if necessary the current levels of culling of the Western Steller sea lion population, consulting the IUCN Species Survival Commission as required, and adopting a precautionary approach until accurate and comprehensive data on this subspecies become available;
6. Taking note of the Comprehensive Evaluation Report of the 2012-2021 Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property, expresses concern regarding the reported decrease by half of some seabird populations since inscription and recalls that seabird populations are an important attribute of the OUV;
7. Also welcomes the planned revision of the LTMP by 2023 and that this will include biodiversity attributes under Criterion (x), and reiterates its request for the State Party to ensure that the attributes of the property's OUV are fully reflected in the LTMP to ensure aquatic biodiversity, specifically the salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, are all included and monitored, and requests the State Party to submit the final revised LTMP to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Also takes note of the State Party's ongoing response to the 2019 mission recommendations, including the monitoring of biological variables, and also encourages the State Party to continue to:

- a) *Take measures to improve the representation of biological variables in river ecosystems, to enhance the current understanding of river restoration approaches and options,*
 - b) *Consider alternative methodologies to capture large wooden debris as a way to better balance river restoration needs with the fishery stakeholders' concerns,*
 - c) *Monitor the impacts of the riverbed path pilot project, especially in relation to erosion, fish passage and disturbance to the benthic habitat, and take prompt remedial actions in relation to any identified impacts, as necessary, based on comprehensive scientific understanding;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

85. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan) (N 1490)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

86. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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/284/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988-1989)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Plans to construct a road and railway through the property; Proposed infrastructure projects)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (Spread of invasive species)
- Land conversion (Encroachment of wildlife habitats in the buffer zone)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of appropriate inter-agencies and inter-ministries consultation and coordination for development proposals)
- Illegal activities (poaching)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents/> and reports the following:

- Coordinated and collaborative actions between various agencies and stakeholders including strengthened institutional mechanisms, improved community participation and enhanced interagency coordination, as well as surveillance using modern technologies, continue to prevent poaching within the property;
- The new alignment to locate the East-West Electrified Railroad outside the property is yet to be finalized. Several coordination meetings were held between the Department of Railways and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) with agreement that the adopted route will have minimum impact on the property. The proposed construction site is “almost outside the property”. The Government of Nepal recently approved the “Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Guideline”;
- The Thori-Madi-Bharatpur road continues to be managed in line with the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, including that any upgrading or widening of the road inside the property shall not be permitted. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the 8km road section located inside the property will propose construction of “wildlife friendly infrastructures”;
- The decision to halt the construction of a 7km stretch of the proposed Terai Hulaki Highway that would cross the buffer zone remains in effect. No decision has been taken on the alignment of the proposed China-India Trade Link of Province 3 (now Bagmati Province) and Province 4 (now Gandaki Province), the Madi-Balmiki Ashram road and the Malekhu-Thori road which would cross the property. The DNPWC and the park authority continue to oppose any new roads or the reopening/upgrading of old roads passing through the property;
- Additional guidance is required from UNESCO to prepare a boundary modification proposal to reflect changes following the governmental gazette in 2016 to transfer 1,818 ha from the Gajendra Mokshya Dham of Tribeni from the national park into the park’s buffer zone, and 2,063 ha from the Padampur site (previously in the park’s buffer zone) into the national park;
- The dismantling of houses in the park’s buffer zone area under the jurisdiction of Ayodhyapuri User Committee was undertaken by local authorities in accordance with the National Parks Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 and its subsequent regulations, with “no single intention to abuse the human rights of the local communities”. The area was illegally occupied since 1997 and alternative housing outside the property was provided by the local government in 2020 but some of the households continued to reside in the area despite notifications given by the park authority and tried “double occupation” following the resettlement. The authority is fully aware of securing the fundamental rights of local communities, who are considered an integral part of park management and the implementation of wildlife conservation activities, including rhino conservation successes.

On 25 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to verify third-party information concerning a poaching incident in January 2023 where two rhinos were killed, and other recent deaths of rhinos which are reportedly linked to construction activities in and around the property. No response has been received at the time of preparation of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Whilst noting with appreciation that the continued anti-poaching efforts by the State Party and partners have resulted in six out of nine ‘zero poaching years’, the resurgence of rhino poaching since 2020 remains of serious concern. It is recommended to request the State Party to provide clarification on the recently reported rhino deaths and to strengthen measures within and around the property, as necessary, to ensure the protection of threatened species such as the rhino from poaching.

It is noted that the new alignment to locate the East-West Electrified Railroad outside the property is yet to be finalized. Given the reported proximity of the proposed construction site to the property (i.e. “almost outside the property”), it is recommended the State Party again be requested to submit an EIA of the proposed alignment which adequately assesses its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, together with a detailed map, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN when it is available and before finalizing a decision on the alternative route.

Continued suspension of the proposed road projects inside and adjacent to the property, including the construction of the proposed Terai Hulaki Highway, China-India Trade Link of Province 3 (now Bagmati Province) and Province 4 (now Gandaki Province), the Madi-Balmiki Ashram road and the Malekhu-Thori road, as well as upgrading of the section of the Thori-Madi-Bharatpur road located inside the property, is welcome. Whilst noting that no decision has been made on the alignments of the proposed roads that would cross the property, it is recommended to reiterate the importance of a permanent ban on any new roads or the reopening/upgrading of old roads passing through the property as recommended by the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission. It is unclear what the proposed construction of “wildlife friendly infrastructures” inside the property refers to, and the State Party should be requested to provide precise clarification and details on this matter and to ensure that the potential impacts of such infrastructure are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the *Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Guidance* to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

Given the reported changes made to the boundaries of the National Park in 2016, and the fact that the property does not have a buffer zone as approved by the World Heritage Committee, it is important to reiterate the urgency of reflecting this in the inscribed property through a boundary modification proposal in accordance with the Operational Guidelines. The State Party’s intention to submit a boundary modification proposal and the need for further guidance for the submission is noted. It should be also noted that up-to-date maps clearly showing the boundaries of the property as inscribed in 1984, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in its letter of October 2020, are yet to be submitted. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit up-to-date maps for the property to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and to seek further guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the boundary modification procedures and the implementation of the 2016 mission recommendations.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned about alleged human rights abuses which were first raised in a letter in 2020. While noting the State Party’s response that the dismantling of local community houses was carried out in line with national park legislation to address illegal occupation since 1997, and that the communities were resettled in 2020 by local authorities, it is recommended that the State Party is requested to ensure that any proposed relocation of people and communities from within the property follows a human rights-based approach, and applying international best practices and applicable norms and standards. Concerns remain regarding the *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples: Protected areas and indigenous peoples’ rights: the obligation of States and international organizations* published in July 2022, which reported that “indigenous peoples continue to be targeted for their livelihood practices, and their homes have been destroyed in retaliation for collecting resources, including medicinal herbs, within the Park”. Recalling the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission finding, that there is significant confusion amongst the local communities with regards to the boundary of the property, led to the State Party’s implementation of the mission recommendation to demarcate the property boundary on the ground, the aforementioned boundary modification and clarification is vital. It is recommended the State Party also be requested to provide a response to the report of the Special Rapporteur and to ensure all park operations are conducted in line with a rights-based approach.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.188 adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) session,*
3. *Notes with appreciation the ongoing collaborative efforts to combat rhino poaching in the property, however expresses its continued concern about the resurgence of rhino poaching and other recent deaths of rhinos reportedly linked to construction activities, requests the State Party to provide clarification on these reported incidents and to further strengthen measures within and around the property to prevent poaching;*

4. *Noting that the new alignment to locate the East-West Electrified Railroad outside the property is yet to be finalized, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed alignment which adequately assesses its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, together with a detailed map, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN when it is available and before finalizing a decision on the alternative route;*
5. *Welcomes the continued suspension of the proposed road projects inside and adjacent to the property, including the construction of the proposed Terai Hulaki Highway, China-India Trade Link of Province 3 (now Bagmati Province) and Province 4 (now Gandaki Province), the Madi-Balmiki Ashram road and the Malekhu-Thori road, as well as upgrading of the section of the Thori-Madi-Bharatpur road located inside the property, and takes note that no decision has been made on the alignments of the proposed roads that would cross the property;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party not to approve any road and railway developments passing through the property, as recommended by the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, which would represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also noting the recent approval of the Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Guidance by the Government of Nepal, also requests the State Party to provide further information regarding the proposed construction of “wildlife friendly infrastructures” inside the property, and to ensure that their potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit up-to-date maps of the property as inscribed in 1984 to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in its letter of October 2020, by **1 December 2023**;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to seek further guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the process of a boundary modification, and urges again the State Party to submit a boundary modification proposal in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Continues to note with concern the alleged human rights abuses related to Chitwan National Park raised in 2020, including as raised in the 2022 "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay. Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations", requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that any relocation of people and communities from within the property follows a human rights-based approach, and applying international best practices and applicable norms and standards;*
11. *Requests moreover the State Party to provide a response to the report of the Special Rapporteur by no later than **1 December 2023**, and to ensure all park operations are conducted in conformity with a best practice rights-based approach;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

87. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)

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/120/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 232,097

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 1985: UNESCO mission; December 2002: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2005: Fact-finding mission; May 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Illegal activities (Poaching)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Rapid increase and commercialization of mountaineering tourism, including resort and trail development);
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (noise pollution and visual impacts from helicopter use)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Unclear legal basis for establishment and operation of Kongde View Resort, including access trails)
- Mining
- Other climate change impacts
- Quarrying
- Solid waste (Inadequate solid and liquid waste management)
- Forestry / wood production (Firewood collection)
- Major linear utilities (proposed layout of optical fiber network along the trekking trail)
- Others: Human-wildlife conflict; Subsistence wild plant collection

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents> and reports the following:

- A strategy on climate resilient and sustainable financing of protected area management has been adopted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). The Management Plan for the property and the nationally designated buffer zone is being revised and will include a chapter on tourism issues;
- Following a drop in visitor numbers from a high of 58,018 in 2018-19 to 4,819 during COVID-19, numbers increased to 25,521 in 2020-21. A Visitors Tracking System has been established to monitor and regulate tourism. Procedures are implemented to regulate the hotel, lodge and tea shop, and waste management within the property;
- Waste management by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) continues, including construction of solid waste collection containers along trekking routes, collection of 10,000kg of waste in 2022, and a request for SPCC to develop and implement an Action Plan for waste management from the Khumbu Region;

- Helicopters are used for rescue and relief works. Regular meetings are conducted with security agencies and the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal to manage the flights;
- Regular patrolling and monitoring of the Kongde View Resort area has been undertaken to control any adverse environmental impact. A check post has been established near the resort to monitor any illegal activities. The revised Management Plan will include a chapter on the mitigation plan;
- The proponent of the proposed optical fiber network has been requested to incorporate IUCN recommendations on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (from 2019). A revised plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and approved after incorporating comment;
- The zonation of Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) is to be divided into a core zone (1,148 km²) forming the property and a buffer zone (275 km²) adjoining the property. All settlements inside the park are also considered as a buffer zone, as per the Nepal gazette of buffer zone declaration;
- Local communities use mostly gas and electricity for cooking. Firewood collection remains banned in the property, supported by law enforcement. The revised Management Plan will include interventions to reduce firewood collection and promote alternative energy;
- The Himalayan musk deer poaching incidence occurred during COVID-19 when surveillance activities were limited, which have since resumed;
- Stakeholder engagement on the formal declaration of the SNP buffer zone as the buffer zone of the property continues. Community support remains to be secured;
- Strategies and initiatives are underway to monitor impacts of climate change on biodiversity and local community. The revised Management Plan will include climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.

On 27 February 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party raising third party concerns reporting large-scale construction works related to a hydropower project in Chaurikharka, Lukla, which may negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The State Party replied on 23 April 2023 confirming that physical construction of the hydropower project in Chaurikharka and Lukla areas is ongoing, according to the approved "Initial Environmental Examination Report" (IEE report), and that all the construction work at the site is "under the control of the Park Warden and according to the prevailing laws".

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is welcomed that the revision of the 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property is underway and will include key matters such as tourism management, climate change adaptation, firewood collecting and alternate energy sources, as well as poaching and mitigation plans for the Kongde View Resort. Since the previous Plan expired in 2020, this should be finalised as soon as possible.

Given the importance of tourism to local community livelihoods and management, the reported recovery following COVID-19 is positive. However, recalling concerns over growing tourism pressure prior to the pandemic, it is important to ensure tourism is sustainably managed as visitor numbers continue to recover. The inclusion of a tourism chapter in the revised Management Plan, as well as measures to track visitors and manage waste, are positive. The continued efforts by SPCC to address tourism-related waste including waste containers on trails, waste removal, and proposed development of an Action Plan for waste removal, are commendable and should be continued. It is regrettable that no response has been provided regarding the previous Committee's request for a visitor carrying capacity study for the property, nor the development of the planned Tourism Management Plan as indicated in the DNPWC's letter to the World Heritage Centre dated 28 January 2020. Since visitation is likely to continue to increase, it remains important to clearly understand the carrying capacity for the property to enable authorities to implement an informed management approach that ensures tourism is sustainable and does not negatively impact the OUV. The study should inform the development of the planned Tourism Management Plan and be aligned with the revised Management Plan for the property. Although helicopter rescue operations are reported, no response was provided regarding the request to address monitoring and regulation of tourism-related helicopter traffic.

Recalling the long history of concerns of impacts from the Kongde View Resort on the OUV, the activities to patrol, monitor and control environmental impacts and illegal activities, following the Supreme Court decision to continue operation of the resort, are noted. Noting also the planned inclusion of mitigation measures in the revised Management Plan, the State Party should be urged to continue monitoring and enforcement efforts and submit the final mitigation plan to the World Heritage Centre for IUCN review.

Noting the State Party has requested the proponent of the optical fibre project to incorporate IUCN's comments into a revised EIA, it should be requested to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of progress and ensure the revised EIA is completed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Regarding zonation, it is useful to recall the 2018 state of conservation report and Decision **42 COM 7B.70**, which highlight that the 2016-2020 Management Plan recognizes the need for an effective internal zonation system for the property. This was considered of particular relevance due to the designation of buffer zones within the property where settlements exist, but which would be more appropriately managed using a zonation scheme. Such a zonation is separate to the designation of the core and nationally designated buffer zones and would support management within the property. It is recommended that the World Heritage Centre organise an online meeting with the State Party and the management authority of the property to allow IUCN to provide further guidance.

The continued efforts to consult with local communities on the formalization of the nationally designated buffer zone of SNP as a buffer zone to the property are appreciated. Recalling that such a designation would formalise the existing buffer zone but which would not imply any constraints to communities beyond the legal provisions that already exist at the national level, it is recommended the State Party provide clarification regarding the resistance. The State Party should be encouraged to continue the implementation of the Management Plan which applies to the nationally designed buffer zone.

The continued ban on firewood collection in the property, law enforcement, and plans to incorporate interventions to reduce collection and promote alternative energy in the revised Management Plan, are positive. Noting the Himalayan musk deer poaching incidence occurred during a time of limited surveillance, which has since resumed, it is recommended antipoaching measures are continued and included in the revised Management Plan.

The reported commitment to develop strategies and initiatives to monitor impacts of climate change, and that impacts and adaptation strategies will be addressed in the revised Management Plan, are welcomed.

The State Party's confirmation that the construction of a hydropower project in the Lukla and Churikharka areas is underway, is of significant concern. Whilst noting that the project is reported to have been approved following the completion of an IEE report, no further details of the project have been provided and it remains unclear if potential impacts of the project on the property's OUV have been adequately assessed prior to its approval and construction. Noting that this area is in the vicinity of the property, and inside the nationally designated buffer zone, there is concern regarding its potential impact on the OUV. Recalling the State Party's obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre of major projects that may impact on the OUV in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to ensure the appropriate assessment of impacts in line with Paragraph 118bis, the potential impacts of any proposed development on the OUV should be assessed through an EIA in line with the aforementioned Guidance, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently halt the project, and to provide details including the type of hydropower project and associated developments, a map of its location in relation to the property, and the IEE report, as soon as possible, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and prior to continuation of the project.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.70** and **44 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 42nd (Bahrain, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes that the revision of the 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property is underway, and requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the revision to include the various pressures to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to submit the revised Plan to the World Heritage Centre;*

4. Also recalling concerns regarding the impacts of increasing visitor numbers on the property, welcomes the State Party's intention to include a tourism chapter in the revised Management Plan, however requests the State Party to provide an update on the planned development of a Tourism Management Plan and reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Undertake a visitor carrying capacity study to establish an appropriate carrying capacity for the property, especially during the peak season, and use the findings to inform the Tourism Management Plan,
 - b) Address how monitoring and regulation of tourism-related helicopter traffic within the property and the nationally designated buffer zones of the Park can be strengthened to reduce impacts,
 - c) Ensure that the Tourism Management Plan aligns with the revision of the Management Plan for the property;
5. Further recalling its concerns regarding the serious threats of the Kongde View Resort to the OUV, takes note of the activities to patrol, monitor and control any environmental impacts and illegal activities relating to the continued operation of the resort, and urges the State Party to continue these measures and finalise a detailed environmental plan to mitigate the impacts of the resort, submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and take any necessary measures to monitor its implementation;
6. Recalling furthermore the State Party's decision to request a revision of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the optical fibre project based on the comments provided by IUCN, further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of progress and ensure the revised EIA is completed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
7. Recalling again the proposal in the 2016-2020 Management Plan to consider introducing zonation as a management instrument within the property and the distinction between a zonation scheme and a buffer zone, requests furthermore the State Party to develop a zonation system as part of the revision of the Management Plan, notably as a means of ensuring appropriate provisions for enclave villages located within the property;
8. Appreciates the ongoing engagement by the State Party to consult with local communities regarding the formalization of the nationally designated buffer zone of Sagarmatha National Park as a buffer zone to the property, and encourages it to continue the implementation of the Management Plan which applies to the nationally designed buffer zone, possibly with the aim of formalizing a buffer zone, with the support of local people, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines; also encourages the World Heritage Centre to organise an online meeting with the State Party and the management authority of the property to allow IUCN to provide further guidance;
9. Notes with appreciation the continued ban on firewood collection in the property, implementation of law enforcement, and planned interventions to reduce this activity and promote alternative energy, and further encourages the State Party to continue these measures and ensure their incorporation in the revised Management Plan;
10. Takes note that the Himalayan musk deer poaching incidence occurred when surveillance was impacted by COVID-19 and that surveillance has since resumed, and requests moreover that antipoaching measures are continued and included in the revision of the Management Plan;

11. Also notes with appreciation the commitment to monitor climate change impacts on biodiversity and the local community, and further reiterates its request to develop a climate adaptation strategy, and integrate this into the revised Management Plan;
12. Notes with significant concern the confirmation by the State Party that construction of a hydropower project has been initiated in the Chaurikharka and Lukla areas without prior notification in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and without providing clarity on whether the potential impacts of the project on the OUV were assessed prior to approval in line with Paragraph 118bis, and considering the potential impact of the project on the OUV given its location in the vicinity of the property and within the nationally designated buffer zone,
13. Urges the State Party to halt the aforementioned hydropower project until the impact on the OUV has been determined, and to provide details including the type of hydropower project and associated developments, a map of its location in relation to the property, and the Initial Environmental Examination Report including any assessment of the project's potential impact on the property's OUV, as soon as possible and no later than **1 December 2023**, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

88. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 1461rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (x)

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/1461/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2022: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Revision of the boundaries of the property in dialogue between the States Parties of Thailand and Myanmar resulting in a considerably reduced area inscribed
- Concerns for the conditions for integrity and requirements for management and protection, including community involvement
- Rights and livelihood concerns regarding Karen communities within the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461/>

Current conservation issues

In November 2022, an IUCN Advisory mission visited the property at the request of the State Party, the report of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461/documents>.

On 31 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1461/documents/>. The full report is summarized as follows:

- Confirmation of boundary adjustments agreed by the States Parties of Thailand and Myanmar without prejudice to the determination of the land border under international law;
- Confirmation of the Kaeng Krachan, Kui Buri and Chalerm Phrakiat Thai Prachan National Parks, and Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary as the four units composing the property;
- Confirmation of a recently revised legal, policy and management framework, highlighting the National Park Act, B.E. 2562 (2019), the Wild Animal Conservation and Protection Act, B.E. 2562 (2019);
- In line with Section 65 of the National Park Act and Section 57 of the Wild Animal Conservation and Protection Act, respectively, land tenure surveys were conducted to document villages, residents and agricultural plots within the forest complex to inform the possible granting of rights according to applicable rules and regulations;
- Further surveys were conducted to inform the designation of areas for natural resource use in wildlife sanctuaries and national parks;
- Draft Management Plans covering 2023 to 2027 are in place for the three national parks; the elaboration of the Plan for Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary is in progress; an overarching Management Plan for the entire forest complex is to be elaborated within the current fiscal year, considering the World Heritage status;
- A SMART Patrol System is operational throughout the property;
- Capacity development for Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) staff has been implemented with a focus on law enforcement;
- Promotion of public participation includes consultations on local livelihoods and engagement in management, human rights resolutions, public hearings, efforts to grant citizenship to Karen people and efforts to allocate rights to land and harvesting areas and tourism projects;
- Protected Area Committees (PACs) in all units of the property include community representatives; appointment of an overarching PAC for the entire forest complex is foreseen within the current fiscal year;
- Particular attention is given to address the situation in Ban Bang Kloy village inside the property, including through orders by the Prime Minister's Office dated 2021 and 2022 appointing committees and sub-committees to analyze the situation as a basis for recommendations to the Prime Minister or Cabinet;
- Confirmed readiness to engage in transboundary conservation with Myanmar, including the extension of the property to a possible future transboundary property;
- Ongoing efforts are underway to address human-wildlife (elephant) conflicts;
- Discovery of new species in the property and ongoing research in limestone ecosystems, moist evergreen forests and the Phetchaburi River.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In November 2022, an IUCN Advisory mission was invited to the property by the State Party. This provided a valuable and constructive opportunity to provide advice and clarification on a range of issues, including points raised in previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee. The mission concluded that the property is currently not in full compliance with all applicable World Heritage requirements and that there is a need to continue the "work in progress" noted by the World Heritage Committee on a range of key issues.

It is recalled that the boundaries of the property that were agreed between the States Parties of Thailand and Myanmar to be mutually acceptable before its inscription on the World Heritage List, resulted in a substantial area of the initially nominated area along the international border with Myanmar being removed from the nominated property as inscribed in 2021. Given the well-documented conservation importance of this area, including in terms of connectivity with intact forest areas in Myanmar, it is important that efforts are focused on ensuring the best possible protection and management of this area, which continues to be part of KKFC as defined and managed at the national level, in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Considering the importance of strengthening transboundary conservation approach along the border with Myanmar, which includes connectivity between the property and Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries and the wider Western Forest Complex, and recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.7**, the confirmed commitment by the State Party of Thailand to engage in transboundary conservation with the State Party of Myanmar is welcome. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are available to provide advice and support as required.

It is noted that the reported evolving legal and policy framework is providing more options to balance conservation with community needs and aspirations and the multitude of reported activities and projects to increase community participation at various levels are encouraging. However, the reorientation of the protected areas approach implied in new legislation for national parks and wildlife sanctuaries will undoubtedly require substantial time, effort and mutual trust-building to produce concrete results. The new options to grant regulated access to natural resources are particularly promising, but to ensure a proper implementation of the new laws, clear operational guidance and careful consultations and analyses will be required. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2022 IUCN Advisory mission on this issue as a matter of priority.

The ongoing progress to develop Management Plans for the property is noted, including for Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary and an overarching Management Plan for the entire property. It is also encouraging that PACs are reportedly operational in all units of the property and that an overarching PAC is planned to be established. Regarding previously raised rights-based concerns and the situation of the Ban Bang Kloy village, it is noted that the case has the attention of highest political levels and efforts are underway to address the ongoing conflicts to the degree possible.

The 2022 Advisory mission further noted the proposal of a dam construction within Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary, in an area initially nominated but not inscribed as a result of the above-mentioned agreement with Myanmar. Considering the importance of this area in terms of the integrity of the property, it is likely that the proposed dam project would impact negatively on the OUV of the property. In addition, the project may further amplify the already difficult relationship with the local communities in this area. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the status of the proposed project before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to ensure that its potential environmental and social impacts are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in line with Paragraph 118bis, including considering a no-project option as one possible outcome. The project also risks running counter to current efforts to improve the relationship between conservation authorities and local communities.

It is concerning that the Kui Buri Forest Reserve and the Army Reserve Zone are not mentioned in the State Party report given their inclusion in the property and ecological function as a corridor to connect two components of the property. Furthermore, the exact legal status and management regime of this area continues to remain unclear. Building on scenarios proposed in the Nomination dossier, it is vital to consolidate its protection status, including by possibly expanding Kui Buri National Park. Due to the conservation and connectivity importance of this area located between Kui Buri and Kaeng Krachan National Parks, there is a need to ensure that the management of the property addresses the ecological linkages between the various component parts. Furthermore, no buffer zone was designated for the property at the time of inscription and the State Party should be requested to determine and formalize a buffer zone tailored to the local situation around the property through the Minor Boundary Modification procedure.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.5**, **40 COM 8B.11**, **43 COM 8B.5** and **44 COM 8B.7**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's firm commitment to transboundary conservation and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to identify opportunities to collaborate with the State Party of Myanmar in transboundary conservation and management of the highly significant nature conservation values of the region, with a view to considering a future extension of the property;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for having invited an IUCN Advisory mission to the property and encourages the State Party to implement the mission recommendations, including those aimed at ensuring compliance of the property with the Operational Guidelines;
5. Notes the State Party's evolving legal and policy framework applicable to national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and requests the State Party to enhance participatory management and governance arrangements enabled by the new legislation in place since 2019, through meaningful participation of local communities;
6. Notes the establishment of Protected Area Committees (PACs) in all units of the property which include community representatives and welcomes the appointment of an overarching PAC for the entire forest complex foreseen for the current fiscal year;
7. Welcomes the focus of the State Party on engagement with the Ban Bang Kloy community and requests the State Party to continue to work closely, and in full consultation, with the affected indigenous peoples and local communities to address the longstanding conflicts following a rights-based approach;
8. Expresses its utmost concern about a proposal to construct a dam within Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary adjacent to the property and in an area initially nominated as part of the property and key for its integrity, which is likely to negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and may further amplify the difficult relationship with the local communities, and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the status of the proposed project before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to ensure that potential environmental and social impacts are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including to consider a no-project option;
9. Notes with concern the unclear protection status of the Kui Buri Forest Reserve and the Army Reserve Zone, a critically important ecological corridor between the Kui Buri and Kaeng Krachan National Parks within the property and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the legal protection status and management system of this corridor, and to consolidate its protection status and management system building upon scenarios identified in the nomination dossier, including the possible inclusion into the Kui Buri National Park, in full consultation with all stakeholders and rightsholders;

10. *Noting the absence of a formally inscribed buffer zone for the property, requests the State Party to determine and formalize a buffer zone tailored to the local situation around the property through the Minor Boundary Modification procedure as soon as possible;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

89. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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/672/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1996-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 163,145

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 under the Youth Volunteers for Cultural Heritage Preservation project (2003-2006); USD 519,000 for Cua Van Floating Cultural Centre, a component of the Ha Long Eco-museum (funded by the Government of Norway, for the period of 2003-2006).

Previous monitoring missions

January 2003, December 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2018: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Population growth)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Financial and human resources
- Management systems / management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/documents>, which reports the following:

- Sustainable tourism development activities include improving efficiency of cruise ship management, enhancing quality of visitor services, diversifying tourism products, developing specific and high-quality tourism products, coastal tourist routes (in the buffer zone), improving efficiency of destination management, and increasing awareness of heritage values. An entrance fee policy has been developed to focus on good experience instead of total proceeds. The carrying capacity of the property was assessed and informs tourism development scenarios. A booking system and eco-certification for cruise ships is planned;
- Environmental management activities include pollution control and waste management measures, a programme to reduce plastic waste, wastewater treatment in cruise ships, and

approval to upgrade the wastewater treatment of attractions on Ha Long Bay. Polluting works were moved out of the buffer zone, no factories likely to impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) were licensed, and the largest open-pit coal mine in Ha Long city was closed. Opencast coal mining in the Ha Long area is anticipated to end in 2028 and cement industry activities by 2030. A Green Growth project is being implemented to support economic transition. Water quality in the property is periodically monitored and within allowable limits under Vietnamese standards;

- A Management Plan for the property for 2021-2025 (vision to 2040) was developed based on the 2017-2021 Management Plan, the management effectiveness assessment, and consultations with experts and stakeholders, with an integrated approach to fully protect the OUV and manage impacts from the buffer zone. Activities in 2021-22 include research, monitoring and protection of the heritage values, and strictly managing project development in the coastal area. Since 2021, a project to establish a Ha Long Bay conservation area including to preserve biodiversity values and a special-use forest for landscape protection is underway;
- A review of the 'Master Plan for 2021-2030 (vision to 2050) for Quang Ninh province' and the 'Master Plan for 2021-2030 (vision to 2050) to preserve and promote the value of Ha Long Bay's World Heritage site', with solutions for spatial planning, governance, managing resources to ensure the preservation of heritage and encouraging community participation in sustainable tourism development, is underway. Regulations are being revised for alignment. A regulation on collaboration between management authorities of the property and the bordering Cat Ba Islands (Hai Ba) has been signed;
- Plans to develop a Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development for the property are underway (outline appended to report), including to request support through the UNESCO Sustainable Tourism Programme and the World Heritage Fund;
- A map of the property and buffer zone will be submitted following the updating of the various master plans to ensure its consistency with this process;
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic period where the management authorities implemented strict sanitary regulations for visitor operations, various actions stimulating the recovery are underway.

On 3 June 2022, the World Heritage Centre shared third-party information with the State Party concerning new infrastructure and tourist facilities along the coastline in Ha Long city. On 15 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party outlining third-party concerns received in January and February 2023 regarding water pollution (garbage, plastic and fuel) within the property which inhibited tourism activities (swimming and kayak tours in caves). No replies have been received from the State Party at the time of writing of this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued progress in addressing the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations and Committee decisions, including finalization of a new Management Plan and carrying capacity study, and implementation of waste management measures are welcomed.

The various measures to address waste management mentioned above are also appreciated. It is also positive that water quality is reported to be within allowable national limits. Notwithstanding this progress, various actions remain to be implemented and noting also third-party concerns regarding impacts of waste on tourism experience and operations, it is recommended to implement and further strengthen measures to address the issue, as necessary, including implementing the planned upgrade of wastewater treatment of attractions in Ha Long Bay and the closure of industrial activities including coal mining and cement activities in the Ha Long area.

The completion of the 2021-2025 Management Plan for the property is noted with appreciation, specifically confirmation that it takes an integrated approach focused on protecting the OUV of the property and managing impacts from the buffer zone, is based on the "Enhancing our Heritage" management effectiveness assessment, and was developed in consultation with stakeholders from government, local communities and businesses. The review and updating of master plans for 2021-2030 (vision to 2050) at the national, provincial and site level, is an opportunity to strengthen the integration of planning documents; however it is unclear how the development of such a plan at the site level relates to the new Management Plan and how the implementation will be coordinated between the site management authorities and the Provincial and City People's Committees in order to ensure the

alignment and integration of any parallel processes to revise plans and regulations that relate to the management of the property.

Recalling the concerns that the expansion of new infrastructure and tourist facilities are already compromising the broader landscape values and risk to affect the OUV under Criterion (vii), the various reported actions to improve sustainable tourism are noted with appreciation. Given the importance of a strategic approach to tourism management for the property, the finalisation of the carrying capacity study and initiation of the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy are welcomed. However, as tourism development pressure continues increasing, with further infrastructure developments reported by third-parties, the State Party should be encouraged to complete the Strategy, with the support of experts in the field of sustainable tourism as needed, and based on the carrying capacity of the property, as soon as possible.

Recalling that the buffer zone, in relation to existing industrial activities and its use and management regime, was not clear, it is recommended the State Party provide the requested map with current boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, with clear indications of industrial areas as well as details on the use and management regime within the buffer zone, as soon as these are available following the revisions of the aforementioned master plans and regulations.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the continued progress in addressing the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations and the Committee requests, including a new Management Plan for the property, waste management, carrying capacity study, and initiating a sustainable tourism strategy;*
4. *Notes with appreciation progress to address sustainable tourism management including completion of a carrying capacity study and initiation of the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy, and requests the State Party to ensure that tourism development is based on carrying capacity and to finalise the strategy with the support of sustainable tourism experts as needed, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*
5. *Also notes with appreciation various waste management measures including regulating wastewater treatment in cruise ships, closure of the largest open-pit coal mine in the Ha Long area, promotion of a “green” economic transition, and that water quality is within allowable national limits, however notes with concern that pollution remains an issue in the property and urges the State Party to continue and further strengthen measures, as necessary, including to implement the planned upgrade of wastewater treatment of attractions in Ha Long Bay and closure of industrial activities including coal mining and cement activities in the Ha Long area;*
6. *Welcomes the completion of a new 2021-2025 Management Plan for the property (vision to 2040), and also requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Provide clarification on how the planned “Master Plan for 2021-2030 (vision to 2050) to preserve and promote the value of Ha Long Bay’s World Heritage site” relates to the Management Plan,*
 - b) *Ensure any processes to revise national, regional and site-level plans and regulations related to the management of the property are appropriately aligned*

and integrated and coordinated between the site management authorities and the Provincial and City People's Committees;

7. *Reiterates its request for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, a map with a clear indication of the current boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, including details on the use and management regime within the buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, 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 46th session.*

90. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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/951/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2005-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 104,040

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 33,000 from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to support Stakeholder's Consultation for the transboundary cooperation with Lao PDR (2006)

Previous monitoring missions

July 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impacts of a road construction project in the World Heritage site) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging and forest crimes (poaching))
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a visitor Management Plan, Inadequate Sustainable Tourism Development Plan)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (Cable car project to provide access to the Son Doong cave) (issue resolved)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2023, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents>, which reports the following:

- In 2021-22, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected heritage conservation, tourism revenue was reduced, and socio-economic activities were negatively affected. Reported solutions included to continue forest protection, prevent trapping and capturing wild animals, control invasive alien species (IAS), and promote international cooperation. Conservation and tourism activities were reactivated in early 2022;

- The Management Board coordinated environmental education and public awareness activities on biodiversity conservation including to control and prevent IAS. In 2022, the Quang Binh Provincial People's Committee (PPC) issued *Plan (No. 1866/KH-UBND) on implementing the national strategy on climate change to 2025 in Quang Binh Province*, which includes a project on the distribution, invasiveness and eradication of *Merremia boissiana* from the property, pending for approval by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE). The project report on implementation of the experimental eradication of *M. boissiana* is being finalised and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre soon;
- Tourism activities are implemented towards developing ecotourism, tourism research, and regular monitoring of environmental impacts at tourist sites through periodic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports. Research with the Viet Nam Academy of Sciences has been approved to assess the exploitation status of caves in the wider Quang Binh Province, and tourism capacity of caves in the property, to propose more efficient exploitation and sustainable tourism. A project on "ecotourism, resort and entertainment" will inform sustainable tourism development in the property. There are plans to re-evaluate the 18 existing routes and ecotourism sites in the property to improve the quality of cave tourism and reduce pressure on the environment;
- To integrate the management, conservation and promotion of heritage values into the overall development and management plan (2020-2040), PPC has directed authorities to implement the "*Master plan for the development of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Tourist Area to 2030*", finalize the "*Tourism development planning in the Quang Binh provincial master plan for the period of 2021-2030, vision to 2050*", called for investment in the construction and development of the tourist urban area, and to develop an Ecotourism project for the property;
- No infrastructure will be approved in or near the caves to avoid impacting the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Impact assessments will be conducted for construction projects and large-scale tourism projects likely to impact on the OUV and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Inter-agency coordination for forest protection and fire prevention has been strengthened. A USAID funded project running to 2025 will establish 11 community-based snare removal patrol teams. Monitoring tools include GIS mapping, Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and camera trap surveys which allow the identification and protection of high biodiversity areas and early warnings for disasters. Annual monitoring of key species has been established;
- Stakeholder engagement includes strengthening community engagement in ecotourism and forest protection activities. Activities are underway to improve livelihoods in the buffer zone.
- The functional zoning of the property includes three subdivisions with different management mechanisms (administrative service, ecological restoration, strictly protected) with no difference in objectives and management requirement;
- Cross-border collaboration continues through a 2022 work program to coordinate activities on forest protection, monitoring and management of natural resources in the area adjacent to the border of Quang Binh (Viet Nam) and Khammouane (Lao People's Democratic Republic - PDR) provinces. Collaboration continues on the preparation of a nomination dossier for Hin Nam No National Park (Lao PDR), with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) expected to be signed in early 2023, and a Transboundary Management Framework;
- The potential reorganization of heritage management under Decree 01/2019/ND-CP issued by the Prime Minister on forest protection would result in forest rangers not being under the management of the Management Board.

On 20 May 2022, the State Party submitted a final report on the implementation of Emergency Assistance funding following floods in the property which included a flood damage assessment report, implementation of a disaster warning system (forest fire, flood, landslide), and development of a natural disaster response action plan.

On 13 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party third party concerns regarding cattle grazing within the property. The State Party replied on 6 June 2023 confirming that the reported cattle grazing in Doong village, which predates the establishment of the National Park and is currently located in a strictly protected subdivision of the property, is subsistence based and not for commercial purposes, and that the grazing area has been wire-fenced since April 2023 to prevent pollution from cattle waste. The State Party also assured that the cattle grazing in the village is managed

in line with Plan No. 04/PA-NP issued by the Management Board, which will continue monitoring the entire forest area to prevent illegal grazing.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued commitment of the State Party to address Committee decisions and recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission is appreciated.

The continued actions to address IAS, including community awareness and the planned *M. boissiana* control project, are noted with appreciation. However, noting that the requested *M. boissiana* pilot project results have still not been provided, that COVID-19 has reportedly delayed further research, and that an action plan to address the 14 previously identified IAS remains to be developed, it is important that actions are continued, informed by the development of a clear action plan to address IAS in line with the 2018 mission recommendations. It is recommended the State Party implement and report on the new project when approved by MNRE, and develop a clear strategy and action plan that is sufficiently resourced to address the threat posed by the 14 previously reported invasive species identified within the property, as requested in Decision **44 COM 7B.189**.

Recalling the importance of tourism and the need to effectively manage tourism pressure on the OUV, it is positive that research to assess the tourism capacity of the property and the efficiency of existing tourism operations is underway, as well as plans to develop sustainable cave ecotourism. It is however unclear how the various tourism related plans mentioned above are part of a cohesive tourism strategy, and it is recommended to reiterate the 2018 mission recommendation to ensure the integration of a revised and updated tourism plan with other key management tools for the property, as well as to ensure visitor numbers to the caves do not exceed pre-COVID highs recorded in 2019-2020, and that future tourism development should be based on carrying capacity. The commitment that no infrastructure projects will be approved in or near the caves is positive. For all future project proposals, the State Party should be requested to undertake impact assessments in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, which applies to both cultural and natural attributes.

The various management actions to strengthen enforcement, limit encroachment, address poaching, and establish wildlife surveys that enable the identification of high priority conservation areas, are welcome and should be continued to inform management decisions for protection of the OUV. The annual monitoring of key species will provide important data in this regard. The State Party's confirmation that the reported cattle grazing within the property is not for commercial purposes but subsistence based, and that management measures (i.e. to fence the area) have been put in place to prevent negative impacts, is noted. Given its location in a strictly protected part of the property, the State Party should be requested to continue monitoring the grazing activities in line with the aforementioned Plan, while ensuring that no illegal grazing is allowed within the property.

The ongoing cross-border coordination on monitoring and management activities between the border provinces in Viet Nam and Lao PDR remains important for the protection of the area adjacent to the border, and a potential tranboundary extension of the property to include Hin Nam No National Park should be further encouraged.

Noting the potential reorganization of heritage management staff under a 2019 decree, it is important to highlight that the State Party should maintain sufficient staff capacity to ensure ongoing protection and management of the property.

It is positive that the implementation of emergency response measures to address impacts of landslides and flooding in October 2020 have allowed the State Party to assess the impacts of flood damage, and implement preventative measures to respond to future events through the disaster warning system and action plan.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.189**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),

3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Notes with appreciation ongoing measures to address invasive alien species (IAS) including a proposed project to assess the invasive plant *Merremia boissiana*, and reiterates its request to develop a clear strategy and action plan informed by the results of the pilot project that is sufficiently resourced to address the threat posed by the 14 previously reported invasive species identified within the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the strategy and action plan;
5. Takes note of the ongoing assessment of existing tourism operations and capacity of cave tourism within the property and wider province, also requests the State Party to ensure that any future planned tourism development is based on the carrying capacity of the property, and also reiterates its requests to the State Party to revise and update the 2010-2020 Sustainable Tourism Development Plan and its integration with other key management tools, to enhance governance based on the overarching principles of sustaining and preserving the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by paying careful attention to the balance between tourism development and biodiversity conservation, as well as increased benefit sharing among stakeholders;
6. Also notes with appreciation the confirmation that no infrastructure projects will be approved in or near the caves within the property to avoid impacting the OUV, and that impact assessments will be conducted for construction projects and large-scale tourism projects likely to impact on the OUV, and further requests that all potential developments are assessed for their potential impact in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
7. Also welcomes management measures including to strengthen enforcement, limit encroachment, address poaching, and undertake wildlife surveys to identify high priority conservation areas, and requests furthermore that such measures be continued to inform priority management actions for the property, and to maintain sufficient staffing capacity to ensure the ongoing protection and management of the property;
8. Further reiterates its request that the State Party fully implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission, in particular by integrating and harmonizing the various management and conservation plans and tools under a concerted vision of governance;
9. Further welcomes the continued cooperation with the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) for the conservation of biodiversity in the transboundary protected area, and continues to encourage the submission of a nomination for a transboundary significant boundary modification to extend the property and include Hin Nam No National Park (Lao PDR);
10. Further notes with appreciation the confirmation by the State Party that reported cattle grazing within the property is subsistence based and that management measures are in place to prevent negative impacts on the OUV, but noting its location in a strictly protected part of the property, requests moreover the State Party to continue monitoring the grazing activities to prevent negative impacts on the property's OUV while ensuring that no illegal grazing occurs within the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

92. Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (France) (N 258)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

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

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

94. Central Sikhote-Alin (Russian Federation) (N 766bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (x)

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/766/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (incomplete process of configuration and designation of the property's buffer zone; and need to finalize the Integrated Management Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/documents/> and on 20 March 2023, it submitted additional information at the request of the World Heritage Centre, reporting the following:

- Progress has been made towards expanding the Sikhote-Alin Reserve by a further 500 hectares (ha) of terrestrial territory and 1,200 ha of the marine area in the Sea of Japan;
- Cadastral work has been carried out by staff of the scientific department of the Sikhote-Alin Reserve to delineate the proposed extended boundaries of the reserve and the buffer zone, alongside scientific justification for the inclusion of these areas within the reserve. A dossier is

being prepared for submission to the Government of the Russian Federation to approve the extension of the reserve;

- The process of preparing the rationale, draft regulations and the boundaries of the buffer zone of Bikin National Park has been completed, and approval is currently being sought from the Primorsky and Khabarovsk Krai administrations. In 2023, the necessary documents will be sent to the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources for approval;
- In 2019, a Coordinating Council for the property was established, including representatives from the Sikhote-Alin Reserve and the Bikin National Park. The tasks of the Council include the development of a Joint Action Plan aimed at developing educational tourism, expanding scientific research, including the study of the Amur tiger. Council meetings are held, as necessary, to resolve topical issues on the joint management of the property;
- On all tourist routes of the reserve, monitoring plots have been established, and flora and fauna monitoring activities have been carried out through floral inventories and camera traps;
- In 2022, a new tourist route 'Trail of Tigers' was opened in the central part of the reserve and the cedar-broad-leaved taiga zone. The trail will reduce the load from tourist flow in other parts of the property making it possible to increase the number of visitors to the reserve every year, without harming the unique natural ecosystems.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The establishment of a Coordinating Council for the integrated management of the property is appreciated, and the State Party should be encouraged to ensure that the Council continues to implement tasks proposed in the Joint Action Plan of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) that will enhance integrated management of the property. The State Party should be encouraged to ensure that representatives from all component parts are represented on the Council.

The progress on finalizing the buffer zone around the Sikhote Alin Reserve and the Bikin National Park components is noted. However, no information is provided regarding the area of these buffer zones, which need to be of an adequate size and configuration to effectively provide ecological connectivity for the whole property and protect it from threats arising from outside the property boundaries, as noted in the 2018 IUCN Evaluation report and related Committee decisions. The Committee should therefore reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure that the process of designating an adequate buffer zone for the property is undertaken in a coordinated manner across all components and to finalize the formalization of buffer zones for the whole property, consistent with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines and in line with the recommendations of the 2018 IUCN Evaluation.

Efforts to increase the territory of the Sikhote-Alin Reserve as part of measures to enhance connectivity of tiger habitats are noted with appreciation. Once the extension is completed under national legislation, the State Party should be encouraged to develop a proposal for a minor boundary modification to align the boundaries of the World Heritage property with those of the extended reserve and, in addition, to formally designate the abovementioned buffer zone under the Convention, in line with the Committee's previous requests. However, previous concerns regarding connectivity at the landscape level, including but not limited to effective buffer zone arrangements and measured land and resource use remain. Therefore, the State Party should be urged to further address the recommendations made by the Committee to develop and adopt a long-term vision to ensure connectivity of Amur tiger habitat at the landscape level through a range of strategies, including building enhanced connectivity with other protected areas and investigating conservation connectivity strategies outside the formal protected area system.

Conflicting information was provided by the State Party regarding the development of an eco-tourism strategy for the Sikhote-Alin Reserve and the implementation of comprehensive monitoring activities to monitor the impacts of visitation on key species. The State Party should therefore be requested to clarify the status of the strategy and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, when available. To ensure its sustainable implementation, the strategy should include a monitoring and action plan that clearly defines the type of activities permitted and describes how impacts of tourism and recreational use will be monitored and controlled across the entire property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.105**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the establishment of a Coordinating Council for the integrated management of the property and encourages the State Party to ensure that the Council implements tasks proposed in the Joint Action Plan of the Integrated Management Plan that will enhance integrated management of the property, and to ensure representation from all component parts of the property;
4. Recalling previous concerns around the limited protection conveyed by the proposed buffer zone of the Bikin National Park and large-scale logging activities and the associated increase in forest roads along the boundaries of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve, requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that the process of designating an adequate buffer zone for the property is undertaken in a coordinated manner across all components,
 - b) Finalize the designation of an adequate formal buffer zone for the Bikin River Valley component, as already requested by Decision **42 COM 8B.9** and in line with the recommendations of the 2018 IUCN Evaluation,
 - c) Strengthen the regulation, in the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve, of logging activities in the vicinity of the property beyond the buffer zone;
5. Notes with appreciation the progress in extending the boundaries of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve, and also requests the State Party to submit a proposal through a Minor Boundary Modification procedure to reflect the extension in the inscribed property, as well as formally designate the buffer zones for the property under the Convention, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Urges the State Party to develop and adopt a long-term vision to ensure the connectivity of Amur tiger habitat at the landscape level, through a range of strategies, including building enhanced connectivity with other protected areas, and investigating conservation connectivity strategies outside the formal protected area system;
7. Further requests the State Party to clarify the status of the eco-tourism strategy for the entire property, submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN when available, and ensure that it clearly defines the type of activities permitted and outlines how impacts of tourism and recreational use will be monitored and controlled across the entire property;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

95. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

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/768/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: joint UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007, 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline construction plans)
- Ground transport infrastructure (impacts of a road project across the property)
- Impacts of tourism/ visitors/recreation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/> and on 20 March 2023, it submitted additional information at the request of the World Heritage Centre, reporting the following:

- Efforts are ongoing in the Altaisky State Nature Reserve (ASNR) and the Katunsky State Nature Reserve (KSNR) components of the property, including surveillance, research and monitoring, promotion of the Convention and cooperation with local communities;
- Efforts to increase transboundary cooperation continue: in the KSNR, which since 2017 has been part of the transboundary Biosphere Reserve “Great Altai” with Kazakhstan, a Joint Commission has been established to strengthen transboundary cooperation and implement joint conservation initiatives. It is planned to extend this cooperation to China and Mongolia. In the ASNR, transboundary cooperation is being strengthened with Mongolia as part of the Association of Altai-Sayan Ecoregion Reserves and National Parks, in particular with the Silkham National Park;
- A joint strategy for sustainable tourism for the property is being developed.

In response to the World Heritage Centre’s request for additional information missing from the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party, succinct information was provided on the process of extending the ASNR to ensure the legal protection status of Lake Teletskoye, for which documents are being prepared for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources by 1 June 2023. No additional information was provided on the other issues.

On 30 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party information received from third parties on the state of conservation of the property, in particular concerning the continued lack of protective status for the entire Lake Teletskoye, new road developments in the Ukok Quiet Zone reportedly linked to uncontrolled tourism activities, as well as road construction in the buffer zone of Lake Teletskoye. The State Party was also requested to verify information that a draft law was under preparation that would facilitate changes to the boundaries of federally protected areas for the purposes of economic development. At the time of writing, no response has been received from the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not fully respond to the Committee's requests or provide the information required to enable the assessment of the state of conservation of the property, notably with regard to the following key issues raised in Decision **44 COM 7B.106**:

- The exact alternative route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline;
- The exact location of the proposed tourism infrastructure at Lake Teletskoye, including whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the development, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
- The status of the current or proposed mining operations at Brekchiya or Maly Kolychak deposits, including whether they have been subject to a full EIA, which specifically assesses the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

In this respect, it needs to be recalled that in the above-mentioned Decision, the Committee expressed regret that the State Party did not provide sufficiently elaborated information on the different points raised in response to its previous decisions. It is also of concern that the State Party's report focusses only on the state of conservation of two of the five components of the property, KSNR and ASNR, both of which benefit from a high protection status under federal law. However, no information is provided on the other components with regional protection status, the Belukha Mountain Nature Park, the Ukok Quiet Zone and Lake Teletskoye, while part of its buffer zone is even without any legal protection status. It is therefore recommended that the Committee again urge the State Party to provide information on all the above-mentioned issues as well as a detailed report on the state of conservation of all components of this serial property.

The ongoing work to extend the ASNR to ensure that the entire Lake Teletskoye is included within the boundaries of the nature reserve is noted. However, it is not clear from the information provided whether the proposed extension also includes the so-called Lake Teletskoye buffer zone, which is located on the opposite shore of the lake and is included in the property. Some of the concerns related to mining and tourism development have been reported in this area, hence the urgency to ensure the conservation of the property's OUV through adequate protection status in this area. It needs to be stressed that the current situation is not in conformity with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines and that the protection status is an integral part of the OUV of the property.

The continued efforts to improve transboundary cooperation with the States Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia are welcomed. In view of the progress made, it is recommended that the Committee encourage States Parties to explore the feasibility of a potential further extension of this serial property to also include components in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.75**, **43 COM 7B.16** and **44 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets again that the State Party did not provide sufficiently elaborated information on the different points raised by the Committee in its previous decisions;
4. Urges the State Party to provide detailed information on:
 - a) *The exact alternative route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline and the current status of the pipeline project,*

- b) *The exact location of the proposed tourism infrastructure at Lake Teletskoye, including whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the development, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context,*
 - c) *The status of current or proposed mining operations at the Brekchiya or Maly Kolychak deposits, including whether these have been subject to a full EIA, specifically assessing the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
 - d) *The state of conservation of all components of the property: Belukha Mountain Nature Park, the Ukok Quiet Zone and the Lake Teletskoye buffer zone, in addition to the Katunsky State Nature Reserve and the Altaisky State Nature Reserve (ASNR);*
5. *Appreciates the ongoing work to extend the ASNR component to provide legal protective status over the entire Lake Teletskoye, however reiterates its concern that parts of the buffer zone of the Lake Teletskoye component of the property remain without legal protection in contradiction with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to expedite this extension and to ensure that legal protection is also extended to the buffer zone of the Lake Teletskoye component of the property;*
 6. *Welcomes the continued efforts to improve transboundary cooperation with the States Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia and encourages the States Parties to explore the feasibility of a potential further extension of the property to also include components in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia;*
 7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

96. Virgin Komi Forest (Russian Federation) (N 719)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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/719/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2010: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and institutional factors (changes to the boundaries of Yugyd Va National Park)
- Mining (gold mining inside the property)
- Tourism (need for a sustainable tourism management strategy)

- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Management System/Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/>, and on 20 March 2023, it submitted some additional information at the request of the World Heritage Centre, reporting the following:

- The boundaries of the Yugyd Va National Park (YVNP) and Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve (PINR) components of the property have not changed;
- In 2021, the status of the buffer zone of the PINR (which is part of the property) was upgraded to the status of a protected zone of the Reserve;
- There is currently no evidence of the disappearance of species from the property;
- There has been no large-scale logging in the property or in its immediate vicinity;
- Restatement that no exploration or mining activities have been undertaken in the property. There are no activities in the area of the Chudnoe deposit;
- In 2019, the license for the use of subsoil on the territory of YVNP, granted to 'Gold Minerals CJSC' (now 'Zoloty Inty JSC'), was suspended by order of the Federal Agency for Mineral Resources, but not terminated;
- Mining equipment has been removed from the area previously used for mining and the condition of this area is reported to be satisfactory;
- Direct access by tourists to the Manpupuner plateau via helicopter using the previously reported temporary helipad on the plateau has reduced use of the main trail. In the summer season of 2022, 547 people in 46 groups visited the Manpupuner plateau by helicopter;
- To monitor the impact of tourism on tundra ecosystems in the Manpupuner plateau area, the Nature Reserve conducts monitoring works every two years, most recently in 2021.

On 30 March 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party information received from third parties on the state of conservation of the property, including reports of illegal logging, illegal building construction and waste dumping, as well as media reports that a draft law was under preparation which, if approved, would allow the boundaries of specially protected natural areas, including national parks, to be altered for economic reasons, and which could be applied to the Chudnoe mining operation. At the time of writing this report, no response has been received from the State Party.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The insufficient information provided in response to the Committee's previous requests with regard to mining activities, tourism management and management capacity (**40 COM 7B.99**, **42 COM 7B.78** and **44 COM 7B.108**) makes it difficult to determine the progress or measures taken by the State Party. Whilst the reiterated confirmation that no exploration or extraction of minerals has been carried out within the property, and that the mining license held by Zoloto Inty JSC (formerly Gold Minerals CJSC) remains suspended is noted, it is important for the Committee to recall its position of that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and to urge the State Party again to unequivocally revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted inside the property.

Whilst it is noted that the boundary of YVNP has not been modified to allow for mining, the World Heritage Centre continues to receive reports on a proposed new draft law which would make it possible to change the boundaries of federally protected natural areas to accommodate economic activities such as mining. Recalling the State Party's previous proposals to modify the boundaries for these purposes, it should confirm that no boundary modification to accommodate mining is envisaged, as previously requested by the Committee. Moreover, it should be recalled that the legal protection status is an integral part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that the removal of the legal protection from parts of the property would constitute a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance to Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.

The information on the upgraded of legal status of the buffer zone of PINR, which is part of the property, is noted but appears to contradict the information provided at the time of inscription, which mentioned that its protection status was the same as that of the Reserve itself. The State Party should be requested to clarify this point.

Information regarding visitor access to the Manpupuner plateau by helicopter is noted, including the resulting reduction in the use of footpaths leading to the plateau. Although visitation appears to remain within the carrying capacity of the property at this stage, the State Party should be encouraged to consider limiting the number of helicopter landings in the future, should demand continue to increase, to ensure the conservation of the property's OUV. The State Party should be again encouraged to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the entire property, including clear indicators for monitoring the impacts associated with visitation access, and to report on its implementation in future reports.

No information was provided regarding the Committee request to report on the financial and human resources available for the implementation of the 2017-2031 Integrated Management Plan for the property. This information should be requested again alongside confirmation that the State Party has addressed previous concerns regarding budgetary constraints for the effective management of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.99**, **42 COM 7B.78** and **44 COM 7B.108**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets the insufficient information provided to address previous requests of the Committee;*
4. *Reiterates its established position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status and again urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Unequivocally revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted for the Chudnoe gold deposit, as requested in its previous decisions,*
 - b) *Confirm there is no remaining mining equipment and infrastructure within the property;*
5. *Expresses its concern over reports of the proposal of a draft law, which would allow the boundaries of federally protected areas to be changed to accommodate economic activities such as mining, and requests the State Party to confirm that the boundaries of the Yugyd Va National Park component of the property will not be modified to facilitate mining and other economic activities;*
6. *Recalls that legal protection is an integral part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties and that its removal would constitute a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance to Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to clarify the legal status of the buffer zone of the Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve, which is part of the property, and to verify the reported logging activities and illegal waste disposal, by submitting relevant*

information to the World Heritage Centre and ensure that any activities undertaken in the property are consistent with the conservation of its OUV;

8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the entire property to ensure that tourism is effectively managed across all its components, including clear indicators for monitoring impacts associated with visitation access, and to report on the progress of measures outlined in the strategy;*
9. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that sufficient financial and human resources are available for the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan for the 2017-2031 period and to report on this in its next report;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

97. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

MIXED PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

99. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)

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/1061/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance (need to strengthen the coordinating mechanism)
- Legal framework (need to assure that the buffer zone is configured in a way designed to protect the property)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of an integrated Protection and Management Plan)
- Weak monitoring system for the Cultural and Natural values

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) acquired LiDAR (light detection and ranging) imagery of 95 km² of the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Preliminary results show a complex and dense urban expansion of one of the largest cities in the Americas around 700 A.D. In 2023, the research may be continued to cover the entirety of the mixed property. This will facilitate necessary protective measures for both cultural and natural heritage resources;
- The National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) has initiated the process to designate extended areas to the north-east, west and north of the property and the Biosphere Reserve as federal protected natural areas. This will expand the buffer area and provide protection to additional archaeological sites located within;
- INAH signed an agreement with the National Guard, in coordination with CONANP, for surveillance to prevent illegal activities, such as the looting of cultural property and illegal logging;
- The zoning in the World Heritage property is adequate for monitoring and conservation purposes;

- Carrying capacity studies are being prepared in response to the possible impact of the Tren Maya railway project;
- In 2022, an extensive monitoring and documentation programme was carried out on the frieze and tunnel of Substructure IIC. Conditions were found to be stable;
- Funds have been made available for a research and conservation programme, infrastructural development, improvement of museum facilities and replacement of on-site interpretation panels in 2023;
- INAH implements an extensive programme of research and documentation of heritage resources along the trajectory of the Tren Maya. Section 7 of the railway route, executed under the authority of the Ministry of Defence (SEDENA), passes to the north of the property and through a narrow section of the adjoining Calakmul Biosphere Reserve. Archaeological resources are classified into 4 categories with the highest level consisting of resources that require conservation in-situ and indicate necessary re-routing of the rail route trajectory. Preliminary results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the potential impacts of the project on the property, show that the Tren Maya project in its construction phase will not cause direct damage to its integrity. The benefits of the project are economic and will improve the quality of life for nearby communities. The World Heritage Centre will be informed of the final results of these studies.

In October 2021, the State Party submitted a HIA on the potential impact of the Tren Maya project on cultural and mixed World Heritage properties along with a follow-up report on the same in May 2022, both were prepared by INAH.

On 17 August 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the *Tren Maya infrastructure project and its relationship to natural and mixed World Heritage properties in the Yucatan peninsula*. On 30 November 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a technical review of the report undertaken by IUCN to the State Party, noting the need to provide the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the project as soon as it becomes available. At the time of writing, the EIA of the Tren Maya project has not been submitted.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party should be commended for its substantive response and for the actions it has undertaken with regards to the management and conservation of the property.

The possible extension of protected areas to the north-east, west and north of the property is noted. The State Party should ensure that any extension of protected areas outside the property is carried out with full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders and contributes to the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including archaeological resources that are located outside of the property but that are intimately related to it as well as enhancing its ecological integrity as the the centre of connectivity in the Selva Maya. The State Party should be requested to keep the Committee informed of further actions in this regard especially to respond to past Committee requests to improve the configuration of the buffer zone and to consider including additional and relevant cultural sites, which follows a full consultative process with all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders.

The State Party should be commended on the extensive research and documentation through LiDAR imagery as well as the monitoring and conservation programme in the tunnels and frieze of Substructure IIC.

Concerning the Tren Maya project, the Advisory Bodies provided extensive advice through technical reviews in July 2020, December 2021 and July 2022 in which they stressed the need for collaborative action by INAH and CONANP for the assessment of its potential impact of the project on this and other World Heritage properties. The HIAs undertaken by INAH along with the research, documentation and conservation actions it is implementing along the trajectory of the Tren Maya are noted. However, the State Party has yet to submit an integrated assessment of impacts of the project to the OUV of the property as a whole. It is therefore recommended that the State Party urgently undertake an EIA including assessment of impacts on natural and cultural values and in particular the OUV and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with the Committee's decision **(44 COM 7B.78)**.

In the technical review of July 2022, it was noted with great concern that, so far, no specific mitigation proposals have been proposed for some of the serious multi-dimensional threats that have been identified and that clarity is lacking on how their likely impact is measured. Taking into account the potential scale of impact of the Tren Maya, including the direct impacts of construction and operation of

the train but also increased visitation and associated tourism infrastructure development facilitated by the project, and acknowledging that a number of World Heritage properties are located along the route, it is essential that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is conducted in order to guide the development of the project in a coherent manner consistent with the conservation of OUV of the different properties. The assessment should include specific considerations of potential impacts of the project to the OUV of all World Heritage properties located along the proposed route of the railway, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

The review also highlighted the need for better and integrated maps on the location of the railway, the stations, and the related infrastructure, in order to be able to appreciate the spatial relationship between the planned constructions, the property and its buffer zone. The State Party should be urged to establish appropriate coordination mechanisms among all institutions involved in the Tren Maya project, in particular between INAH and CONANP for an integrated approach for the protection of the cultural and natural attributes.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the extensive programme of actions the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) has undertaken for the implementation of the management plan and conservation of the cultural resources of the property, such as the tunnels and frieze of Substructure IIC, among others;*
4. *Notes the initiative of the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) to increase the federal protected areas to the north-east, the west and the north of the property and biosphere reserve and urges the State Party to consider previous recommendations from the Committee to include additional and relevant cultural sites within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, ensuring these processes follow a transparent consultative process with full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders;*
5. *Commends the State Party for the research and documentation focusing on the monumental complex that has been undertaken through LiDAR imagery and requests the State Party to continue to strengthen documentation and monitoring procedures and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of further actions in this regard;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the strategic alignment and cumulative impacts of the Tren Maya project on the World Heritage properties located along the proposed route of the railway, and include an assessment of alternative options, in line with the principles of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;*
7. *Noting with appreciation the research and documentation programme of INAH in the framework of the Tren Maya project, urges the State Party to continue the consultative process with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the project and to take into account the recommendations in the technical reviews and requests furthermore the State Party to urgently undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before proceeding with the project to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, informed by the SEA, and undertaken in line with the new Guidance and*

Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, alongside other relevant documentation as soon as they become available;

8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

AFRICA

101. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iii)(vii)(x)

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/985/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 2014-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 110,828

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 40,000 in 2016-2017 for COMPACT community conservation programme (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust), USD 145,000 from the Government of Norway in 2020 for continued COMPACT activities.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities: Need to improve the presentation of cultural aspects, in particular the San rock art sites within the Environmental Centre
- Legal framework: Revisions, amendments, and enactment of relevant laws pertinent to the property not yet finalized in Lesotho
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure, particularly a proposed cable car and a proposed petrol filling station within the property's newly proposed buffer zone in South Africa
- Management activities: Continuation of a cautious approach to conservation interventions on rock art sites (except where rock art would otherwise become very fragile and vulnerable)
- Management systems/management plan: Need to strengthen the Lesotho heritage management, including the adoption of a comprehensive management plan, annual budget allocation, risk preparedness and disaster response plan, monitoring indicators, staff training and transnational collaboration
- The buffer zones surrounding the property are not yet formalized
- Need for research and documentation to establish an inventory of rock art in Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)
- Need for an assessment of the potential cultural contribution of other landscape elements to the cultural values of Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)
- Renewable energy facilities: Proposed development of wind farms in areas neighboring the Sehlabathebe National Park (issue resolved)
- Oil and gas exploration: proposed shale gas, gas and oil exploration within the property's newly proposed buffer zone in South Africa

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the States Parties submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/documents>, and reports the following:

- The States Parties reiterate their commitment to limiting conservation interventions for the rock art sites to addressing immediate and urgent vulnerabilities only, and to undertake Environmental

and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) in line with IUCN and ICOMOS guidelines for the proposed cableway and the shale gas and oil explorations in the newly proposed buffer zone in South Africa, and to submit the reports to the World Heritage Centre;

- Mitigation measures put in place to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) during the construction and operational phases of the petrol filling station constructed in the buffer zone of the property include the installation of a functional oil trap for polluted water, strict monitoring of the storage and dispensing of petroleum products to avoid pollution, and the entrance is the same as that used for the shopping centre;
- The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the South African uKhahlamba Drakensberg component of the property was signed off by the Minister in September 2022 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2022. The consolidation of the management plans for the individual components of the property will be initiated soon as part of the process of reviewing the Joint Management Plan of the property, which will be used as an umbrella to harmonize the management system and submitted to the World Heritage Centre once finalized;
- The State Party of Lesotho confirms that the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill has been approved by the National Assembly and will be sent to the Senate for further discussion and presentation to the King for Royal Assent;
- A joint letter requesting a Minor Boundary Modification to formalize the buffer zone to the south of the Sehlabathebe National Park in South Africa was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in October 2022;

On 12 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre organized an online meeting with both States Parties to advise them on the ongoing process to develop new maps for the minor boundary modification to be submitted in 2024.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party of Lesotho completed the Conservation, Monitoring and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park project, funded through the International Assistance fund. The report, completed in March 2022, provides an overview of the state of conservation of the rock art located within the Sehlabathebe National Park and includes management recommendations and a risk preparedness plan specifically focused on the conservation of rock art attributes. The need to improve the interpretation of rock art sites remains.

The reiterated commitment by the States Parties to undertake impact assessments for the proposed cableway and shale gas and oil exploratory activities is noted, recalling previous concerns regarding the high potential for such activities to impact the OUV of the property. It is recommended that potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context published in 2022, which addresses both natural and cultural heritage and replaces the existing IUCN and ICOMOS guidance documents. Given the aforementioned clear risk to the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the States Parties continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any decision to proceed with these projects.

Recalling the concerns expressed by the management authority in South Africa in previous reports regarding the visual and sense-of-place impacts of the recently constructed petrol filling station in the buffer zone, no information on measures to prevent visual impact was provided and it is recommended that the State Party provides more details on this.

It is positive that the IMP for the uKhahlamba Drakensberg component of the property in South Africa has been completed. The IMP should be assessed through technical review by the Advisory Bodies. It is equally positive that the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill has been approved by the National Assembly in Lesotho. However, noting that the latter still requires further discussion and approval, and recalling that the previous Joint Management Plan for the property is understood to have expired in 2013, and whilst acknowledging the ongoing cooperation between the States Parties, establishing the joint management plan remains a priority. The outcomes of the Conservation, Monitoring and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park project should inform the joint management plan. It is recommended that these processes are further expedited in order to establish an integrated management framework for the transboundary property.

The submission of the joint letter signed by both States Parties for a Minor Boundary Modification is acknowledged, however noting that further information is required to complete the submission, it is

recommended that all final requirements, including the preparation of the new maps adhering to the technical requirements as addressed during the meeting held between the World Heritage Centre and both State Parties in April 2023, are submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.170**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Expresses its concern over the lack of updated information on the proposed cableway in the immediate vicinity of the property and for proposed oil and gas exploration within the anticipated buffer zone in South Africa, which could impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and requests the State Party of South Africa to ensure that their potential impacts on the OUV of the property are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, and to continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed before any such pending decision to proceed is made, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Also requests the State Party of South Africa to provide more information on the mitigation measures put in place to avoid any negative impacts, in particular visual impacts, of the operation of the petrol filling station in the buffer zone of the property on the OUV;
5. Notes with appreciation the completion of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the uKhahlamba Drakensberg component of the property in South Africa, which will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties to urgently complete and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review the revision of the Joint Management Plan of the property, taking on board the outcomes of the Conservation, Monitoring and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park project, improving interpretation of rock art, and using it as an umbrella to harmonise the management system, and to report on its implementation;
7. Takes note of the approval of the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill by the National Assembly of Lesotho and also reiterates its request to the State Party of Lesotho to expedite finalization and to submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Notes the process to propose a minor boundary modification to formalize the buffer zone to the south of the Sehlabathebe National Park in South Africa and further requests the States Parties to submit the fully completed maps, as advised by the World Heritage Centre, so that it can be transferred to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

ARAB STATES

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

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/1377/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property
- Financial resources
- Governance
- Human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste management

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>, and which provides the following information:

- The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted management capacity, slowing progress on changes to legislative and institutional frameworks and the implementation of management activities, as well as causing significant financial and socioeconomic impacts;
- The buffer zone provisions and regulations are being reviewed, and their final approval and publication in the national gazette is expected by the end of 2025;
- The “Instructions for regulating camping, touristic activities, and events within Wadi Rum Protected Area” were officially published in 2021. On this basis, tourist camps and camp-like installations have been surveyed, documented and inspected. Required changes have been communicated to camp owners to comply with within six months from September 2022, in order to be licensed and sign a lease agreement. Camps that have not met requirements will be closed and dismantled. Seven illegal camps have been dismantled and their natural surroundings restored;

- Progress on the preparation of a Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment (HEIA) for tourism activities includes the identification of values and attributes, a preliminary analysis of factors, and delivery of staff training in 2022, constituting around 30-40% of the necessary work. Progress was limited due to financial and technical reasons, and is expected to resume and be completed in 2023;
- A national steering committee was established in 2022 to ensure the effective and sustainable management of the property, with a focus on tourism, and which is overseeing the update of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) expected to be completed by mid-2023;
- Under the framework of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and The Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA), three on-site sanitation units have been established as a pilot project at the visitor centre and two large camps, following the 2019 pre-feasibility study which concluded that existing wastewater containment (unsealed cesspits) are not polluting the Al-Disi aquifer below the property. On-site units will be required for any large camp licensed by ASEZA. The annexed 2021 report (“Sanitation Solutions for Rum Village and Touristic Camps”) further states that, for Rum village, an alternative decentralised wastewater treatment plant (near Disi village to serve Rum and surrounding villages) has been proposed in a feasibility study;
- Several activities were implemented under the USAID funded (Sustainable Cultural Heritage through Engagement of Local Communities Project (SCHEP)) partnership, including training of the management team, documentation of cultural heritage, and the implementation of a women’s leadership development programme involving local communities;
- Progress has been made to integrate the cultural and natural heritage databases into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database, which now covers 51% of the property and is expected to be operational by the end of 2024.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party has continued to make welcome progress to address the Committee’s concerns and recommendations, but noting that COVID-19 affected the implementation of management activities for the property, the State Party should ensure such activities are resumed as soon as possible, and also ensure visitation continues to be managed sustainably as tourism recovers.

The publication of “Instructions for regulating camping, touristic activities, and events within Wadi Rum Protected Area” and the implementation of this legal framework is a welcome step, and compliance should continue to be monitored and applied. Noting that the “General Provisions and Regulations of the Buffer Zone of Wadi Rum Protected Area” are undergoing a process of review and approval before being officially published, the State Party is requested to continue to finalise this process and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of progress.

It is noted that the HEIA was delayed by technical and financial constraints and is anticipated for completion in 2023. Recalling that the impact assessment was recommended by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission (the implementation of which was adopted by the Committee), the State Party should ensure the HEIA is completed as soon as possible, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The limited progress regarding the updating of the IMP is a further concern, and it is recommended that the submission of the revised draft IMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies is prioritised. This should include a comprehensive conservation strategy and provide references to legal measures and policies.

The report that current wastewater containment practices (unsealed cesspits) do not pollute the Al-Disi aquifer below the property, as well as the identification of recommended sanitation solutions for touristic camps (i.e., on-site sanitation) and Rum village (i.e., decentralised treatment outside the property), are positive. In this regard, the establishment of three on-site pilot sanitation units, and the requirement to include on-site sanitation for large camp licenses going forward, are noted. It is recommended to continue efforts to improve wastewater sanitation in the property, including the proposed decentralised treatment plant for villages including Rum. However, it is recommended the State Party ensure a strategic approach to the establishment of water management infrastructure within the property, and to ensure impact assessments are completed for individual sanitation projects in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. It is recommended the State

Party provide further information on the anticipated decentralised sanitation projects before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

The collaboration with international institutions and programmes, capacity building activities including those within the framework of the Women's Leadership Programme, aerial survey and field inspection work, as well as other advancements made regarding an integrated GIS database are all acknowledged. It is recommended that the Committee further encourage the State Party to build on these efforts, particularly in terms of completing an integrated GIS database for the whole property, which would facilitate more effective monitoring and management.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Takes note of the ongoing review of the buffer zone provisions and regulations for eventual approval and publication in the official gazette and requests the State Party to finalise this process, and to submit these regulations to the World Heritage Centre, with the related land-use plan as a Minor Boundary Modification once available;*
4. *Welcomes the publication of the "Instructions for regulating camping, touristic activities and events within Wadi Rum Protected Area" and the efforts undertaken to implement these instructions, and requests the State Party to continue informing the World Heritage Centre about their implementation and enforcement, including on how it is contributing to the sustainable management of the property;*
5. *Acknowledging that the completion of the Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment (HEIA) of tourism activities in and around the property was delayed due to technical and financial constraints, also requests the State Party to finalise this process as soon as possible, in conformity with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre once available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Notes with concern the limited progress made in the finalisation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and reiterates its request to the State Party to revise the IMP in accordance with the technical reviews provided by the Advisory Bodies, identifying targeted actions to be implemented, including those to address issues related to carrying capacity studies, zoning and regulations, and the inclusion of a comprehensive conservation strategy, and to ensure that the IMP provides references to legal measures and policies, and is backed by the necessary trained staff and financial resources, to enable the effective management of the property and its buffer zone, and to submit the final IMP to the World Heritage Centre once completed;*
7. *Also welcomes the progress on sanitation solutions for the Al Quwayrah and Disi districts, including for tourist camps (three pilot on-site sanitation units) and Wadi Rum village (proposed decentralised wastewater treatment outside the property), and further requests the State Party to monitor the three pilot projects and provide further detailed information on any proposed sanitation solutions, and to ensure that potential impacts of individual water management infrastructure are assessed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any decision to proceed;*

8. *Continues to encourage the State Party to complete the Geographic Information System (GIS) database for the entire property, integrating information on both cultural and natural heritage attributes, in order to facilitate monitoring and management of the property;*
9. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

104. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

117. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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/500/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 94,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1994: Systematic monitoring report UNDP/UNESCO; August 1998: expert mission; March-April 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2022: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fires in 1998 and 2001 (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (formalization of the procedures to set up a Management Coordination Unit to implement the Strategic Plan; revision of the Master and Strategic Plans)
- Housing
- New development projects within the Historic Centre including urban transportation systems (Corredor Segregado and subway system) and interventions in historical buildings
- Ground transport infrastructure (development of the cable car project for tourism purposes)
- Management activities (unsuitable interventions)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- In 2020, the responsibility for the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) project, was transferred from the Lima Municipality to the Lima and Callao Transport Authority (ATU). The Municipal Programme for the Recovery of the Historic Centre of Lima (PROLIMA), is developing a project for the insertion of the stations located in the historic centre;
- The Lima and Callao Transport Authority (ATU) submitted a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for preparatory works for the construction of the central station along Metro line 2. This was approved by the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality. The temporary removal of five monumental sculptures in the construction area of the central station is yet to be approved. A HIA for the construction of the station itself was evaluated by the Ministry of Culture, but no final project

has been approved for the insertion of the station and the ventilation shafts in the urban context. PROLIMA submitted a preliminary proposal to the Ministry of Culture;

- The Metro line 3 project is still under development and the ATU has been advised that HIA studies are required;
- PROLIMA is developing the mitigation programme for the Linea within the framework of the Special Landscape Project of the Rimac River;
- Since the Master Plan was approved in 2019, several programmes and activities are being implemented including risk management and preventive actions, archaeological interventions, restoration of monuments, creation of pedestrian areas, social development and intangible heritage, housing recovery, recovery of public spaces and promotion of tourism;
- The Special Landscape Project of the Rimac River, was initiated in 2020 and aims to regenerate this deteriorated hydrological, urban, and historical landscape;
- At the Convent of San Francisco complex, the restoration of the façade of the Soledad church was completed. A similar project was prepared for the remaining facades of the San Francisco church and convent and is pending agreement of the Franciscan order. The recuperation of the square was initiated with the demolition of the perimeter fence that was constructed in 1987 but further works will be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical review of March 2022;
- The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism is preparing a new project for a cable car to the Cerro San Cristobal that will depart from the end of the Alameda de los Descalzos. The project is pending approval;
- A minor boundary modification is submitted as part of the report;
- In 2021, the Congress of Peru declared the recovery of the Historic Centre of Lima to be of national interest and proposed the creation of an inter-ministerial and inter-institutional Special Commission that will oversee the implementation of the Master Plan.

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

Upon the invitation of the State Party, ICOMOS undertook an Advisory mission from 21 to 25 November 2022. The mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>. While confirming the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission of 2017, the main findings of the mission are presented below.

The mission stressed the need for an integrated strategy for motorised vehicles, the elimination of parking lots in the inner city and the insertion of mass transportation systems and their infrastructure within the property, both at and below the street level through appropriate HIAs and mitigation measures. Regrettably, the HIAs for the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC), have not been concluded. Along Metro line 2, there remains an urgent need for HIAs at the central station, the ventilation shafts of *Plaza Bolognesi* and *Avenida de la República* and all other components of this metro line. The plans for Metro Line 3 are still under development while the Linea Amarilla is very much advanced and operational including the tunnel under the Rimac River. It is noted that for the latter no HIA was prepared. There is an abundant presence of parking lots in the central and pedestrian streets. The construction of underground parking facilities such as *Chabuca Granda* could solve this problem.

Important progress has been made in the implementation of the *Master Plan of the Historic Centre of Lima to 2029 with vision to 2035*, and its *Single Regulation for the Administration of the Historic Centre of Lima*, under the management and guidance of PROLIMA. This is particularly noted in Strategic Axis I (*Historic Urban Landscapes*), in the recovery of urban spaces, restoration of important historic monuments and facades, research and monitoring of the property, risk management and archaeological research. Nevertheless, the remaining Axis II (*Liveable and attractive centre with better housing conditions*) and Axis III (*Metropolitan centre with a traditional and cultural character*) need to be addressed in a more integrated approach, through a broad Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Management capacities need to be strengthened through inter-ministerial, inter-institutional and regional cooperation, the preparation of a Management Plan, the designation of an autonomous management authority, for which it is recommended to designate PROLIMA and the improvement of participation and representation through working groups that are foreseen in the Master Plan should be envisaged.

The Special Landscape Project of the Rimac River will represent a turning point for the landscape of the property. It is based on hydromorphology studies and intervention strategies for risk solution, and riverside plant species to attend this ecosystem. The project seeks to enhance historic elements, such as the water canals in Monteserrate.

The Cable Car Project to Cerro San Cristobal was resumed by the State Party with a different trajectory than previously abandoned proposals. A HIA is required to address the fragility and visibility of the landscape, the historical fabric, and archaeological remains.

The project for the restructuring of the square in front of the Convent of San Francisco and the atrium along Ancash Street was the subject of an extensive ICOMOS Technical Review in March 2022. The proposal includes the demolition of the perimeter fence which was erected in 1987 and the partial reconstruction of the atrium fences in front of Lampa street and along Ancash street. In February 2022, the 1987 fence was demolished, but since then works have been halted due to legal proceedings between PROLIMA and the Franciscan order. The Technical Review considered the demolition of the fence as justified but expressed strong reservations about the communication around the execution of the works. It strongly discouraged the reconstruction or reinterpretation of the fences which had originally enclosed the cemetery but were demolished in 1871.

It is to be noted that the State Party submitted, together with its state of conservation report, a proposal for a minor boundary modification that will include some additional areas in the World Heritage property and revise the boundaries of the buffer zone (see Document WHC/23/45.COM/8B).

Draft Decision 45 COM 7B.117

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.169**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made by the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee and the 2017 Advisory mission and invites the State Party to continue their implementation as well as those emanating from the Advisory mission of November 2022;*
4. *Notes with concern that to date no appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) have been completed for major infrastructural works within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the HIAs for all components and submit these for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies once they become available, particularly regarding:*
 - a) *The High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC),*
 - b) *The Metro Lines 2 and 3,*
 - c) *The Linea Amarilla;*
5. *Also welcomes the creation of pedestrian areas and the resurfacing of street pavements and recommends the State Party to take the necessary measures to control traffic access and the use of empty lots for parking spaces;*
6. *Commends the State Party for the progress in the implementation of the Master Plan and recommends that a Socio-Economic Development Plan be developed to ensure the full and integrated implementation of all the dimensions of the Plan;*

7. Reiterates its recommendation that an autonomous management authority be formally designated, urges the State Party to prepare a Management Plan that ensures the full participation of all relevant governmental institutions and civil society through the establishment of the Inter-ministerial Special Commission and working groups that are foreseen in the Master Plan and stresses that the appropriate communication with and participation of all stakeholders are necessary conditions for the successful recuperation and revitalization of the historical centre;
8. Further welcomes the Special Landscape Project of the Rimac River, and also requests the State Party to submit further plans and studies, including relevant HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as they become available;
9. Notes that a new project for a cable car on the Cerro Cristobal is being developed and requests the State Party to submit further plans and studies, including relevant HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as they become available;
10. Also notes that the execution of the project for the recuperation of the square of San Francisco has been halted and requests the State Party to review the project proposal in light of the recommendations of the Technical Review of March 2022 that endorses the removal of the fence that was erected in 1987 but expressed serious reservations about the reconstruction or reinterpretation of the fences that were demolished in 1871;
11. Further notes the submission of a minor boundary modification to adjust the delimitation of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

AFRICA

120. Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1648)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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/1648/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1648/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 enlarge boundaries
- need to enlarge and strengthen the protection of buffer zones
- operationalise the proposed management system
- complete conservation plans for each mosque
- design as a matter of urgency projects to reverse recent inappropriate interventions at Kouto, Kaouara, Sorobango and Samatiguila mosques

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1648/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1648/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The process of expanding the boundaries of the components of the property to include all communal and functional areas has been initiated through dialogue with the custodial communities on the one hand and a technical mission to identify and define the new boundaries on the other;
- The process of enlarging the buffer zones is also underway and is in the same vein as that of the component boundaries. It is being conducted by the same technical mission and expected to be concluded by the end of 2024;
- The reinforcement of the protection of the buffer zones is subject to the results of the processes of enlargement of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones. This will be done through the modification of local plans and regulations, which is foreseen by the end of 2025. Steps are being taken to establish titles of land with the owner communities and the relevant departments;
- The appointment of a property manager has taken place, as has the acquisition and fitting out of offices for the headquarters of the management body which will have a staff of at least 12 agents, and the establishment of a budget line for the equipment and operation of the management body;
- Training courses for capacity building of local traditional masons have been organised with the ultimate objective of establishing a guild of traditional masons;

- A three-year action plan 2023-2025 is adopted for the management and conservation of the property, focusing on actions necessary to halt the decline of traditional conservation practices for earthen mosques;
- Consolidation and stabilization actions have been carried out on some mosques to improve their state of conservation, financed exclusively by the State Party;
- A financial support programme initiated by the State Party for the local management bodies has enabled the carrying out of restoration/rehabilitation or maintenance work on certain mosques. In addition to correcting recent inappropriate interventions (Kouto, Kaouara, Sorobango and Samatiguila), these activities have also made it possible to remedy recent deterioration due to bad weather (Kong and Tengréla).

An international assistance request for the conservation and management of the property has been submitted under the World Heritage Fund and will be examined by the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (see Document WHC/23/45.COM/14).

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

The initiatives undertaken and resources provided by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to address the eight recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription are to be welcomed. So is the national priority that has been given to the conservation and sustainable development of the eight mosques and the longer-term aim to establish a guild of traditional masons to facilitate and perpetuate the transmission of traditional Sudanese building practices.

Although the State Party acknowledges that much more needs to be achieved, the progress made so far is to be commended. A property manager has been appointed, the management team is being trained and is foreseen to have at least 12 agents, and a realistic budget provided for the property. Perhaps most importantly, an Action Plan has been developed for three years 2023-2025 that provides the framework for all the activities that are needed to reverse decline, strengthen protection and traditional practices and promote sustainable development. Resources to deliver this Plan will be provided mainly by the State Party and partly by international assistance of USD 85,058 (that still has to be approved).

In the first year, priority has been given to undertaking work to reverse inappropriate interventions, stabilise all the mosques as well as to set and staff a management office. Work has also commenced on enlarging the boundaries and buffer zone and strengthening the protection of the latter. The consultation with local communities and local bearers to ensure their support in this undertaking is positively noted. The process is now being delivered by the planning department with the aim for completion in 2024/25. The development of conservation plans for the property and for each mosque has been planned for 2023/24/25 with the anticipated support of UNESCO funding.

The report mentions that recent inspections have revealed recent deterioration due to bad weather, including heavy rainfall on the two mosques in Kong and the mosque in Tengréla. In view of the nature of the earthen property and the structural nature of the buildings involved, these findings are an important concern that should be carefully monitored in the global context of climate change. It should be noted that the State Party has reacted swiftly to remedy the effects of this situation. But the events do highlight the need for a Risk Preparedness Strategy to be developed for the property.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to define and implement an appropriate monitoring and intervention strategy to avoid and limit the effects of bad weather on the property. This strategy should be integrated into the management plan and other management tools for the property.

The planning that has been undertaken and the detailed report provided on actions already carried out are positive responses to the Committee's recommendations. Clearly, there is still a long way to go before all the recommendations have been fully addressed. But the financial mobilization of the State Party to support the actions of the actors involved in the management of the property at different levels (central, decentralized and local), including the allocation of the management body of a budget line is notable. The Committee may wish to invite the international community to consider providing further necessary support for the efficient implementation of the recommendations and to strengthen the sustainable development of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.120

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having considered document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.33**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the initiatives undertaken and resources provided by the State Party to address the eight recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription, in particular the urgent work undertaken to stabilise mosques and reverse inappropriate interventions, the appointment of a property manager, the staffing of the management body, a training course for masons and a consultation process with local communities for the enlargement of property boundaries and buffer zones;
4. Also welcomes the national priority given to the conservation and sustainable development of the eight mosques and the longer-term aim to establish a guild of traditional masons to facilitate and perpetuate the transmission of traditional Sudanese building practices;
5. Notes the Action Plan 2023-2025 that has been developed to provide the framework for activities needed to reverse the decline of traditional conservation practices, strengthen protection, foster traditional practices and promote sustainable development, and also notes that the resources to deliver this Plan will be provided mainly by the State Party and partly by International Assistance, if approved;
6. Further notes the State Party's acknowledgement that much more needs to be done to address the Committee's requests and urges the State Party to maintain the necessary momentum to ensure the Action Plan can be delivered on time;
7. Considers that the sustainable functioning of the management systems and the development of Conservation Plans for the property and for each component mosque need to be given high priority for available funding;
8. Requests the State Party to submit the revised Management Plan or other management tools to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Notes with concern the impact of severe weather on three mosques and requests the State Party to develop weather monitoring indicators for all component sites and also a Risk Preparedness Strategy for such extreme events;
10. Invites the international community to consider providing further necessary support for the efficient implementation of the Committee's recommendations and to strengthen the sustainable development of the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

121. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1322rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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/1322/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2015-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 57,734 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement; USD 206,400 from the government of Norway in 2020; USD 100,000 from the Norwegian Government in 2021 to implement the recommendation concerning the historic urban landscape

Previous monitoring missions

2013 and 2014: Technical assistance missions in the framework of the Convention France-UNESCO for management in 2013, and restoration of the ancient Palace of Justice in 2014; Technical Assistance mission for the AfriCAP2016 project financed by the European Union in the framework of the ACP Cultures+ Programme; 2019: Emergency mission of UNESCO experts following the floods that occurred on the site in October 2019 financed by the Emergency Heritage Fund

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system to be strengthened (need to specify the limits of the property for the land parts by following the cadastral limits, to extend the limits of the unified buffer zone at the level of the Petit Paris district and the lighthouse, to strengthen the practical and operational dimension of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, to define operational monitoring indicators corresponding to precise, periodic and quantified actions)
- Legal framework to be strengthened (need to clarify the situation of land ownership)
- Insufficient human resources (need to strengthen and specify the human resources available to the Local Committee and/or the House of Cultural Heritage)
- Management activities to be strengthened (need to inscribe all the "buildings of heritage interest" of the property on the National Cultural Heritage List, to confirm the suspensive role of the opinions of the House of Cultural Heritage in the functioning of the Building Permits Commission of Grand-Bassam, for the conservation of the property, and to confirm incentives for the restoration and conservation of private buildings)
- Insufficient financial resources.

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/>

Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/>, informing on the measures taken following the floods of October 2019:

- A building inventory carried out in 2020/2021 identified the property's heritage buildings, described their state of conservation, identified missing information, and noted owners' ignorance of the property's World Heritage status and its implications;
- The inventory will be used, among other things, to classify buildings of heritage interest, including the material attributes of the Nzima culture, to develop indicators for the conservation of the property, to communicate architectural and urban prescriptions, and to promote partnerships between private owners and economic operators;

- Regular inspections of the site are organized by the management body and agents of the Grand-Bassam Town Hall to monitor actions in the field and prevent illegal interventions;
- The revised Conservation and Management Plan for the property was finalized in April 2023 and submitted to UNESCO for technical evaluation;
- In 2021-2022, the Commission in charge of examining building permit applications processed nearly a dozen files (references provided) and monitored construction sites;
- The project to restore the former Post and Customs House, supported by the Société Générale de Côte d'Ivoire (SGCI) to turn it into a museum of contemporary Ivorian art, received a technical evaluation by ICOMOS. This support will also cover the restoration of the Officers' Mess which will house the offices of the property's management body currently housed temporarily in the National Costume Museum;
- A Public/Private Partnership (PPP) programme for the restoration of public buildings has been set up with the Société Générale Foundation;
- Several buildings have been rehabilitated (the colonial lighthouse, the former BORREMANS Foundation, the former Woodin building) or are in the process of being rehabilitated (the former Maison Métayer and the former SCOA building);
- In 2019, a road improvement programme was launched in Grand-Bassam to reinforce the existing road network and pave dirt roads for a total length of 5.7 km;
- Promotion of the property was stepped up with the resumption of the Abissa festivities, heritage awareness-raising in schools, and the Bassam International Crafts Week, among others;
- A training course for 20 young tourist guides was organized in November 2021;
- Work to open the mouth of the Comoé River, launched in November 2019, is 67% complete. Parallel 'eco-citizen' actions such as tree planting are being carried out;
- Some shortcomings have been indicated, such as the proliferation of aquatic vegetation on the lagoon water body, coastal erosion, and the harmful effects of sea spray on buildings;
- Various needs are indicated, such as the strengthening of the resources and management of the Executive Secretariat; the provision of a specialized architect; the urgent restoration of public buildings, the establishment of an incentive legal framework and economic studies of the site.

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

The report submitted by the State Party provides information on several encouraging measures in favor of the property, including the inventory and conservation of public buildings, governance and management, the monitoring of interventions on private heritage, and the mobilization of private partners in the safeguarding and promotion of the property.

The inventory of the immovable heritage of the historic town of Grand-Bassam was finalized and shared with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies in June 2022, as was the revision of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property in April 2023. It is recommended that the State Party incorporate the observations of the technical evaluation by ICOMOS (in progress) into the final version.

The regular inspections of the site by a mixed team composed of members of the management body and agents of the Grand-Bassam Town Hall council, which encourage the pooling of institutional capacities are to be welcomed. With this in mind, the updating and publication of a guide to interventions on the site, a first edition of which was prepared by the CRATERRE-ENSAG organization and is still unfinished to this day, would be particularly useful for communicating architectural and urban prescriptions, particularly for private buildings. The training of 20 young guides in November 2021 is also noted with appreciation. Similarly, the resumption of the Abissa Festival following the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the raising of heritage awareness in schools with the help of the teaching kit, and the holding of events such as the Bassam International Crafts Week are commendable.

The various rehabilitation and restoration initiatives undertaken are welcomed, in particular the project to restore the former Post and Customs House. In this respect, the integration of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape seems particularly appropriate, and a contribution from the Norwegian Government in this regard is planned.

Efforts to restore public and private buildings are positively noted. In particular, the promotion of PPP programmes could also guide similar initiatives in other World Heritage sites. Similarly, the rehabilitation, completed or underway, of several public heritage buildings and the upgrading of the road system at Grand-Bassam may have a promotional and multiplier effect, and it is recommended that further measures be developed to raise community awareness in favor of conservation and enhancement of the property based on these activities.

Efforts to improve the functioning of the Executive Secretariat, notably by relocating it to the Officers' Mess building, are also appreciated. Nevertheless, the lack of financial and technical resources may be an impediment to the full execution of its mission in all aspects of conservation of the built and environmental heritage. It is recommended that the financial resources of the Executive Secretariat be strengthened, as well as its technical capacities, by developing its own technical skills in architecture and construction. It is also recommended that the administrative and financial management autonomy be made effective.

The progress of work to open up the mouth of the Comoé River as part of the project to safeguard and enhance the Cocody Bay and Ebrié lagoon (PABC) is noted, and tree-planting activities are appreciated. However, it is regrettable that the State Party has not, to date, responded to the World Heritage Centre's letter dated 10 November 2020 requesting that the technical document for this project be made available and that a meeting be held between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the project managers to discuss the project's conformity with the prerogatives of the Convention. It is recommended that the State Party be reminded to respond to this request.

Finally, with regard to the reported proliferation of aquatic plants on the lagoon water body, coastal erosion and the harmful effects of sea spray on buildings, it is recommended that a plan be developed to control invasive species and clean up the water body, depending on the severity of the proliferation in terms of maintaining water quality.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.121

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Thanks the State Party for having provided the report on the inventory of the immovable heritage of the historic town of Grand-Bassam and the Conservation and Management Plan for the property for a technical evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, and requests the State Party to integrate the observations of this evaluation when they become available;*
4. *Welcomes the actions taken for the conservation, management and promotion of the property, including regular inspections of the site by the management body and the Town Hall of Grand-Bassam and the rehabilitation and restoration initiatives carried out on several heritage buildings, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts, notably by:*
 - a) *Updating the site intervention guide, a first edition of which was prepared by the CRAterre-ENSAG organization, to communicate architectural and urban prescriptions, particularly for private buildings,*
 - b) *Reinforcing measures to raise community awareness of the need to conserve and enhance the property as part of ongoing and future rehabilitation activities,*
 - c) *Further developing Public/Private Partnership (PPP) programmes and inform the World Heritage Centre of any major intervention on the built environment, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to prevent any possible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*

- d) *Improving the intervention capacities of the Executive Secretariat by strengthening its own financial and technical resources;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the actions undertaken, such as the future domiciliation of the property's management body in the Officers' Mess and the creation of a museum of contemporary Ivorian art in the former Post and Customs House, and requests the State Party to broaden this approach by integrating the 2011 Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape into urban planning and into the management and promotion of the property;*
 6. *Reiterates its thanks to the Government of Norway for its financial support for the implementation of a programme for the preservation of the property;*
 7. *Expresses its concern at the fact that the work to open the mouth of the Comoé River as part of the project to safeguard and enhance the Cocody Bay and Ebrié Lagoon (PABC) is progressing without consultation between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the project managers to discuss the project's conformity with the prerogatives of the Convention, as requested by the Committee at its extended 44th session, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the PABC to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies so that solutions can be found to adapt the approach to the recommendations provided in the report of the October 2019 emergency mission;*
 8. *Takes note of the threats posed by the reported proliferation of aquatic plants in the lagoon water body, and recommends that the State Party, in particular, develop a plan for the control of invasive species and clean up the water body according to the severity of the proliferation on the maintenance of water quality;*
 9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

123. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

126. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2000-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 61,436

For details, see page <https://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 (to Nairobi) on LAPSSSET project; December 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 February 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>, and reports progress on recent Committee decisions, as follows:

- Deterioration and use of inappropriate materials in buildings within the property: a surveying and mapping programme aimed to assess the condition of buildings and streetscapes is being implemented using a mobile application tool (Kobo Collect), supported with aerial photography, and is reported to be at an advanced state. Once completed this mapping will be used to facilitate the justification of needs for funding the conservation of the property, and will also precede the completion of the Management Plan;
- Clarification of boundaries of the property and putting in place an enlarged buffer zone: The National Museums of Kenya (NMK) has developed maps, and the State Party reports the intention to submit them to the Chief Officers responsible for Culture and Urban Development for their official review and adoption by the County Council;
- Revised Management Plan and inclusion of the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSSET) project: The report acknowledges the need to include the boundaries and buffer zone. A draft form of the revised management plan still needs to be completed with information that will derive from the surveying and mapping project. Potential collaboration between the NMK and the LAPSSSET Corridor Development authority is being pursued;
- Potential threats of the LAPSSSET project on the OUV of the property: A high-level governmental delegation visited the property to assess potential threats. Follow-up activities were significantly interrupted due to electoral processes;
- Establishment of a Heritage Task Team: the Lamu Heritage Committee (LHC) has been re-established and has developed an action plan. However, the activities of the LHC were disrupted due to Covid-19 and to changes within organisations involved in the LHC. Some committee members have undertaken research, including a project funded by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) to research the impacts of large-scale infrastructure developments on coastal biodiversity. NMK and the County Government of Lamu have started setting up programmes to ensure the enforcement of development control and the improvement of public open spaces;

- Involvement of stakeholders and community: capacity building activities have been organised by the State Party to promote women and youth organisations. The Lamu Heritage Group was created to develop strategies for the conservation and management of the property;
- Setting up a core corporate social responsibility programme to ensure sufficient funds are available for conservation: there are ongoing discussions on how to frame proposals and a concept note is being developed to obtain support from specific organisations;
- The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the LAPSSSET project is not completed;
- Providing information for each sub-project of LAPSSSET and necessary Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) for review by the Advisory Bodies: work for the detailed plans for the Resort City and International Airport has not started. NMK participated in EIA stakeholder consultation meetings related to the Lamu Lokichar oil and gas pipeline project;
- Regarding the proposed Lamu Coal Plant and the request to propose alternative solutions to meet the electricity needs of the region and undergo thorough independent EIAs/HIAs to ensure there are no negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property: relevant agencies will be informed of these concerns.

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

The State Party's efforts in mapping and conducting a condition survey for the property demonstrate a positive step towards strengthening governance and management structures. The mapping exercise will hopefully make clear what the state of conservation of the built fabric of the property is and encourage more engagement in addressing maintenance backlogs. This mapping and analysis should be concluded and extended to include an analysis of the use of inappropriate materials and illegal constructions as well. It is crucial to ensure that the results and analysis of the condition survey are finalized and fully integrated into the revised Management Plan.

The completion of the revised Management Plan, incorporating the findings of the condition survey, and including the clarification of the property's boundaries and buffer zone is of the utmost urgency. It may be appropriate to recall that proposals for boundaries for the property and its buffer zone should be submitted in line with Paragraph 69 of the Operational Guidelines for approval by the Committee before they are adopted in the national and county planning frameworks.

While recognizing the political issues inherent in the process, the State Party should expedite the signing of the MoU between NMK and the LAPSSSET Corridor Development Authority. This MoU should ensure the purposeful involvement of NMK in decision-making processes related to the LAPSSSET project, particularly concerning the preservation of the property's OUV and other heritage along the corridor. It is also essential to engage stakeholders and conduct thorough consultations during the revision process to ensure the plan reflects the concerns and aspirations of all relevant parties. The revised Management Plan should be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The reestablishment of the Lamu Heritage Committee is positive, but its activities and regular meetings should be reinstated, so that strategies and actions can be devised, in line with the revised Management Plan. An update on its composition – the Committee requested in its Decision **44COM 7B.6** that it be composed of relevant government agencies at the national and local levels with the support and involvement of civil society – and a report on its functioning would be welcome.

The State Party's efforts in establishing the Lamu Heritage Group and promoting sustainable tourism practices, in line with the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, are commendable. It is crucial to enhance stakeholder engagement and community involvement, with adequate communication mechanisms, particularly in decision-making processes related to the LAPSSSET project and the revision of the Management Plan. The State Party's progress towards implementing these recommendations is welcome. These actions may be further encouraged.

The completion and review of the SEA for the LAPSSSET project should be prioritized as it may have significant consequences for the OUV of this property and that of the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property. It is appropriate to recall that the Committee has since 2012 recorded numerous decisions on the LAPSSSET project, including requesting that implementation of its various components be halted until their impacts have been assessed that an EIA and HIA be undertaken and that an SEA be undertaken. It remains imperative to assess both individual and cumulative impacts of the project and its sub-projects on the OUVs of these properties. As already requested in previous Committee Decisions, the State Party must ensure that the necessary EIAs/HIAs are conducted for each sub-project

and that the findings are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made.

Given the continuing concern regarding ascertained and potential threats to the OUV of the property, the Committee may wish to recommend that the State Party provide a clear timeline for submission of the SEA and other relevant EIAs/HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for their review by the Advisory Bodies and update it in detail on the status of the project and its various components. These should inform the revised Management Plan of the property.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property has been programmed in mid-2023, and the mission report will be available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.126

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Encourages the State Party to continue to implement all the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
4. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to address conservation issues at the property including the inventorying of the state of conservation of the built fabric of the property and requests that the State Party continue to strengthen enforcement of building controls to halt the deterioration, unpermitted development and use of inappropriate materials;*
5. *Regrets that the revised Management Plan, which takes into account the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project has not yet been completed;*
6. *Underlines the utmost urgency of:*
 - a) *Completing the mapping and survey of the condition of buildings and streetscapes,*
 - b) *Completing the clarification of boundaries of the property and putting in place a larger buffer zone to include all of Lamu Island, parts of Manda Island, and relevant mangroves belts in the area, as requested by the Committee numerous times in the past,*
 - c) *Completing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and other relevant Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs) related to the LAPSSET project taking into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property as well as on the Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage property;*
7. *Also requests that an updated clearly delineated map of the property and its enlarged buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comment prior to formally submitting it to the World Heritage Committee as a minor boundary modification in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines and before it is adopted into the national and county planning systems;*

8. Urges the State Party to complete the above-mentioned projects as soon as possible and to submit them and the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their formal adoption;
9. Takes note of the efforts to include stakeholders and community in activities related to sustainable tourism for the property, and the efforts towards re-establishing the Lamu Heritage Committee, and further requests the State Party provide an update on the composition and functioning of this committee since its re-establishment;
10. Also takes note of the initiatives to set up a core corporate social responsibility programme in collaboration with the LAPSET Corridor Development Authority and the County Government, and also urges the State Party to establish the mechanisms to ensure that sufficient funds are available for conservation at the property and heritage related projects;
11. Further acknowledges that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property scheduled to take place in mid-2023, which will formulate recommendations for actions to be taken in order to address the numerous challenges the property is facing;
12. Reiterates its request that alternative solutions to the Lamu Coal Plant be proposed to meet the electricity needs of the region and that any developments in this regard undergo thorough independent EIAs/HIAs to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV of the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

128. Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C 1227)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (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/1227/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2(from 2014-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 59,200

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012: ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; May 2018: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Restoration works (issue resolved)
- Visitor pressure (issue resolved)

- Management systems/Management Plan (need for an updated Management Plan) (issue resolved)
- Urban development (issue resolved)
- Commercial development
- Transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The archival survey of the Parc à Boulets in the buffer zone has been completed and a copy was included in the State Party's report. An archaeological survey should be completed by the second quarter of 2023 and the report on its findings will be submitted to the Committee;
- In regard to the buffer zone developments, an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment (HIA/VIA) was completed by independent consultants in November 2022. The process included stakeholder engagement. The overarching HIA/VIA is currently under consideration by the State Party;
- No construction has commenced on any of the projects in the buffer zone considered in the overarching HIA/VIA;
- Individual HIA/VIAs will be conducted on the individual projects within the framework of the overarching HIA/VIA:
 - Redevelopment of the Granary building and associated infrastructure,
 - Redevelopment, modernisation and operation of the Immigration Square Urban Terminal at Port Louis,
 - The Metro Express project and end station at the Immigration Square,
 - The Intercontinental Slavery Museum,
 - The Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre – Phase II,
 - Upgrading/ Reconstruction of the Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market at Port Louis,
 - Public Walkway project,
- In regard to stakeholder engagement and management, a Consultative Committee, as provided for under the Planning Policy Guidance 6, which is comprised of 96 members from the local community and governmental institutions is functioning. This platform will be further developed as a platform that will facilitate more frequent and comprehensive stakeholder consultations;
- A Management Plan Committee (MPC), established under the provisions of the Management Plan 2020-2025, is likewise functioning to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan, including and not limited to Action Area Plan 1 for the buffer zone and assesses HIAs and VIAs, amongst others.

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

The State Party has made much progress in improving the protection and management of this property over the last couple of years. Commitment to the overarching HIA/VIA process is commendable as is its commitment to complete individual HIAs and VIAs on the component projects.

The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the individual HIA/VIAs with the designs that they assess for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before the conclusions of the HIAs and VIAs are adopted.

The State Party's further reports of its stakeholder engagement mechanisms and management structure are likewise welcome, as is the submission of the archival survey of the Parc à Boulets and the commitment to forward to the Committee a report on the foreseen archaeological survey.

Due to the scale of the development proposal in the buffer zone of the property and the complexity of the impact assessment process required to safeguard the property's Outstanding Universal Value, it is recommended that the State Party should be requested to submit a state of conservation report in December 2024.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.128

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.119**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the improvements that it has made in the protection and management of the property, notes with appreciation the State Party's reports on its institutional structures for stakeholder consultation and requests the State Party keep it informed of further steps taken to facilitate more frequent comprehensive stakeholder consultation;*
4. *Also notes the submission of the archival survey on the Parc à Boulets, further notes the State Party's commitment to submit the results of the archaeological survey to the World Heritage Centre and also requests that the State Party submit the outcomes of the archaeological survey to the World Heritage Centre to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Notes furthermore with appreciation, the progress made on the overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment for the project in the buffer zone, the State Party's commitment to continuing the dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the submission of the outcomes of these assessments to the World Heritage Centre to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

129. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

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/1118/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

In 2020: USD 49,620 from the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the Development of a Conservation Methodology, training, digital documentation and review of the Conservation Management Plan

Previous monitoring missions

October 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development close to the property
- Road construction around the property
- Pollution of the Osun River
- Bush fires within the property
- Adverse impact of the commercialisation of the annual festival
- Fragility of spiritual, symbolic and ritual qualities of the Grove in the face of a growth in visitor numbers and the lack of a tourism management plan
- Road through the property not re-aligned

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Photographic and digital documentation of shrines, sculptures and art works is ongoing through a collaboration between The National Commission for Museums and Monuments, CyArk, the Adunni Olorisa Trust (AOT) and Google Art & Culture;
- Regarding the Committee's concerns about conservation methodology and the use of cement in the conservation of the sculptures, it is argued that since 1959, cement was used by Susanne Wenger and the artists of her movement, and restoration works carried out to maintain the sculptures take the construction history of the sculptures into consideration;
- Urgent replacement of sculptural components, which were damaged by a fallen tree trunk, have to be carried out;
- The AOT is the main actor which ensures that restoration activities conform to the guidelines advocated by Susanne Wenger;
- National and Regional Governments continue to carry out water analyses on the river. The community has been alerted to avoid dumping waste upstream, and efforts to sensitize the community, the devotees and traditional rulers include radio programmes on how to purify water before drinking;
- Water samples have been taken in response to alleged pollution from legal and illegal gold mining upstream of the property. Analysis of the samples is pending. Competent ministries have been encouraged to regulate the currently illegal opencast gold mining activities in Osun State;
- The Management Plan of the property has been reviewed. Stakeholders have been addressed and the Ataoja-in-Council is willing to share part of the annual Osun festival revenue generated from sponsorship with the property;
- Sponsorship has been affected by recent COVID-19 restrictions and the contested State Governorship elections in 2022;
- Political challenges have hampered efforts to divert the current tarmac road through the grove to beyond the boundaries of the property and to leave the original track for use by communities for domestic activities;
- Efforts are being made to mobilize the Federal Ecological Fund for the construction of an alternative bridge to facilitate the diversion of the road.

The State Party did not provide details of severe damage to the Busanyin Shrine as a result of flooding in 2019 although information is now available on the property's website.

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

The project to digitally document the forty shrines and sculptures within the property is welcome. It is unclear what type of inventory has been developed as no example has been provided. Given the complexity of the shrines which are located within specially designed structures and constructed of local materials, the photography needs to be complemented by detailed documentation, including information on the precise materials used, repairs and evidence of change over time.

The revision of the Management Plan is welcome. It should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review in order to provide an understanding of how it has addressed the recommendations of the Committee at the time of inscription.

The commitment of the Ataoja-in-Council to share revenue from the annual Osun festival for the conservation of the property is positively noted as it addresses a long-standing request of the Committee to ensure that the festival sustainably supports the Sacred Grove on which it is based.

River pollution remains a major concern as the sacred waters are a key focus for festival devotees. Continuous use of the polluted water as part of festival rituals might create health challenges to this community and warnings on the radio to not drink the water are insufficient but should be enhanced. Over the years there have been commitments to improve the water quality, but inadequate actions have been taken to control activities upstream. The recent reports of pollution linked to illegal and legal gold mining are alarming. Further details need to be provided on the recent water analysis and how this issue will be addressed.

The conservation of structures remains a cause for concern. Although cement was used to create many of the sculptures, this will crack over time and lead to water ingress with the result that sculptures will need to be recreated. Materials are needed that will provide a much longer-term solution. In terms of authenticity, the form of these cement sculptures is more important than their material. Their form needs to remain as near as possible to how they were created. Multiple recreations over time will not support authenticity and must be avoided. It is unlikely that one approach will be appropriate to all. The degree of intervention in each piece and the most appropriate materials to use should be a matter for debate and discussion with appropriate experts, to ensure they reflect the specificities of each of the sculptures, and the project details should be submitted for review.

A further concern is the absence of information on what repairs have been completed after the almost total destruction of the large Busanyin shrine and its sculptures due to flooding in 2019 which regrettably was not reported upon in the previous report to the World Heritage Centre at the time, nor in the report to the World Heritage Committee in 2021. Since then, according to information online, support from the United States of America (USA) has facilitated digital documentation of the remains, work that was completed in November 2022. A Master Plan is to be drawn up for restoration of the shrine and for the implementation of flood protection measures. This disaster also highlights the need for a Disaster Risk Management Plan.

The Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove underpins the Osun festival, which is a major tourist attraction and is also an essential part of local cultural identity. However, its shrines, river and natural forest are all extremely fragile. The collapse of the large Busanyin shrine and the lack of immediate action to protect its remains, or to initiate a restoration programme and put in place measures to mitigate flooding, all reflect the weaknesses of the current protection and management processes and pose threats to Outstanding Universal Value.

In consideration of the above, it is to be noted with appreciation that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd and extended 44th sessions, and initially scheduled to be carried out in March 2020 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was scheduled to take place at the time of writing this report and the mission report will be available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents/>. That report will formulate recommendations for actions to be taken in order to tackle the numerous challenges and urgent conservation needs of the property that require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the collaborative project between The National Commission for Museums and Monuments, CyArk, The Adunni Olorisa Trust (AOT) and Google Art & Culture, to digitally document the forty shrines and artworks within the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that the digital documentation is supported by detailed information on the shrines and artworks in terms of materials, interventions related to their maintenance and repair, and changes over time;
4. Also welcomes the revision of the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to allow for an understanding of how it has addressed the various recommendations of the Committee over many years, as well as recommendations from the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, including those that still remain to be addressed;
5. Notes the commitment of the Ataoja-in-Council to share revenue from the annual Osun festival for the conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to provide details of this agreement and how it will be implemented to ensure that the festival sustainably supports the Sacred Grove on which it is based;
6. Also notes the intention to prepare plans for a new bridge to allow the diversion of the current road to the outskirts of the property, and requests the State Party to submit details of the alignment of the proposed road, the design of the bridge and plans for downgrading the existing road;
7. Expresses concern that the waters of the sacred Osun River remain polluted and continue to be used by devotees of the annual Osun Festival and that insufficient actions have been taken to control activities upstream in order to improve water quality to an acceptable level, and reiterates its request to the State Party to take concrete steps, together with traditional religious leaders, to avoid the use of the water by festival participants;
8. Further expresses concern at the alarming recent reports that link pollution to illegal and legal gold mining upstream, and requests the State Party to submit details of the most recent water analyses as soon as they are available as well as plans to address the causes of pollution;
9. Further notes the State Party's continued use of cement in the repair of sculptures and expresses concern that an appropriate methodology for the conservation of sculptures has not been put in place which avoids the use of cement as this will ultimately lead to the recreation of sculptures and damage to the authenticity of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a Conservation Strategy for the property, as recommended by the 2015 mission, that will be adapted to the specificities of each of the sculptures and to submit this for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any further work is undertaken;
10. Also expresses regrets that the State Party did not alert the World Heritage Centre to the collapse of the large Busanyin shrine as a result of flooding in 2019, and that no details

are provided on immediate actions to protect its remains, put in place measures to document, restore the shrine and mitigate flooding, while information available online indicates that support from the United States of America has recently allowed the remains to be digitally documented, and that a Master Plan is to be drawn up for the restoration of the shrine and for flood protection measures, and requests the State Party to submit details of the Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before approval is given.

11. Considers that the sacred shrines, river and natural forest that make up the Osogbo Sacred Grove all remain extremely fragile and that the protection and management regimes are currently inadequate to address the key threats to the property that were known at the time of inscription, have been addressed by the Reactive Monitoring mission of 2015 and have been set out in several Committee decisions, and further considers that this fragility is exemplified by the collapse of the large Busanyin shrine and the lack of immediate actions to protect its remains or to put in place measures to mitigate flooding, by the lack of a Conservation Strategy, and by the continued pollution of the sacred Osun River, all of which pose threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
12. Takes note with satisfaction that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property scheduled to take place in mid-2023 to address these concerns, which will formulate recommendations for actions to be taken in order to tackle the numerous challenges the property is facing;
13. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated 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 46th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

130. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (iii)(v)(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/938/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1997-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 47,017

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 22,296 in 2016 through the Hungary Funds-in-Trust for rehabilitation and conservation activities

Previous monitoring missions

May 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (in Abuja, Nigeria)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Damage to the Hidi Palace, the Palace Square, the Black Smith Homestead, paved walkways, and ritual structures by insurgents
- Civil unrest (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities
- Drought; Temperature Change
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- Security has returned to the property. Continued security operations of the State Party's security forces are undertaken in collaboration with local communities;
- Inhabitants from the surrounding plains who fled to the mountain during the 2014 incursion have started returning to their homes, reducing the demographic pressure on the property;
- The National Commission for Museum and Monuments (NCMM) and the Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO have carried out various programmes to sensitize the community, especially the youth, on the conservation and protection of cultural heritage. They have undertaken projects to strengthen cultural practices and assisted in reviving the National Yawal Festival;
- The Conservation Management Plan has been updated for the years 2021-2026. It includes a disaster risk preparedness plan and outlines strategies for conservation work in collaboration with the community and stakeholders;
- The NCMM, supported through the UNESCO Hungarian Funds-Trust, has facilitated community efforts for restoration activities at the Hidi's Palace and beyond, the rehabilitation of the Primary Health Care Centre and the creation of water provision. The resumption of traditional agricultural activities and practices has led to the rebuilding of agricultural terraces;
- The restoration work at the palace was undertaken using traditional materials. However, pressure on environmental resources, in part due to irregular rain resulting from climate change, exacerbates the challenges in procuring traditional building materials, especially thatch. The use of corrugated metal sheets in parts of the community has emerged and the NCMM is engaged with the Hidi-in Council on this matter;
- The NCMM, in collaboration with ICOMOS Nigeria, organized a series of online weekly discussions on assessing the climate vulnerability of the Sukur Cultural Landscape. A subsequent workshop of stakeholders and local community members concluded that climate stresses affect the culture and livelihoods of those living within Sukur. A meteorological station has been installed in the property for accurate record keeping on the climate;
- The State Party, in collaboration with the State Party of Cameroon, submitted a proposal to extend the property to include the Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of Mandara Mountains as a serial transboundary World Heritage property;
- The State Party reiterated its invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

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

The State Party report provides an overview of its active engagement in addressing the challenges which arose from the security situation of 2014. It is important that the reported security at the property remains. The updating of the Conservation Management Plan for the property and reports that it includes a disaster risk management plan is commendable. As a considerable amount of further conservation work remains to be undertaken on the property, the submission of a Management Plan, which includes a disaster risk management plan and outlines a conservation plan for the property, would be welcomed for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has also continued to implement conservation measures including programmes aimed at the continuation of traditional practices and intangible heritage. Reports of youth engagement are likewise welcome and should be further encouraged.

The proactive way the State Party is addressing the impacts of climate change on the property with the community and national stakeholders, especially the assessment of the climate vulnerability released in collaboration with ICOMOS Nigeria, is exemplary. However, the lack of traditional building materials due to drought, amongst other reasons, is worrying. From its report, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies conclude that the State Party is proactively engaging with this challenge, and it is hoped that the discussions with the Hidi-in Council could lead to a policy for the use, or non-use, of contemporary materials in this cultural landscape. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies caution that a departure from traditional building techniques and forms in favour of construction methods utilizing contemporary materials and forms may lead to an erosion of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property.

In response to this, the State Party should be strongly encouraged and supported to develop a comprehensive and inclusive strategy on how to manage this challenge and how to balance the requirements of heritage preservation with the needs for sustainable development. Such a strategy should be developed with the largest possible implication of the local communities and in collaboration with the Hidi-in Council in order to define the contribution that traditional construction techniques make to the OUV of this property, to stimulate the availability of traditional materials for maintenance and construction, to develop norms and guidelines that favour adequate monitoring of existing constructions and orient new ones within the property, and to enhance awareness raising. Moreover, this strategy should address the opportunities for the development and promotion of employment, in particular for young people, related to traditional construction techniques.

The work done in collaboration with the State Party of Cameroon on developing a proposal for extension of the property to include the Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of Mandara Mountains is noted.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.130

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party on the progress it has made in ensuring security returns to the property and on the collaboration with international partners to address the challenges that emerged from the 2014 insurrection, and encourages the State Party to continue its work in ensuring security at the property, implementing conservation work, provisioning of essential community facilities and community engagement activities in the property;*
4. *Notes the updating of the Management Plan for the property and requests the State Party to submit this for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Further commends the State Party and national stakeholders, especially ICOMOS Nigeria, for conducting an assessment of the climate vulnerability of the property, but also notes the State Party's reports of climate change impacts and the challenges these are causing to the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the property and to the implementation of conservation measures due to the strain on the availability of traditional construction materials, and welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party to monitor the situation;*

6. Further notes that a departure from traditional building forms and materials may adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests the State Party to develop, with the support of the Secretariat, Advisory Bodies and other partners, a comprehensive and inclusive strategy to define the contribution that traditional construction techniques make to the OUV of this property and, in collaboration with the Hidi-in Council and the local communities, including an appropriate policy, guideline and awareness programme for existing and future construction in the property, addressing also the opportunities for the development and promotion of employment, in particular of young people, related to traditional construction techniques;
7. Notes furthermore that the persisting security concerns in the area that continue to prevent an international expert's mission to the property, also welcomes the State Party's invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be carried out as soon as the necessary security clearance can be obtained;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

131. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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/956/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 11,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 192,697.13 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; April 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; 2007: France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission with participation of an expert from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement; May 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission with the participation of an expert from the European Space Agency (ESA)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a site manager (Issue resolved)
- Lack of monitoring and control mechanism
- Lack of a conservation and management plan (existence of a Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan serving as a Conservation and Management Plan)
- New constructions, architectural modifications and urban projects affecting authenticity and integrity
- Inappropriate housing restoration
- Environmental disorder due to the modification of the mouth of the Senegal River

- Extremely poor state of conservation of numerous derelict buildings endangering occupants

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/>, as well as additional elements on 6 April 2023, informing on the following developments and measures:

- An inter-ministerial council on the heritage of Saint-Louis was recently convened;
- The SINDAR database has been strengthened by the creation of a monitoring committee, which will carry out an up-to-date assessment of changes and transformations in the urban fabric;
- With a view to drawing up a management and conservation plan for the property, a workshop is scheduled for 2023 to mobilize funding. In November 2022, the property manager took part in capacity-building on risk management and systems;
- Regarding the development of the former Place Faidherbe, it would appear that an overall environmental study was carried out without addressing the specific features of the various components, or the possible weakening of the quays by bypassing the square. A study has been launched and will be forwarded to UNESCO for examination;
- Renovation of the cathedral has been completed, and a number of the Island's emblematic squares are in the process of being rehabilitated;
- The technical, financial and architectural aspects of the project to rehabilitate and extend the Grand Mosque were not accessible, but it is specified that the State would undertake to respect the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan of the property (PSMV);
- The Grande Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project is of major economic and financial importance involving a number of ministries. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report has been drawn up by the State Party and BP Petroleum, but has not yet been made public. The Ministry in charge of the Environment has reportedly given assurances that ecological and heritage issues have been taken into account;
- Numerous meetings were held with owners with regard to the rehabilitation of privately-owned buildings, particularly those at risk. Out of a hundred or so buildings declared eligible for the rehabilitation programme, 68 applications were submitted by owners, some of whom had paid their contributions into an open account domiciled at the Banque de l'Habitat du Sénégal;
- Work on the Saint-Louis Coastal Protection Project (PPCS), with a 2,175m long basalt riprap structure, has been completed;
- Regular scientific monitoring of the Saint-Louis coastal protection includes the installation of a continuous observation camera, regularly renewed topo-bathymetric ground-truth measurements, and satellite readings.

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

The report submitted by the State Party of Senegal indicates that the efforts made in recent years appear to have had a largely beneficial impact on the conservation and management of the property.

Particular appreciation can be given to the rehabilitation of the private built heritage and the initiatives to further engage private owners through the support provided as part of the rehabilitation programme. The financial contributions of several of these owners seem to illustrate this commitment. Similarly, the strengthening of the SINDAR database through the creation of a monitoring committee, tasked with carrying out an up-to-date assessment of changes and transformations in the urban fabric, is to be welcomed.

However, it should be noted that the State Party's report does not provide sufficient information on a number of requests made by the Committee at its 44th extended session, due to the unavailability of information or documents, or confines itself in several places to announcing future measures or the sending of documents to the World Heritage Centre, without providing further details. For example, the first Management and Conservation Plan for the property is due to be drawn up in 2023, notably to mobilize funding. The State Party is reminded that it may submit a request for international assistance

for this purpose by 31 October 2023 at the latest. Similarly, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is said to be carried out in connection with the development of the former Place Faidherbe, in addition to a comprehensive environmental study already carried out to address, in particular, the possible weakening of the quays by bypassing the square.

Nor has the State party provided details of several of the island's emblematic squares that are currently being rehabilitated, nor details of the technical, financial and architectural aspects of the project to rehabilitate and extend the Grand Mosque.

The ESIA report prepared by the State Party and BP Petroleum for the Great Turtle Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in April 2023, and the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party and BP Petroleum to continue the consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies begun in January 2021. It was noted that the Ministry in charge of the Environment had given assurances that ecological and heritage issues would be taken into account, and it would be appreciated if the State Party could provide more information on these commitments. Given the major economic and financial stakes involved in this project, as well as the involvement of numerous ministries in its management, it would be appropriate for the State Party, through the Ministry of Culture and Historical Heritage, to lend its full support to raising awareness amongst all the government bodies involved of the heritage prerogatives to protect the property and which could be impacted by this project.

Positive action with regard to measures to combat coastal erosion with a 2,175m basaltic riprap structure built as part of the PPCS is noted, as are the various measures for regular monitoring of the coastal protection of Saint-Louis. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more information on these measures in order to better assess their effectiveness, and which could also serve as an experience that could be applied to other World Heritage properties facing the threat of coastal erosion.

Finally, it is noted that to date, the State Party has not yet invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, requested by the Committee at its 44th session, to assess the overall state of conservation and progress in implementing these recommendations from the 2017 mission.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.131

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.120**, adopted at its 44th extended session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the initiatives in favour of the rehabilitation of the private built heritage and the commitment of private owners through the support provided under the Rehabilitation Programme, and encourages the State Party to pursue these efforts, in particular by persuading owners to commit and invest more in the rehabilitation of their property;*
4. *Welcomes the strengthening of the SINDAR database through the establishment of a monitoring committee and requests the State Party to provide more details on the updated state of developments and transformations in the urban fabric;*
5. *Requests the State Party, inter alia, to accelerate the elaboration of the first Management and Conservation Plan for the property, foreseen during 2023, and reminds it that it may submit a request for international assistance for this purpose by 31 October 2023 at the latest;*

6. Further requests the State Party to submit the study on the impact on heritage and on the possible weakening of the quays following the development of the former Place Faidherbe, in addition to the global environmental study already carried out;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre details of the technical, financial and architectural aspects of the project to rehabilitate and extend the Great Mosque, and also requests the State Party to provide more details on the Island's emblematic squares currently being rehabilitated;
8. Taking note of the major issue represented by the Grande Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project, thanks the State Party for having submitted the Environmental and Social Impact Study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, and requests the State Party to:
 - a) continue, with BP Petroleum, the consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies begun in January 2021,
 - b) provide more information on the commitments made by the Ministry of the Environment and assurances that ecological and heritage issues will be taken into account,
 - c) raise awareness, through the Ministry of Culture and Historical Heritage, of all government bodies involved in heritage prerogatives to protect the property and which could be impacted by this project;
9. Notes with appreciation the efforts made to combat coastal erosion in the framework of the Saint-Louis Coastal Protection Project (PPCS / SLCPP), notably the completion of the basaltic riprap structure and the various measures for the regular monitoring of the coastal protection of Saint-Louis, and requests the State Party to provide more information on these measures in order to better assess their effectiveness, which could also serve as an experience benefiting other World Heritage properties facing threats of coastal erosion;
10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation and progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2017 mission;
11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

133. Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Togo) (C 1140)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (v)(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/1140/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 31,993

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 21,471.5 for an emergency mission (see below) following the collapse of several Sikien (Heritage Emergency Fund); USD 202,298 from the Government of Norway for the period 2020-2022

Previous monitoring missions

October 2018: Emergency mission funded by the Heritage Emergency Fund

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction of several Sikien during the 2018 rainy season
- Management Plan/Management system (lack of human, material and financial resources, as well as insufficient legal and legislative frameworks; Management and Conservation Plan to be finalized and adopted)
- Emergence of new forms of modern construction, sometimes multistorey, and uncontrolled urbanization
- Deforestation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/documents/>, and informing that:

- The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has commissioned a feasibility study (currently underway) on the future development of cultural and tourist infrastructures, to take into account the special features of the site;
- In response to uncontrolled urbanization that does not respect traditional architecture, the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) will be integrated into the preparation of the Communal Urban Planning and Development Plan of the Kéran 3 commune and Nadoba, the capital of the of Kéran 3 commune, of which the property is part;
- Architectural documents and plans for the construction of the new Kéran 3 town hall will be provided to the Secretariat for technical advice;
- The Koutammakou Conservation and Promotion Service (SCPCK), created in 2002, is staffed by two civil servants, the Site Conservator and a tourism professional, supported by 15 people, 10 of whom are tour guides, paid for by the National Cultural Heritage Commission (CNPC), which receives an annual budget allocation from the State. Community volunteers are also involved in conservation;
- The new 2022-2024 conservation and management plan finalized in December 2021 takes risk and disaster management into account;
- A Recommendations Booklet, funded by the Norwegian government, guides communities in the construction and maintenance of sikien, and serves as a planning tool providing information on responsibilities, materials and tools used, and the main tasks to be carried out;

- Updated maps showing the boundaries of the property have been produced;
- The houses degraded by the bad weather of 2018 have all been restored;
- A 2020 table summarizing the state of conservation of 1,716 sikien and distinguishing five levels of condition was presented;
- A list of 60 new sikien rebuilt in 2022, almost all with materials recovered from the ruins or local materials, is provided, and the demolished granaries have also been rebuilt, in accordance with the traditional cycle;
- The evolution of the communities' way of life leaves visible impacts on the property, but the elements of the tangible and intangible culture of the Tammari civilization generally remain intact;
- Other current conservation issues are identified:
 - The sale of charcoal and the trade in planks are increasing deforestation and indiscriminate felling, threatening the tree species needed to build sikien, which now have to be brought in from afar as local species have become rare,
 - Straw is becoming scarce due to the resurgence of transhumance and large herds of cattle from the Sahel occupying non-agricultural areas.

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

The efforts made by the State Party over the past two years and highlighted in its report submitted to the Secretariat bear witness to very encouraging progress at several levels, whether in terms of sikien construction, restoration and reconstruction measures, the commitment of local communities, the development of restoration and maintenance tools, management and guidance for various stakeholders, or new approaches in urban planning.

Indeed, the initiatives to rebuild almost all the collapsed sikien and houses damaged during the bad weather of 2018 are to be welcomed, particularly by reusing the materials salvaged from the ruins. Such measures are useful for guiding future restoration and reconstruction measures, particularly in the event of disasters similar to those of 2018. In this respect, the drafting of a Recommendations Booklet for the maintenance of the sikien is particularly welcome, as it will help owners to become more involved and responsible for the conservation of their heritage.

It would be important to ensure continuous and detailed documentation of ongoing and future sikien restoration and reconstruction measures, reporting on the extent and progress of work, the location of rebuilt sikien, the types of work undertaken and building materials and systems.

On the other hand, deforestation and the uncontrolled felling of trees needed to build sikien diverted to the sale of charcoal and the plank trade are a growing concern, as is the shortage of straw attributed to the impact of transhumance, and the transport of these materials from distant locations is not a suitable solution. A strategic plan should be developed to mitigate these phenomena, which are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, including reforestation measures, areas closed to grazing and raising public awareness of the importance of these measures.

The updating of the maps showing the boundaries of the property, the finalization of the new 2022-2024 Conservation and Management Plan and the reinforcement of the SCPK with additional human resources, as requested by the Committee at its session in 2021, are welcome measures, as is the project to integrate the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) into the Communal Urban Planning and Development Plan of the Kéran 3 commune and Nadoba, where the changing needs of the populations and urban development are particularly felt and visible.

These measures therefore reflect a more holistic approach that needs to be pursued, in particular to give further thought to innovative solutions for reconciling the preservation of the property with its economic, social and urban development. Various additional measures could be added to improve the involvement of local communities and civil society, notably through the consolidation of the A2PK association, created as part of the Norwegian project, the translation into local languages of important documents such as the Conservation and Management Plan and the Recommendations Booklet, and the awareness-raising and training of young Batammaribè in trades relating to sikien construction.

It is noted that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission, as requested in the Committee Decision **43 COM 7B.112**, and reiterated in its Decision **44 COM 7B.122**, and which remains recommended for implementation as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.133

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.122** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party for the conservation of the property, the involvement of local communities and the development of management and guidance tools for various stakeholders through the project "Improving the state of conservation of Koutammakou, the land of the Batammariba" and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;
4. Welcomes in particular the reconstruction of almost all the collapsed sikien and degraded houses during the bad weather of 2018, as well as the information provided on 1,716 sikien and their state of conservation, and requests the State Party to ensure continuous and detailed documentation of ongoing and future restoration and reconstruction measures, reporting on the scope and progress of the work, the location of the restored sikien, the types of work undertaken and the construction materials and systems;
5. Also welcomes the updating of the maps showing the boundaries of the property, the finalization of the 2022-2024 Conservation and Management Plan and the publication of a Recommendations Booklet for the maintenance of the sikien, which promote the commitment and empowerment of local communities for the restoration and maintenance of their heritage, and encourages the State Party to translate these documents into the local language and to strengthen this community commitment through awareness-raising and the training of young Batammaribè in trades relating to the restoration and reconstruction of the sikien;
6. Notes with satisfaction the strengthening of the human resources of the Koutammakou Conservation and Promotion Service (SCPK), as requested by the Committee at its extended 44th session, as well as the project to integrate the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011) into the Communal Urbanism and Development Plan of Kéran 3 commune and Nadoba, and requests the State Party to ensure that the SCPK and the communes of Kéran 3 and Nadoba have adequate financial resources for the effective conservation, restoration, management and protection of the property;
7. Expresses its concern at the deforestation and uncontrolled cutting of trees required for the construction of sikien diverted to the sale of charcoal and the plank trade, as well as the shortage of straw attributed to the impact of transhumance, noting that the transport of these materials from remote locations is not a sustainable solution and that these phenomena are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, and encourages the State Party to develop a strategic plan to mitigate these phenomena, including reforestation measures, areas closed to grazing and raising public awareness of the importance of these measures;
8. Reiterates its thanks to the Government of Norway for its generous financial support for the implementation of the project "Improvement of the state of conservation of Koutammakou, the land of the Batammariba" and the publication of a Recommendations Booklet for the maintenance of sikien;

9. *Thanks the State Party for inviting the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee at the 43rd and 44th sessions and requests that this mission be carried out as soon as possible;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

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

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

ARAB STATES

137. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1991-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 81,450

For details, see page <https://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 310,381 for 'Memphis and Thebes Sites Management Support'; USD 45,871 from the Netherlands Funds in Trust for strengthening national capacities for the implementation of World Heritage impact assessments; EUR 150,000 from the Government of France for Enhancing Capacities for the Protection of World Heritage Properties in Egypt (2020)

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001: missions concerning the conservation of the site and the Cairo Ring Road project. November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; March 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January-February 2021: UNESCO Advisory mission; February 2022: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deterioration of the monuments (issue resolved)
- Development and Urban Infrastructure projects (including Touristic Path and Middle Ring Road projects and the Pyramids Security Project)
- Growing number of visitors (issue resolved)
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure: Infrastructure and tourism developments
- Management System/Management Plan: Absence of a single integrated Plan of Management for the property
- Uncontrolled development of the nearby village (issue resolved)
- Underground transport infrastructure: Tunnel construction project (issue resolved)
- Urban encroachment
- Need for designating a buffer zone for the property

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

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in February 2022 (mission report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents/>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 20 December 2022, a summary of which is available at the above-mentioned web address. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The mission recommendations are being implemented, including prohibition of any form of construction on the property;
- An Integrated Management Plan (IMP) is being prepared for the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for implemented and future developments in accordance with Egypt's Sustainable Development Vision 2030;
- The Higher Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites has decreed that HIAs are to be prepared for all projects on World Heritage properties, in addition to a 200m² protection zone around the western and southern boundaries of the 'Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur' component, as well as the 'Memphis/Mit-Rahina' component;
- An initial cumulative map of the property, comprising a layered record of features and the surrounding area, including attributes which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), has been prepared and will inform considerations related to boundary and buffer zone delineation and management;
- A network of tracks, pathways and rail tracks now provide access to property landmarks, including Memphis/Mit-Rahina;
- A HIA was prepared for the Touristic Path and Middle Ring Road, which were inspected and reviewed by the 2022 mission. Mitigation measures ensure that these routes do not obstruct the visual unity of the property. There has been no new urban construction around these roads;
- Notification and detailed documentation has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre regarding the proposed 'High-Speed Green Line' railway to replace the existing diesel train on the property. The HIA for the project concluded that it has long term positive impact and that negative impacts during construction could be mitigated;
- The Pyramids Security Project is intended to provide protection for the property, its monuments and sites, visitors and visitor facilities. It includes fencing, lighting and surveillance cameras;
- Archaeological investigations and restoration programmes are ongoing. Lists of recent discoveries, excavations and restoration projects have been provided;
- Additional sustainable visitor services have been provided through a public-private partnership;
- An extensive capacity building and training programme occurred in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States (UNESCO Cairo), and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);
- The State Party has requested the support of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in reviewing the property's boundaries and buffer zone, and has invited an Advisory mission for this purpose.

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

The State Party continues to progress with significant projects and initiatives, in compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines. It is welcome that HIAs must be prepared for all projects at the property and that there is a ban on new construction projects. The cumulative map will contribute to adequate management of attributes which support the OUV of the property. Progress towards the proposed IMP is positive and the draft IMP should be submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being finalised, adopted, and implemented.

The property received a UNESCO Advisory mission in 2021, followed by a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in 2022. The recommendations from these missions support the conservation and management of the property. The State Party has indicated how each of the mission recommendations is being addressed. The 2022 mission evaluated the recently constructed Touristic Path and Middle Ring Road, which were constructed without referral to the World Heritage Centre and contrary to requests made in previous Committee decisions. The mission concluded that it is of primary importance to prevent any urban development along or in the vicinity of these roads in order to avoid threats to the OUV of the property and noted that comprehensive details of archaeological surveys and impact assessments are yet to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as previously requested.

Considerable progress has been made in terms of archaeological fieldwork and conservation interventions, as well as in improving access and connectivity at the property through the installation of tracks, pathways, and rail links. The programme for providing additional new visitor facilities has also continued. Valuable contributions have been made to capacity building in training through cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS the UNESCO Cairo Office, and ARC-WH.

Notification concerning the 'High-Speed Rail Green Line' project was submitted in October 2022, and the related full HIA was submitted in November 2022, after construction had already commenced. The contribution of this project to sustainable development objectives is acknowledged, and the alignment has been assessed as appropriate through an ICOMOS technical review, nevertheless, it is necessary for the HIA to be augmented to allow the potential impacts of the Green Line to be fully understood and assessed so that adverse impacts can be appropriately mitigated. ICOMOS has provided specific recommendations to the State Party in this regard. Had it been advised of this project, the 2022 mission would have presented an opportunity to discuss the project in some detail along with some considerations for mitigation measures.

The brief report on the Pyramids Security Project provided by the State Party does not include a detailed document providing comprehensive information about the proposed Pyramids Security Project as previously requested by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 7B.127**. Strengthening of the protection of the property, having regard to its retrospective Statement of OUV, remains a priority and it is welcome that the State Party has invited the support of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies through a proposed Advisory mission.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.137

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.127**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Commends the State Party on the further progress made in relation to compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines, including its decision to require Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) to be prepared for all projects at the property, the cumulative map of property attributes, the ban on new construction projects, and the instigation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property, and requests that the draft IMP be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being finalised, adopted and implemented;*
4. *Notes the findings and recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, and welcomes the advice from the State Party that the recommendations of this mission and the 2021 Advisory mission are being comprehensively implemented;*
5. *Also welcomes the considerable progress that has been made in archaeological and conservation work, improving access and connectivity at the property, including the network of tracks, pathways and rail tracks which provide access to landmarks, as well as the provision of new visitor facilities, and the programme of training and capacity building;*
6. *Also notes that the Touristic Path and Middle Ring Road, which were constructed without referral to the World Heritage Centre and contrary to previous Committee decisions, have been subject to detailed studies, HIA, mitigative measures and review by the 2022 mission, which concluded that urban development should be prevented along or in the vicinity of the Touristic Path and the Middle Ring Road segments passing through the*

property in order to avoid threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and, in accordance with the mission report findings, also requests that comprehensive details of the archaeological surveys and impact assessments undertaken in advance of the road works be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Regrets that information about the High-Speed Rail Green line project and an HIA were not submitted to the World Heritage Centre in advance of commencement of construction, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, but further notes that the technical review by ICOMOS concluded that the chosen alignment appears to be the best option to achieve the east-west connection through the property, but that additional information and clarifications are required and the HIA requires amendment and augmentation with further mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the development and its operations on the OUV of the property, and therefore further requests the State Party to submit an amended HIA for this project, completed in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed document providing comprehensive information on the Pyramids Security Project to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible;
9. Also reiterates its previous request to the State Party to further strengthen the protection and management of the property, with particular regard to its retrospective Statement of OUV, and by defining a buffer zone and submitting a minor boundary modification request, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, and further notes that an Advisory mission has been invited to enable consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in accordance with the previous decisions of the Committee;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

138. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt) (C 954)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

140. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

141. Petra (Jordan) (C 1326)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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/326/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 167,079

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted:

- USD 3,743,125 for the Siq Stability projects (Phases I, II, and III) and the Youth for Heritage Conservation and Risk Prevention in Petra project
- USD 1,136,360 for Preserving Petra's Nabataean Architectural Heritage Through the Study of the Royal Tombs Water Management System and the Conservation of the Palace Tomb, funded by Italy
- USD 70,871.70 in total from the Heritage Emergency Fund since 2017, in relation to protection against flooding hazards
- USD 1,706,490 for the project on Employment Opportunities for Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in Jordan (Petra is one of the sites chosen by the project), funded through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: ICOMOS mission; March 2004: UNESCO mission; 2009: UNESCO technical expert missions; December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, November 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Heavy flooding in 1996 (issue resolved)
- Insufficiency or non-existence of sewage disposal facilities (issue resolved)
- Insufficient conservation of antiquities (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled development of villages in the vicinity of the site)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction or road widening projects leading to the site)
- Lack of management plan for the property (issue resolved)
- Lack of buffer zone boundary delimitations
- Land conversion
- Urban growth and urban encroachment
- Development projects and major visitor associated infrastructure (new hotels under construction, eco-village and cultural village)
- Commercial development

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>, and reports the following:

- A joint coordination committee has been established for the evaluation of current and future projects. The balloon station has been moved from the area of the main entrance, and a moratorium is imposed on developments within view or visible from the principal site;
- A policy is adopted to reduce population pressure in Umm Sayhoun by building housing units north of the village and in Wadi Musa by launching a project in the Nakhareer area and identifying development areas towards the east. Plans have been elaborated to implement three roads to improve traffic flow and facilitate the entry of tourists to the property;

- The Al-Dara development project is continuously evolving, with information about the project as at May 2022 provided in Annex V (with an update of Annex V provided in March 2023);
- The Petra Tourism Development Master Plan is being developed with the technical assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
- Discussions continue for the designation of a buffer zone and related regulations;
- The Geographic Information System (GIS) is being upgraded, and collaboration is ongoing with several institutions for data exchange and digital documentation;
- Water harvesting and flood management measures include check dams, terracing and plans to build one of the dams recommended by the 2019 UNESCO study. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Mercy Corps to implement a water barrier project, enabling water harvesting and contributing to mitigating flood impact. A water system study in the Royal Tombs area has been launched;
- Several rehabilitation and conservation works were undertaken, such as at the Siq area, High Place of Sacrifice, churches, Great Temple, and other areas and trails;
- Activities have continued in the framework of projects for “Youth for Heritage Conservation and Risk Prevention in Petra” and “Employment Opportunities for Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in Jordan”, implemented by the UNESCO Amman Office;
- A plan was established to install fencing, and concepts were developed for new kiosks. Plans are underway to improve the transportation system with green low emission buses and securing shuttle buses;
- Community engagement and awareness raising actions comprised supporting local development projects, including women empowerment programmes. An agreement was signed with “SELA for Training and Protection of Heritage”, and collaboration initiated to launch the Jordanian Archaeology as a Sustainable Industry Project (JASI);
- Programmes addressing animal welfare, include establishing a veterinary clinic and an association concerned with animals. With the aim of eliminating the use of horse carriages, electric cars have been introduced.

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

The State Party has reported on a number of projects and initiatives addressing development pressure and densification, traffic management, and tourism management around the property. Mitigating the impact of urbanization by moving housing developments away from the immediate vicinity of the property is a welcome step. However, the present report does not provide detailed information in terms location, scope and vision for future planning, particularly with regard to new housing units north of Umm Sayhoun in the area of Beidha, where a visitor center is also being planned.

The Committee had previously requested the development of an Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) to facilitate sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Such an integrated approach based on a detailed assessment of the cultural and natural assets of the property and its surroundings, and the social and economic needs of the resident and tourism communities, remains necessary for the sustainable development of the property and its setting. The three planned roads do not seem to stem from such a planning approach and require a clearer articulation of the needs to which they are responding, in addition to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the need for such an integrated planning approach as a priority.

Some modifications have been made to the al-Dara project plans following technical review by ICOMOS in 2020, which advised that this project should afford primacy to requirements for retention of attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is noted that the project has proceeded, with the plaza and arterial road, while a new pink concrete viaduct has been constructed south of the wadi, which had not been previously reported, and has a major negative impact on the Wadi Musa townscape. It is concerning that these significant works proceeded without submission of updated revised plans. It would be appropriate for the recently-submitted update, with complete detailed information, and any related HIAs to be subject to technical review and for the Committee to remind the State Party of its obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis

and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, information about all ongoing and planned project, with HIAs prepared in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The Petra Tourism Development Master Plan is being developed, which is an essential requirement for a sustainable tourism approach that would ensure protection of OUV and community participation, while responding to tourism needs. It is important to consider the role of tourism master planning in contributing to the development of an effective ITMP.

The establishment of clear regulations for a buffer zone and the larger setting of the property, to be submitted as a minor boundary modification proposal, in accordance with previous requests of the Committee, remains crucial. The invitation by the State Party for an Advisory mission is acknowledged. Such a mission would provide an opportunity to provide advice and discuss with the relevant authorities and stakeholders the steps needed to define a framework for a comprehensive planning approach to address needs, and mitigate densification and development and tourism pressures, within and beyond the boundaries of the property.

The ongoing work to update the GIS system and undertake digital documentation, in collaboration with several institutions is also welcomed. This would contribute to the preparation of an accurate GIS-based map of the property, with precise boundaries, topography, location of attributes and planned buffer zone, as requested by the Committee.

Projects related to water harvesting and flood management, in addition to rehabilitation and conservation, have been implemented in collaboration with partners and the UNESCO Amman Office. Some information has been provided concerning plans to install fencing, and concepts were developed for new kiosks within the property. In this regard, it is crucial that all measures and services planned within the property are also considered and integrated within the requested sustainable tourism management strategy and plan.

The State Party has continued to engage with local communities, support local development projects, and address animal welfare, all of which are to be commended. It is recommended that the State Party is encouraged to pursue further these important efforts that contribute to sustainable economic, environmental and social development.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.141

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts of the State Party in preventing further densification of the property's setting and diverting urban growth towards the east of the property, and beyond its immediate setting, nevertheless, requests the State Party to provide further detailed information about these plans, especially with regard to developments located to the north of Umm Sayhoun, and to the east, adjacent to the property;*
4. *Urges the State Party to afford priority to the proposed Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) which is required to facilitate sustainable economic, social and environmental development, based on a detailed assessment of the cultural and natural assets of the property and its surroundings, and the social and economic needs of the resident and tourism communities and to submit the draft ITMP for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, before it is finalised and adopted;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to continue working towards the establishment of a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, which takes into consideration and integrates all measures and services planned within and beyond the boundaries of the*

property, and also welcomes the elaboration of the Petra Tourism Development Master Plan;

6. Notes with concern that the al-Dara project has proceeded and that, despite design changes made following initial technical review, at least one major infrastructure element was added in the wider setting of the property, without prior advice to the World Heritage Centre, and which may result in negative impacts, and therefore further requests the State Party to submit copies of complete detailed information and any Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) undertaken, and requests furthermore that this material and the March 2023 update be subject to technical review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
7. Reiterates the need for devising new regulations for a designated buffer zone and its larger setting, in line with the proposed ITMP, reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification request, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, and to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; and further welcomes the invitation by the State Party for an Advisory mission to provide advice on this process, and the steps needed to define a framework for a comprehensive planning approach to address needs, and mitigate densification, tourism and development pressures, within and beyond the boundaries of the property;
8. Welcomes furthermore the updating of the Geographic Information System (GIS) to record and manage information on the Petra Archaeological Park and also urges the State Party to finalize this work as soon as possible and proceed with the preparation of an accurate GIS-based map of the property, with its precise boundaries, topography, location of all its component attributes and planned buffer zone;
9. Commends the State Party for pursuing the implementation of some recommendations of the November 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission and Committee decisions, and encourages the State Party to further pursue these efforts, notably concerning:
 - a) Commitment to enforce a permanent moratorium on new buildings and infrastructure that are **visible** from the site,
 - b) Establishing a process for consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS prior to the implementation of major projects, and for subsequently undertaking the necessary measures concerning development projects in the vicinity of the property in order to avoid or reduce negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
 - c) Addressing water harvesting and flood management in Petra,
 - d) Carrying out community engagement and awareness raising activities, including with a focus on animal welfare;
10. Also encourages the State Party to continue the ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies towards the conservation and management of the property, and reminds the State Party of the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, HIAs, prepared in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all proposed projects, which may affect the OUV of the property;
11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

146. Medina of Essaouira (formerly Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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/753/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 52,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/753/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2003: reactive monitoring mission; February, 2005: Rabat Office mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Solid waste
- Governance: Lack of a rehabilitation policy for the Mellah Quarter
- Erosion and siltation/deposition (Major deterioration of the maritime part of the fortifications of the Medina);
- Other: Progressive deterioration of the built area; continuing collapse of buildings
-
- ;

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/753/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2023, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the property would be subject of a report on its state of conservation at the extended 45th session of the Committee, in order to better understand and assess the state of conservation of the property in relation to large-scale development projects on the property. On 7 April 2023, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/753/documents/>. The report was intended to provide an update on the conservation and management of the property, presented as follows:

- Between 2015 and 2023, the medina benefited from a programme to rehabilitate and enhance the urban space and historical heritage, promote access to social services and boost tourist appeal. The programme involves all stakeholders and aims to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and improve site management;
- Restorations carried out since 2012 include the walls, gates, towers, bastions and fountains in the medina, as well as the fish souk, the former courthouse and ex-Spanish consulate, the Simon Attia Synagogue, three mosques, seven zaouias, the Port Sqala and buildings in danger of collapse. Restoration of the Portuguese church is nearing completion;
- Infrastructure work includes street lighting, sewerage and drinking water systems, and the development of Place Moulay Hassan and the parking lot near the port. Work in progress includes the restoration of facades, the paving of squares and alleyways, the development of five historic squares, and the provision of street furniture;
- Two health centres, a pre-school education centre and a heritage interpretation centre have been created;

- The port development project involves the widening of certain basins and quays, the redistribution of buildings and the relocation of the fish market. An impact assessment has been submitted for the project, and the project is considered to have a mostly positive impact. However, the assessment recommends improving the visual field and carrying out a traffic study;
- A master plan for urban development in Greater Essaouira (SDAU) has been adopted. It emphasizes the development of heritage tourism through cultural tours and the need to create a maritime heritage museum;
- In 2021, a plan to enhance and safeguard the medina of Essaouira (PASME) was approved by decree. It proposes specific provisions for three zones and certain monuments. It also proposes that the Mogador archipelago become a natural reserve;
- On 4 April 2023, a Gubernatorial Decree created a monitoring committee responsible for protecting the property, which includes the possibility to request heritage impact assessments (HIAs) where necessary;
- The OUV of the property is considered to be well-protected, notably since in 2019, the city joined UNESCO's Creative Cities network and inscribed an element (the Gnaoua Festival) on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

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

As part of the State Party's Programme for the Rehabilitation and Enhancement of Urban Space and Historic Heritage, implemented since 2015, major infrastructure, equipment and restoration work has been carried out. The visuals submitted for two monuments (the Scala and the Bab Marrakech bastion) and two historic buildings (the Zaouïa Kettania and the Health Centre) show that the restoration and enhancement work has been carried out with care. The property's governance dynamics seems positive as it is based on a cross-disciplinary approach involving all institutional stakeholders, professionals and civil society.

However, the report lacks information that would enable assessment of the impact of the works as a whole, particularly with regard to other monumental attributes and the urban fabric. Ongoing or planned works will need to be further documented and detailed so that a more accurate overall assessment of the property's state of conservation can be established.

The planning tools that have been developed, such as the SDAU and PASME, are welcomed. More information is needed on these plans, and in particular to confirm whether they are based on the approach of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), to integrate the property into its surrounding context in order to preserve not only its Outstanding Universal Value, but also the property's other values such as those relating to its social-economic aspects.

No information has been provided by the State Party concerning the management plan previously requested by the Committee, and it would be necessary to inform the World Heritage Centre of the management structure in place for the property, particularly in view of the transformations underway within the property and its buffer zone.

In May 2021, the State Party submitted a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the second phase of the project to restructure the port of Essaouira, located in the property's buffer zone, which was then subject of an ICOMOS technical study. Exchanges continued during an online technical meeting organized on 4 March 2022 by the World Heritage Centre, which enabled in-depth discussion on a number of points, including issues relating to the density and architectural language of fishing stalls, underwater archaeological excavations, as well as traffic and parking. These points were then subject of specific recommendations. Dialogue with the State Party has enabled the project to move forward. Nevertheless, the visual simulations planned from the Porte de la Marine on the west jetty towards the Mogador archipelago with the fishermen's stalls have not been submitted, and the traffic study to regulate traffic and manage parking around the port is still awaited.

The State Party should be reminded that information on any other major projects should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse.

As a follow-up to the retrospective inventory project launched in 2004, the State Party was requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre a clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, which is still awaited, since a clear delimitation is essential for the effective conservation, management and protection of the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.146

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2009),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the positive and transversal dynamics established with all stakeholders responsible for protection and civil society actors, as well as for the quality of the work carried out, encourages it to continue its efforts for the preservation and enhancement of the property and requests it to provide more information, including visuals, on all the work carried out and planned for the monumental attributes of the property and its urban fabric, so that a more precise overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property can be established;
4. Welcomes the development and adoption of planning tools such as the Master Plan for the Urban Development of Greater Essaouira (SDAU) and the Plan for the Development and Safeguarding of the Medina (PASME), and also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with further information on these plans, and in particular to confirm whether they are based on the approach of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), for the integration of the property into its surrounding context in order to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value, but also the other values of the property such as those relating to its social-economic aspects;
5. Noting that no information has been provided on the management plan previously requested by the Committee, also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the management structure in place for the property, particularly in view of the ongoing transformations within the property and its buffer zone;
6. Notes with satisfaction the collaboration established with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advance the project to restructure the port of Essaouira, as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2022 online technical meeting that allow the State Party to move forward with the project, nevertheless requests the State Party to submit visualizations from the Porte de la Marine towards the port and the Mogador archipelago as soon as the installation of the fishermen's stalls is completed and the traffic study to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is prepared,
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on any other significant project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;
8. Urges the State Party to submit, as part of the retrospective inventory a proposal for boundary clarification of the property as soon as possible;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

150. Medina of Sousse (Tunisia) (C 498bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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/498/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2023: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework: absence of a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV)
- Governance: lack of coordination; absence of a consultation framework concerning interventions
- Housing: urban pressure and densification ; visual impact on the integrity of the property
- Changes in the values associated with this heritage: social and economic factors; loss of traditional knowledge; alteration of construction elements and materials

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>. The progress made in terms of conservation is presented below:

- The Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) carried out a general diagnosis on the urban fabric of the medina and its monuments. It concludes that these elements are generally in a good state of conservation, and that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is maintained. However, the transformation of dwellings and shops, linked to adaptation to contemporary lifestyles (extensions, use of contemporary materials), as well as that of several monuments by a range of reversible factors (graffiti, scaffolding, commercial installations, etc.) threaten to have a visual impact on the integrity of the urban fabric;
- The State Party reports on the restoration work carried out on the major monuments of the property since 2006, and indicates that three monuments are currently being restored by the Municipality of Sousse;
- In 2022, the INP and the municipality pledged to work together with the common aim of protecting and enhancing the medina, with priority given to halting the deterioration of the traditional fabric and drawing up the safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) for the property, a partnership agreement having been signed to this effect. In addition, a joint unit has been set up to manage and monitor urban operations (building permits, infringements, raising residents' awareness, etc.);
- The preparation of the PSMV is part of the second phase of the Integrated Urban Development Programme for the city of Sousse (PDUI-II), implemented with the technical and financial support of the Swiss Government. The technical steering committee (COTECH) responsible for monitoring the project has drawn up the terms of reference for appointing the consultancy firm in charge. The PSMV should be finalized by the end of 2024;
- The municipality of Sousse has launched a Programme for the Regeneration and Enhancement of Old Town Centres (PRCA) (2022-2025). Its aim is to reinforce the cultural, economic and tourist appeal of the property, and create greater synergies with the modern city. The plan is to work on

three main axes of the medina, where twenty housing units, public spaces and historic monuments will be restored and rehabilitated, façades upgraded, the ground paved, and signage put in place.

In response to the State Party's invitation, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission visited the property from 10 to 12 January, 2023, (See page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>). The mission found that collaboration in the management of the property had improved, that progress had been made in drawing up the PSMV with the appointment of a consultancy firm, and that the main attributes of the OUV appear to be in a good state of conservation overall, albeit vulnerable to several threats, notably those linked to the transformation of the urban and social fabric, particularly in the absence of a PSMV, and with regard to the construction of high-rise buildings in the buffer zone. It recommends pursuing the efforts already underway, including continued rigorous monitoring of infringements and greater involvement of civil society, as well as an in-depth analysis of the urban fabric and a pilot project, with a view to drawing up a PSMV adapted to the context and applicable. This PSMV should also benefit the management of the site, notably through inclusion of representatives of the resident community in the PSMV's governance arrangements.

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

The State Party has taken important steps in response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. Indeed, as reported by the State Party and confirmed by the joint mission, collaboration between the INP and the municipality has improved, notably through the setting up of a joint urban operations control unit, and the signing of an agreement to work jointly on the PSMV. In addition, the municipality has actively sought funding to support the preservation of the property. These efforts are appreciated and the State Party should be invited to reinforce them.

The PRCA, launched in 2022, along with the restoration of the medina's monuments, is helping to halt the deterioration of the urban fabric and improve living conditions for residents on the medina's main streets, but is not enough to stem the threats to the authenticity and integrity of the property as a whole.

As a regulatory tool to ensure better preservation of the property, the development and adoption of the PSMV, is crucial. The launch of the PSMV project is thus welcomed. It is recommended that the State Party carry out this work in a participatory manner, drawing on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), and to carry out an in-depth study of the property's attributes, the qualities of the buffer zone and the visual fields to be preserved, including in the buffer zone and its surrounding context, in order to better understand how they support and better protect the OUV of the property. This study should also document and analyze traditional and current patterns of use of urban infrastructure to provide a basis for the socio-economic regeneration of the urban fabric, and to enable the PSMV to incorporate suitable provisions, to support the regeneration of the property, while protecting its Outstanding Universal Value. To this end, the State Party could seek the expertise of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It is also advisable that a pilot project reflecting the provisions set out in the PSMV be carried out in one area of the medina, to ensure that it is adapted and applicable to this context before developing it on a property-wide scale.

In the absence of a management plan for the property, it is also advisable to take advantage of the PSMV process to set up a joint management mechanism for the medina, including representatives of the resident community. Civil society should be more closely involved in the preservation, enhancement and management of the property.

Furthermore, the second phase of the PDUI-II represents a significant step forward in the implementation of sustainable development objectives in the city of Sousse. The PSMV should integrate the sustainable development aspects of PDUI-II while respecting the property's OUV, and take precedence over the Urban Development Plan to ensure better protection of the property.

Finally, the State Party should be reminded that information on all major projects should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.150

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.138**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online),
3. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party for greater collaboration in the management of the property, for the elaboration of a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) and for fundraising, in order to stem the threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to strengthen its efforts;
4. Taking note of the findings and recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission of January 2023, requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, and in particular:
 - a) rigorously monitor urban operations to reduce the risk of infringements,
 - b) based on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), conduct an in-depth study of the attributes of the property, the qualities of the buffer zone as well as the visual fields to be preserved, including in the buffer zone and its surrounding context, in order to better understand how they support and protect the OUV,
 - c) document and analyze traditional and current patterns of use of the urban infrastructure that could serve as a basis for the socio-economic regeneration of the property, and integrate them into the provisions of the PSMV, to support the regeneration of the property, while protecting its OUV,
 - d) benefit from the preparation of the PSMV to set up a joint management mechanism for the medina that includes representatives of the resident community, and involves civil society more closely, in the preservation, enhancement and management of the property,
 - e) carry out a pilot project, reflecting the provisions of the PSMV, in one area of the medina to ensure that it is adapted and applicable to the context, before developing it on a property-wide scale,
 - f) finalize, adopt and implement the PSMV in order to ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property, its conservation and management, including tourism management, the socio-economic regeneration of the property and coordination between all stakeholders,
 - g) integrate into the PSMV the sustainable development aspects of the second phase of the Sousse Urban Development Programme (PDUI-II), while respecting the OUV of the property, in order to ensure the link with the city of Sousse as a whole, and to give it precedence over the Urban Development Plan (PAU) as soon as it is adopted, so as to ensure better protection of the property;
5. Invites the State Party to seek the expertise of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as necessary, in the implementation of the above recommendations, and in particular in relation to the implementation of the HUL Recommendation;
6. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on significant projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational

Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

152. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

153. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

156. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)(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/1442/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-In-Trust USD 188,361 (2001-2015): "Preparatory Assistance for the Silk Roads World Heritage nomination in China and Central Asia", "Sustainable Tourism: Silk Road"; "Silk Roads Heritage Corridor in Central Asia and China"; "Enhancing Silk Road Interpretation and Quality Guides Training"; Norway USD 483,414 (2007-2013): "Support the World Heritage serial nominations: Central Asian Petroglyph sites and the Silk Roads"; The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO), 90,000 € (2010-2013): "Silk Roads Cultural Heritage Resource Information System (CHRIS) for Central Asia"; UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust projects: "Support for documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia" (Phase I, USD 985,073 from 2011 to 2015); "Support for Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia" (Phase II, USD 697,796 from 2015 to 2018); UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust USD 350,000 (2018-2021): "Support for the Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination(s) of the Silk Roads in Asia (Phase II)"; European Union 4 million € (2018-2022): "Support to Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran - International Dimension of the European Year of Cultural Heritage".

Previous monitoring missions

March 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan; November 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan (Talgar, Kayalyk, Karamergen, Aktobe, Kulan, Kostobe, Ornek sites and the Akyrtas archaeological complex).

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Need to implement the timetables for developing detailed management plans; Need for strategies for conservation of component sites; Need for visitor management strategies, including interpretation)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation(Need to review carrying capacity at each component site)
- Urban development
- Ground transport infrastructure (Proposals for a major road and bridge directly across the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan)
- Housing (Residential 'eco' development in the buffer zone, near the Talgar Citadel in Kazakhstan)
- Other Threats: Comparative fragility of many sites

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the States Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan submitted a joint state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/documents/>. On 6 December 2022 the State Party of Kazakhstan submitted a separate report. 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 these reports, as follows:

- The ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-X) is the Secretariat for the property. It fosters exchange between the States Parties, provides technical support, and promotes the property;
- Management Plans for some component sites have progressed, with eight updated in China and proposals to update eight in Kazakhstan. The component sites have cooperated in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. There has been a significant reduction in visitation but digital technologies have facilitated online events, such as scientific conferences and virtual tours;
- China has established a comprehensive monitoring system. Local departments actively participate in protection, management, monitoring, promotion, and research. A joint initiative between IICC-X and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, is providing environmental and digital modelling of World Heritage properties in Xi'an;
- Kazakhstan strengthened the legal framework and improved management of cultural heritage. Kyrgyzstan has promoted projects to interpret the component sites as an important part of the Silk Road, conducted public education activities, and applied new monitoring technologies;
- The Birlik-Akbulak highway and bridge will pass 550m north of the Talgar settlement buffer zone. The old bridge is considered to be tourist infrastructure and will be retained for pedestrians. The proposed Eco-Village within the Talgar settlement buffer zone was denied approval. Development issues in the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements remain unresolved;
- The Kazakhstan Committee of Culture and National Committee of Cultural and Natural Heritage contribute to World Heritage preservation, but a wide range of experts will be involved with improved interaction with other government and non-governmental organizations;
- Within China, the component sites have improved management systems which address construction projects, through Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Pressure remains from some construction and development projects such as the integrated rural sewage treatment project and construction of a special education school within the buffer zone of the Site of Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty.

On 26 September 2022, the State Party of Kazakhstan submitted to the World Heritage Centre an HIA for the Eco Village Talgar project in the buffer zone of the historical and cultural heritage component site of Talgar. An ICOMOS Technical Review on the HIA was transmitted to the State Party on 9 February 2023.

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

Progress continues with research, interpretation, stakeholder engagement and monitoring of the 33 component sites, which comprise the property. The Secretariat for the property is based at the

ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an, and provides coordination and support. Although progress is reported in updating and revising management plans for the property, these remain incomplete. It is a major priority that they are finalised or updated and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Understandably, recent visitor management has focused on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting reduced visitor numbers. The States Parties should now address the carrying capacities of the component sites, placing sustainability and protection of attributes which support the OUV of the property at the core of visitor management.

Some specific projects and initiatives have not yet been adequately addressed in accordance with previous Committee Decisions. It is welcome that the route of the Birlik-Akbulak highway and bridge have been revised to pass north of the buffer zone of the Talgar settlement, and that the old bridge is to be retained as tourist infrastructure. However, the State Party of Kazakhstan has not yet provided the previously requested detailed plans of these proposals, for the review by the Advisory Bodies before commitments are made or work is undertaken. Development issues within the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements are unresolved, and the State Party of Kyrgyzstan should ensure that attributes which support the OUV of the property are not impacted. It is appropriate to remind the three States Parties of their obligation to submit details of major restoration or new construction projects which may affect the OUV of the property, and HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in advance of any decision which would be difficult to reverse, and to draw attention to the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. The Committee should request that the State Party of China submit documentation of the integrated rural sewage treatment project, as well as the special education school proposed within the buffer zone of the Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty.

The decision not to approve the proposed Eco-Village within the buffer zone of the Talgar settlement is welcome, as this development would have distorted the landscape setting of this component of the property. The State Party of Kazakhstan is invited to consider alternative options for an Eco-Village outside the buffer zone. While the reported institutional arrangements for cultural heritage protection are acknowledged, it is regrettable that the State Party of Kazakhstan is yet to establish the previously requested World Heritage Steering Committee. The States Parties concerned should also implement the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for integrating heritage management with development plans and processes for the cities and settlements in the property to better protect their attributes.

Conservation and management of this complex serial transnational property would be assisted by definitive documentation of boundaries and buffer zones, as previously encouraged by the Committee. The Committee should request all States Parties to ensure that the boundaries and buffer zones of inscribed component sites are documented in cadastral maps, and that these maps are submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Initiatives that have been pursued in collaboration with the HIST, in relation to World Heritage properties in Xi'an are commendable and should be extended to monitor the state of conservation of the entirety of the property, in accordance with previous Committee requests.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.156

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.34**, **41 COM 7B.88**, **42 COM 7B.5** and **44 COM 7B.22** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the important coordinating role of the Secretariat based at the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-X) in ongoing research, interpretation, stakeholder involvement and monitoring, and the progress with management plans for some components of the property, but reiterates its previous requests that outstanding management plans be finalized as a matter of priority, taking into consideration the*

outcomes of the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Also notes the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting reduction in visitor numbers and again encourages the States Parties to review carrying capacities at all component sites in the light of post-COVID-19 health and safety regulations, while ensuring that visitor management places sustainability and the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) at its core;
5. Further notes the information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan that the revised route of the Birlık-Akbulak highway and bridge will pass to the north of the buffer zone of the Talgar settlement and that the old bridge will be retained in pedestrian use as tourist infrastructure, and also reiterates its previous request to the State Party of Kazakhstan to submit to the World Heritage Centre more detailed plans of these proposals, showing the precise route of the road, the location of the new bridge and any demolition or new construction, in one of the working languages of the Committee (i.e., English or French), for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment is made or any work undertaken;
6. Again urges the three States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, details of any major restoration or new construction, which may affect the attributes which support the OUV of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with methodology of the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and to continue to submit detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and in particular, requests the State Party of China to submit detailed documentation of the integrated rural sewage treatment project and special education school proposed within the buffer zone of the Weiyang Palace in Chang'an City of the Western Han Dynasty;
7. Welcomes the decision not to approve the proposed Eco-Village within the buffer zone of the Talgar settlement and also encourages the State Party of Kazakhstan to consider alternative options for such projects, outside the component site and its buffer zone;
8. Further reiterates its previous requests to the State Party of Kazakhstan to establish a World Heritage Steering Committee for the component sites in Kazakhstan and to develop effective coordination with China and Kyrgyzstan for the management of the property through the existing agreements and management mechanisms, and further encourages the three States Parties to ensure the effective and coordinated conservation and management of component sites through the International Coordination Committee and IICC-X;
9. Notes with concern that development issues in the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements remain unresolved and also requests the State Party of Kyrgyzstan to continue efforts to ensure that attributes which support the OUV of the property are not impacted by development;
10. Further requests the three States Parties to ensure that the boundaries and buffer zones of all inscribed component sites are duly documented in cadastral maps and that these maps are submitted to the World Heritage Centre and that 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is implemented as a tool for integrating heritage protection with development plans and processes for the cities and settlements in the property;

11. *Also welcomes the use of new technologies and collaboration with the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) to monitor World Heritage properties in Xi'an, but reiterates furthermore its previous request that all concerned partners work closely with the HIST and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies to use space technology applications to monitor the state of conservation of the entirety of the property, and invites again all parties to share good practice examples with the World Heritage Centre, so that they may be made available to other States Parties on the World Heritage Centre's website;*
12. *Requests the three States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.*

157. 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 <https://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 <https://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

- Lack of an operational site management plan
- Effects arising from the use of transportation infrastructure (Lack of traffic regulations limiting heavy duty vehicular traffic)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction project for the road widening near the ancient Kamala pur 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241>

Current conservation issues

On 10 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents> and presents the responses to several conservation issues raised by third parties between October 2020 and February 2023, as follows:

- *Development of a road within the property:* the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) raised objections, citing that the activities will affect the authenticity, historic fabric and integrity of the landscape. Work has not been initiated;
- *Fort of the Kamala Mahal Enclosure:* Unanticipated heavy rains led to the bulging of the core materials, which led to the collapse of a portion of the fort in 2020. The conservation of the affected portion of the fort wall is underway and was expected to be completed by March 2023;
- *Road-widening activity between Kamalapura-Hospete:* ASI organized a meeting with local authorities to address this matter and its possible impact. The State Government has intimated that road widening activities in the buffer and peripheral zones will now be done using traditional materials and will not disturb any archaeological remains;
- *Developmental activities related to large-scale tourism development projects:* Infrastructure works are being carried out by the State Government at Kamalapura, including a new bus stand within the property. ASI is regularly monitoring these activities and coordinating with the State Government to limit these development activities and avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Amendments to the zonal regulations have been requested by the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA). The proposals are to extend the development area of villages in the buffer and peripheral zones from 100 m to 250 m from the existing boundary of villages in the property; to provide wayside tourist amenities along the highways; and to provide farm stays in the agricultural lands of each revenue village to facilitate development in the buffer zone. The ASI requested HWHAMA to undertake a study on the feasibility, suitability, and location of these amendments;
- *Celebration of Hampi Utsava:* The festival has been organised by the State Government of Karnataka to promote culture and tourism for the past 20 years. ASI and State Government of Karnataka work in tandem to ensure that no monument is damaged within the property.

On 13 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to verify third-party information concerning large-scale tourism infrastructures (including up to 600 rooms hotels in Anjanadri Hill in Anegundi), in the vicinity of the abovementioned property, which might have an impact on its OUV, notably on the integrity of its landscape setting, particularly the sacred landscape of Hampi. No response has been received from the State Party at the time of drafting this report.

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

While the new information provided in the State Party's report is well noted, it is regrettable that, for the ongoing road-widening activity between Kamalapura and Hospete, the State Party did not submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the detailed proposal and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in due time, despite the Committee's request in Decision **43 COM 7B.61** and the provisions of paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. This is especially worrying as the road near the Kamalapur tank area has reportedly been widened already.

While it is noted that the State Party has indicated that, in the future, road widening will be done using traditional materials, such materials should not be extracted from within the property using earth moving equipment, as such practices have reportedly led to damage to temples, including the *Kamala Mahal Enclosure*, and could impact adversely on archaeological remains.

The State Party reported that the ASI had requested HWHAMA to undertake a study on the feasibility, suitability and location of amendments to planning zones to allow the construction of tourist accommodation. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit details of this Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Moreover, the site appears to be affected by significant development pressure, including large-scale tourism infrastructure announced by the Government of Karnataka. For these tourism infrastructure projects, the acquisition process for land that is currently used for agricultural purposes has begun,

despite protests from farmers. It is regrettable that the State Party did not provide the information on these proposed projects.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that, for the aforementioned tourism infrastructure development projects and the road widening project, the State Party should undertake an HIA as soon as possible and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The World Heritage Committee may wish to request the State Party to halt these projects until the HIA report been submitted and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of its previous request that details of major projects, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in line with paragraphs 118 bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse.

Furthermore, the Committee may wish to ask the State Party to provide information on the monitoring of the property, in particular the activities undertaken to address tourism development pressures, in line with Decision **37 COM 7B.61** (Phnom Penh, 2013), which requested the State Party to develop a conservation strategy for the protection of the historic mandapas near the Virupaksha temple, in line with the Integrated Management Plan (IMP).

The vulnerability of this property is increasing in the face of a great number of large-scale development projects that may negatively impact on its OUV, and in view of the State Party's commitments for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2006, especially regarding the finalisation and the full implementation of the IMP. These issues need to be addressed and pursued with great urgency in order to have robust management systems and plans in place that can address the property's conservation, protection, development and management challenges and be realistically implemented on site also with the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool. It is regrettable that the State Party did not inform the World Heritage Centre about the current status of the IMP of the World Heritage property, nor its implementation strategy, nor the status of the Master Plan for the entire site of Hampi, despite the Committee's requests in decisions **43 COM 7B.61** (Baku, 2019), **41 COM 7B.90** (Krakow, 2017) and **39 COM 7B.64** (Bonn, 2015).

In light of the above concerns, it is suggested that the Committee request the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to address the significant issues faced by the property in a comprehensive manner and formulate updated recommendations for a Master Plan for the property, besides its IMP, so that the property can address both conservation and development needs in a holistic manner.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.157

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.61**, **39 COM 7B.64**, **41 COM 7B.90** and **43 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Requests the State Party to provide updated information on the status and implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) as well as the Master Plan of the entire site of Hampi, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, information on the monitoring of the property, in particular the activities undertaken to address tourism development pressures, as well as the conservation strategy for the protection of the historic mandapas near the Virupaksha temple, in line with the IMP, as requested in Decision **37 COM 7B.61**;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, detailed information about the widening of a road near the Kamalapur Tank, along with a Heritage Impact Assessment*

- (HIA), as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.61** before the works are implemented further, and also requests the State Party to ensure that traditional materials for road work should not be extracted from within the property using earth moving equipment, as such practices could damage temples and impact adversely on archaeological remains;
6. Urges the State Party to undertake, as soon as possible, HIAs for the proposed tourism infrastructure development and road widening projects in Anjanadri that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to put the implementation of these projects on hold until the HIA reports have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
 7. Noting that it is the intention to amend planning zones to allow villages to have tourist accommodation and other development works, requests the State Party to submit details of the changes once approved and their implications, and reminds the State Party that details of the tourism infrastructures projects and any other major projects, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with paragraphs 118 bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
 8. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, at its earliest convenience, to examine the current state of conservation of the property, address the development projects within and around the property, along with their potential cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, discuss these projects with the relevant Government authorities, and review the management and protection mechanisms for the property;
 9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.

158. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) (C 247rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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/247/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Urban development in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Mining (Industrial mining activities in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)

- Management systems / Management Plan (Interpretation strategy for the overall ensembles of palaces, temples and fortifications)
- Management activities (Vulnerabilities of certain individual structures within the forts requiring short-term conservation actions at Jaisalmer and Chittorgarh Forts)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Industrial areas

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>. Progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) is being established in accordance with the Urban Development Act of the Government of Rajasthan and will implement the Management Plan and regulations under the direction of the State-level Fort Apex Advisory Committee;
- The Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort has been adopted by the State-level Fort Apex Advisory Committee and will be given legal status under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act once the JFMA is established;
- Following the completion of these processes, regulations arising from the SMP for heritage conservation and building repairs will be introduced;
- Ongoing implementation issues include traffic management and parking problems, unauthorized hotels and restaurants, waste disposal, undergrounding of electricity cables, and lighting improvements;
- Regular monitoring of unauthorised constructions is being undertaken;
- Many residential properties have no clear ownership titles (apart from those owned by major trustees), creating difficulties for the government to take conservation actions;
- Visitation is an acknowledged pressure on the property, and changes have been made to improve visitor management;
- Preparation of a plan to assess the impacts of recovery from disasters is in progress, and risk assessments are used to prioritise structural interventions to dilapidated structures;
- The promotion of tourism, road improvements, an annual festival and other events are important for livelihood generation;
- Tourism planning to promote and protect traditional arts and crafts is in progress;
- According to the National Policy for Conservation (2014), annual plans for conservation are prepared as well as the five-year plan for Jaisalmer Fort;
- The Pitching Wall and Bastion no. 38 of Jaisalmer Fort have been the primary focus of conservation works since 2015-2016 onwards. These are largely completed and the technical estimation for conservation of Bastions no. 44 and 45 has recently been completed;
- Progress on conservation projects at the Chittorgarh Fort includes completion of repairs to the Rampuriya Gate and desilting of water bodies;
- All development projects within the property and its buffer zones are subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA);
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has commissioned a sub-circle under its 'Jodhpur Circle' to carry out monitoring at Jaisalmer Fort, which reports to the State-level Apex Committee and the Government of India. No issues have been identified to date;
- No mining or blasting activity has occurred in the area surrounding the Chittorgarh Fort.

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

The information that the SMP for Jaisalmer Fort will be formally included within the legal frameworks for the protection and management of the property once the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) has been established is welcomed. It is noted that, once established, the JFMA will derive funds for its management activities from tourism-related activities. The State Party should be advised to be cautious regarding significant reliance on tourism-related income to fund the core management and protection activities for World Heritage, as these do not necessarily constitute sustainable means of funding. Based on the information received, it is not known whether the State Party has responded to the suggestions for improvement, which were made in Decision **44 COM 7B.25** in 2021.

The State Party indicates that determining the ownership of all buildings and spaces within the Jaisalmer Fort is not straightforward, and that this creates issues for the programming of conservation works. It is not clear what possible solutions exist, but it is nevertheless important to continue encouraging the State Party to address this matter.

Efforts for improved visitor management are noted. However, no information was provided about progress towards a full visitor management plan, which would be an important component of the management system for the property. Progress also appears limited in relation to the requested sub-plans for risk preparedness and livelihood generation, although the State Party has summarised relevant issues and indicated the local benefits from tourism initiatives and road improvements. These initiatives are noted, but the establishment of strategic and coordinated approaches could be enhanced through the development of the sub-plans that have been previously requested by the Committee.

It is understood that annual conservation plans are prepared, in line with the National Heritage Policy (2014), although their contents are not described in detail. Similarly, the existence of the five-year action plan for Jaisalmer Fort is noted. The State Party should be invited to submit the next Annual Conservation Plan as well as the five-year plan for Jaisalmer Fort to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies. The fact that works to the Pitching Wall and Bastion no. 38, which started in 2015-2016, are nearing completion should be welcomed, along with the updated information provided about current conservation programmes. Nonetheless, the development of a comprehensive Conservation Plan and a detailed Maintenance Plan, recommended in previous Committee decisions, remain an urgent priority.

The work of the ASI Jodhpur Circle to provide monitoring at the Jaisalmer Fort is welcomed, although the details submitted did not allow to determine whether this meets the monitoring standards for World Heritage properties. A systematic monitoring regime is required, based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the mitigation of key pressures, and the state of conservation of all attributes. If not already in place, this would represent a key component of the management system for the entire serial property.

Finally, the confirmation by the State Party that all development projects within the property and its buffer zones, including conservation and restoration projects, new visitor facilities and major adaptive reuse projects, are subject to HIAs should be welcomed. These should be carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.158

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Notes the updated information concerning the planned and ongoing conservation projects at Chittorgarh Fort and Jaisalmer Fort;
4. Welcomes the State Party's advice regarding the formal inclusion of the Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort within the legal frameworks for the protection

and management of the property, the progress made toward the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and the preparation of annual conservation plans along with a five-year plan for Jaisalmer Fort, and requests the State Party submit the next Annual Conservation Plan as well as the five-year plan for Jaisalmer Fort to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with information on the implementation of the planned actions for Jaisalmer Fort at its earliest convenience or whenever such information becomes available, and in particular concerning:
 - a) The finalisation of the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and details about its legal and operational purview and its priority activities,
 - b) The establishment of the SMP for Jaisalmer Fort under the Town and Country Planning Act, and continuing efforts to clarify the ownership of buildings within the property,
 - c) The development of a sub-plan for visitor management for Jaisalmer Fort, which should be a high-priority activity as an essential part of the property's management system,
 - d) The development of the sub-plan for risk preparedness for Jaisalmer Fort,
 - e) The development of the sub-plan for livelihood generation for the local population, taking into account the need for capacity building,
 - f) Further development of the comprehensive Conservation Plan, taking into account the Technical Review and feedback to be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies following the submission of the Annual Conservation Plan and the five-year Plan for Jaisalmer Fort,
 - g) The development of detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the World Heritage property, based on a clear articulation of its Outstanding Universal Value and attributes;
6. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to conduct Heritage Impact Assessments for all development projects within the serial property and its buffer zones, including conservation and restoration projects, new visitor facilities and adaptive reuse projects, and encourages the State Party to carry out these activities in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context and to request dedicated training on this revised methodology from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, if needed;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

159. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India) (C 1551)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(v)

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/1551/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Low-impact research / monitoring activities (Lack of comprehensive and accurate documentation of the historic buildings of the property)
- Commercial development, Housing (Potential impact of new constructions and development projects on the western section of the property and its buffer zone)
- Management Systems / Management Plans (Lack of effective implementation of the Heritage Management Plan; Incomplete Local Area Heritage Plan; Lack of a visitor management plan)
- Human resources (Need to enrich the Heritage Department at Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation with relevant capacity building and technical capacity)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The documentation of historic buildings has progressed with 500 out of the 2,692 locally listed heritage buildings completed. Priority is given to buildings in most urgent need of conservation;
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are undertaken for all new major constructions;
- The draft Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) has been completed. It incorporates the Local Area Plan (Heritage Zones), Visitor Management Plan and Disaster Risk Preparedness Plan and will be finalised following public consultation. Annexures to the HCP include various relevant legal and policy texts, a report from an archaeological excavation, two HIA reports, timber conservation manual, timber procurement scheme, Urban Design Guidelines and other issues;
- Some issues have been identified arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the population density of the city, although the impacts on OUV are considered to be temporary;
- A number of initiatives have been implemented to alleviate traffic and pollution issues, such as a metro rail network and a new footbridge outside the western edge of the buffer zone;
- Priority has been given to monitoring the neglected 'pol' buildings and it is proposed to introduce penalties for wilful destruction and neglect of listed buildings;
- Two restoration projects have been completed based on Public-Private-People Partnerships: the Dhal Ni Pol Public Realm Improvement Project and the project for Rejuvenation of Lokmanya Tilak Garden Heritage Open Space;

- The State Party has outlined the process for developing the detailed map of the property and advises that this should be completed by 2025;
- Information has been provided about changes to improve the capacity of the Ahmadabad World Heritage City Trust (AWHCT).

On 13 April 2023, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to request additional information and clarification concerning three documents: the Draft Conservation Management Plan, HIAs appended to it and the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines. These were included as annexes of the State Party's state of conservation report and require technical review by the Advisory Bodies. On 10 May 2023, the State Party provided clarification of the three documents. The Advisory Bodies' technical reviews are not yet available at the time of drafting this report.

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

The progress towards the documentation of historic buildings in Ahmadabad is welcomed and constitutes an essential foundation for the long-term conservation and management of the city's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The priority given to the documentation of buildings in urgent need of conservation is supported. The timing for the completion of this work for the remainder of the 2,192 locally registered buildings has been difficult to estimate, nevertheless, the State Party should be encouraged to continue it as a priority, notably the neglected 'pol' buildings. The detailed map of the property is also a vitally important documentation and management tool and is expected to be completed in 2025.

The completion of the draft HCP is also welcomed, noting that it will be finalised following public consultation. The HCP provides an overarching policy framework and incorporates the Local Area Plan (identifying Heritage Zones), Visitor Management Plan, Disaster Risk Preparedness Plan and a number of other guidelines, notably the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines. The World Heritage Centre has requested the State Party to submit the final draft for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is unclear why so many guidelines and reports are included as annexes to the HCP, but they are likely to be useful for the public consultation and demonstrate the efforts made by the AWHCT and Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation to establish an effective management system for the city following its inscription in the World Heritage List. The Urban Design Guidelines have undergone technical review by ICOMOS as these include planting and signage prescripts, which have a bearing on the OUV of the property.

The regular use of HIA for major constructions is noted. ICOMOS has undertaken a Technical Review on the HIA for the proposed Danapith Fire Station, highlighting areas for improvement of this impact assessment and general impact assessment practice. The State Party should be encouraged to consult the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context and to continue to enhance its approach to HIAs. The report that new Public-Private-People partnerships have enabled conservation projects to proceed is welcomed, although it is recommended that HIAs be applied to these projects as well as new major constructions.

Useful improvements to the capacity of the AWHCT are described by the State Party, including the merging of the AWHCT with the Heritage Department of the Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation, and the addition of a GIS analyst. The capacity building initiatives which have begun with local technical professionals and artisans is an important area of ongoing work for the AWHCT.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.159

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.25, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the State Party concerning the progress made in addressing the recommendations for strengthening the management system for Ahmadabad, including the documentation of buildings, work towards a detailed map of*

the property and the completion of the draft Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP), and requests the State Party to amend the draft HCP by continuing to give priority to the completion of these key elements of the management system, including;

- a) The finalisation of the HCP considering the outcomes of the Technical Review by ICOMOS on the final draft,
 - b) Development of an implementation plan and associated financial resources for the HCP, including the Visitor Management Plan,
 - c) The completion of the documentation of historic buildings and structures in the city, particularly the distinctive 'pol' housing,
 - d) The completion of the detailed map of the entire property and buffer zone, planned for 2025;
4. Notes the information provided by the State Party as annexures to the HCP such as the Uniform Monument Specific By-Laws and guidelines for issues such as timber conservation, 2022 Urban Design Guidelines, the strengthening of the Ahmadabad World Heritage City Trust, and the ongoing initiatives to manage pollution and traffic congestion, also requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review on the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines prior to formalising their implementation;
5. Also welcomes information from the State Party demonstrating the regular use of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for new developments in the property and its buffer zone, and encourages the State Party to ensure that:
- a) Conservation works are subject to HIAs, including those established through Public-Private-People partnerships,
 - b) The recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review of the HIA for the proposed Danapith Fire Station are implemented before any construction commences,
 - c) All impact assessments are undertaken following the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

162. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(ii)(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/592/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998 to 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,000,000 under the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign for Borobudur (1972-1983); USD 35,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to provide technical support for the enhancement of the management effectiveness (2005-2006); close to USD 2 million between 2011 and 2020 in the framework of the Emergency safeguarding activities for the Borobudur Temple Compounds implemented by UNESCO Office in Jakarta with funding support from the Federal Republic of Germany and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and other partners.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2003 and February 2006: Reactive Monitoring missions; September 2007 and October 2008: UNESCO expert missions.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ineffectual legal and institutional framework for the management and protection of the property (issue resolved)
- Impacts on the stone of Borobudur Temple from the use of epoxy resin, steam cleaning and water repellents (issue resolved)
- Development projects for tourism facilities
- Works commencing on major projects prior to notification to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/>

Current conservation issues

On 10 March 2023, in response to World Heritage Committee's Decision **44 COM 7B.29**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, along with a Technical Brief towards Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for Borobudur Temple Compounds, the Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP) dated December 2020, the Final Draft of the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP) dated June 2020, an Updated Heritage Impact Assessment dated December 2022 for 11 programs within the Borobudur National Tourism Strategic Area (NTSA), the Borobudur World Heritage Strategic Tourism Development Review, the Plant Species Recommendations in the Borobudur Temple Area, and the Policy Strategy to Develop an Integrated Small Medium Enterprises Center around Borobudur. All these documents are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/documents> and provide the following information:

- The four major development projects consist of (i) the construction of a cultural area gateway containing 2 construction programs, (ii) the arrangement of a cultural axis pathway between Mendut, Pawon and Borobudur temples containing 7 programs, (iii) an arrangement of the Borobudur concourse area and (iv) the relocation of the Borobudur Commercial and Parking Area;
- The four major development projects contain 11 programs, and the updated HIA concluded that 10 out of 11 programs should proceed, subject to major mitigation measures with one proposed construction project determined to have an unacceptable impact on the heritage;
- At the time of preparing the HIA, 8 out of 11 projects had already been completed;
- The Presidential Decree No.1 of 1992, which acts as a basis for the current management, is being updated, aiming to harmonize the management of Borobudur Temple Compounds based on the 2010 law concerning cultural property and the 2007 law concerning spatial management;
- Technical guidance for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) was completed in 2021, and will be updated to incorporate the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- A new development plan for a regional religious centre has been proposed, and a HIA will be required;
- The ITMP and BVMP are being updated to align with the latest national policy and post-pandemic situation;
- The State Party proposes to seek advice and assistance with capacity building from the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to enrich the Management Plan for the property.

The State Party considered inviting an on-site ICOMOS Advisory mission, but no such request had reached the UNESCO World Heritage Centre at the time of preparing the present report.

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

It is of utmost concern that 8 out of 11 proposed development programmes have been completed, despite the Committee's request that work on these projects be paused. It is regrettable that the related documents, including the ITMP BYP, the BVMP and the updated HIA were appended to the State Party's report only after the completion of most of the projects, despite the Committee's request that these documents be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review by ICOMOS prior to their adoption so that they could be revised if necessary, and inform decision-making for the projects that have been completed. Considering the timing of conducting these assessments, these should be considered as EIA/HIA post-project analysis which serve different purposes than an impact assessment. Although most projects have been completed, two projects have not yet commenced. The State Party should be urged to halt these projects until the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies review the submitted documents and opportunities are provided for any necessary changes.

The Borobudur World Heritage Strategic Tourism Development Review, conducted to supplement the updated HIA, indicated that the other HIA conducted by an independent team from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Technology in 2022 clearly stated that "the evaluation results from HIA are unacceptable" for several projects. As the results of this earlier HIA have not been submitted, it is not clear whether the outcomes of this earlier HIA only recommended cancellation of the projects or also made other findings or recommendations such as mitigation measures. The State Party has been requested to provide the full HIA but has declined to do so to date, so the Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the full HIA conducted by an independent team from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Technology in 2022 at its earliest convenience.

Given that the major developments were carried out without the requested review by the Committee or any jointly discussed mitigation measures, they may represent a potential threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to submit information on any proposal that may have an impact on the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, along with any associated impact assessment, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. It is appropriate that the State Party's Technical Guidance for HIAs is to be revised to align with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Heritage Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

It is noted that the ITMP and BVPM, both of which date from 2020, are being updated to align with the latest national policy and post-pandemic situation, and it would be appropriate for the revised documents to be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before they are finalised. It is welcome that the State Party will seek advice and assistance with capacity building to enrich the Management Plan for the property.

It is also noted that the Presidential Decree No.1 of 1992 is being updated, but the progress accomplished with the establishment of an integrated management body for the whole of the Borobudur National Strategic Area, based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010, as previously promised by the State Party, is unclear, especially regarding the inclusion of stakeholders. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the management body should involve relevant stakeholders, including the national and regional governments, private sector partners and local communities, and that the development and operation of the management body should be initiated by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Borobudur Conservation Office.

Based on the above, it is recommended that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be carried to the property as soon as possible to review the state of conservation of the property, assess the existing, cumulative and potential impacts of the finalised, ongoing and/or planned construction projects and of any planned mitigation measures on the property and its OUV, propose any further required mitigation measures, and to consider what advice or assistance might enrich the Management Plan for the property.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.162

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.142**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Deeply regrets that, despite its previous requests, the State Party has completed significant development projects within and around the property prior to submitting the requested Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP), the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP), or the updated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to address the projects' potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Notes that the ITMP BYP and BVMP are to be reviewed to align with the latest national policy and post-pandemic situation, and requests the State Party to submit the updated versions of these documents to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before they are finalised;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the complete HIA conducted by an independent team from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research and Technology in 2022;
6. Notes with utmost concern that eight out of eleven proposed projects have already been completed, and urges the State Party to halt the projects that have not yet been completed until the submitted documents have been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and any resulting recommendations for change have been addressed;
7. Also notes that the Presidential Decree No.1 of 1992 is being updated to harmonize the management of Borobudur Temple Compounds, and requests that the State Party prioritise establishment of the previously promised integrated management body covering whole of the Borobudur National Strategic Area, based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010, which should involve all relevant stakeholders, including the national and regional governments, private sector partners and local communities, and that the development and operation of this management body be initiated by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Borobudur Conservation Office;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible to review the state of conservation of the property, assess the existing, cumulative and potential impacts of the finalised, ongoing and/or planned construction projects and any planned mitigation measures on the property and its OUV, propose any further required mitigation measures, and to consider what advice or assistance might enrich the Management Plan for the property;
9. Further notes that the State Party's Technical Guidance for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is to be revised to align with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and reminds the State Party to submit information on any proposal that may have an impact on the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse and before any further works commence, along with HIAs, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

165. Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 1585)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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/1585/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/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:

- Management system/management plan (need for documentation, monitoring and conservation of historic buildings and other elements no longer in use; need for inventories and documentation of all material heritage attributes)
- Surface transport infrastructure (planned electrification of the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line)
- Governance (full involvement of communities, stakeholders and rights holders)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee in Decision **44 COM 8B.13** is presented in this report, as follows:

- An inventory of stations, workshops and ancillary buildings no longer in use is currently underway, and is reported to be 70% complete. The same applies to the heritage of historic rolling stock, archives and objects associated with the railroad. Rehabilitation or possible reuses will be studied for certain unused or abandoned buildings (eg. ecotourism, catering, sports facilities);
- The architectural inventory and the monitoring of the line in use are ensured by the station master plans, which are being drawn up. They analyze the natural and urban environment, geology, socio-economic conditions of use, station architecture and tourism prospects. Eleven major stations on the southern and northern lines have been documented to date. A number of conservation plans including building restoration work are also being prepared for Sari Station and workshops, Bon Kouh and Haft Tappeh Stations. All restoration work is financed by the Iranian Railways Company;
- The rolling stock inventory is based on standardized cards. Their conservation is to be achieved through a number of museographic actions, including a railway museum in the annexes of the Tehran station. The archives include many illustrated documents as well as buildings, engineering

structures and railway equipment. Associated objects are also inventoried in the form of standardized sheets;

- With regard to the project to electrify the Tehran-Garmsar-Bandar-e Torkaman line, its economic and social necessity is reiterated. It also concerns the signaling system. In terms of impact, two points are made: the existing tunnels are large enough to accommodate the catenary system and will therefore not be modified; the old telephone system will be preserved and occasionally used for educational purposes. A heritage impact assessment (HIA) is planned for the electrification project, in accordance with the required standards;
- Local communities are involved through tourist trains, with scheduled stops in villages and towns to discover their cultural features and local products. It also takes the form of mediation projects, exhibitions and cultural festivals along the line. Improvements to local services are studied, for the benefit of local residents. Annual clean-up campaigns are organized with local authorities. In the various local projects, the preservation of traditional lifestyles is promoted through integrated management of the railroad and the use of the line by certain tribes for their nomadic migrations in the south of the country.

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

The State Party is currently making a significant effort to systematically inventory the constituent elements of its heritage, in the following order: 1) rolling stock, 2) building architecture, 3) documents and 4) objects. However, it is not easy to situate the proposed examples or to get an overview of the inventories carried out. For example, the map on page 5 of the report shows photos of the 14 major railway station sites, but it is not possible to identify either their names or their exact geographical positions. The examples of inventory sheets given are unfortunately not translated into one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Convention.

It should be noted that there is no inventory and monitoring programme for engineering structures. These should be taken into account in the works planned, notably the electrification of the Tehran-Garmsar-Bandar-e Torkaman line. As with the buildings, inventory sheets and a monitoring programme would be required, with a view to heritage conservation.

With regard to the electrification programme, the State Party is invited to carry out, as planned, a HIA including geographical and technical information as well as a visual impact analysis, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, published in 2022. In fact, the visual impact of catenary systems should be documented, in particular at the level of reference structures and historic stations (possible modification of canopies, facades, etc). While the need to modernize a living, functional asset is understandable, it is nevertheless necessary to demonstrate that the impact of the chosen solutions on the authenticity and integrity of the asset is minimal, without calling into question the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) recognized by the Committee.

Documentation for restoration projects is usually fairly general and succinct. The practical cases presented are made up of photos and plans, the precise elements of which are not always clearly identifiable, and are sometimes difficult to understand and read (small and imprecise photos). The examples given of master plans and restoration plans are unfortunately not translated into one of the two working languages of the Convention. The first of the two appendices provides plans for the restoration of the Sari station, with a few photos, but without the slightest heritage study (date of construction, description of uses, old photos, possible transformations, analysis of materials and state of conservation, etc.) or any indication of the restoration choices made in conformity with the authenticity of the attributes (eg. structures, materials, surfaces).

The report and second appendix set out the principle of a railway museum project, to be located at Tehran's main railway station. It is based on a hall that already houses prestigious railway items (the King's train, steam locomotive) and is to be expanded to help collect the old rolling stock still scattered along the line. A proposed network of eight museum sites spread along the line is mentioned (map p.17), but with no indication other than each main theme.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.165

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44COM 8B.13** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to implement the decisions of the Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to consider the following:
 - a) *Ensure, as a matter of priority, the conservation of stations, workshops and buildings in accordance with their historical and heritage values, whether in use or in a situation of reconversion of use, by:*
 - (i) *Completing architectural inventories and master plans for major stations,*
 - (ii) *Carrying out the architectural restoration studies deemed necessary with the active support of heritage conservation architects approved by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, while taking into account the integrity and authenticity of the buildings concerned,*
 - (iii) *Providing examples with more visible illustrations and legible texts,*
 - (iv) *Providing statistical information on what has been achieved, what is planned in the short-term and what is planned for the longer-term, for the entire property;*
 - b) *Set up an inventory of engineering structures similar to that of buildings and stations;*
5. Requests the State Party, when carrying out a Heritage Impact Assessment for the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line electrification project, to ensure that the visual impact of the electrification project is properly documented, in particular at the level of the reference structures and historic stations, and to carry out this study in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context published in 2022;
6. Invites the State Party to pursue the railway museum project in Tehran and its network of interpretation centres along the line, which are of great importance in terms of enhancement and community involvement;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

170. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

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/143/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2014-2022)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the UNESCO Regular Programme Funds for condition survey of Jam Nizamuddin tomb (2011); USD 33,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the Emergency assessment and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012);; two phases of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement' for World Heritage properties in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka also concern this property (Phase I: 2015-2017 – USD 600,065; Phase II: 2019-2022 – USD 769,741).

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2010: World Heritage Centre fact-finding mission to the property following major floods that devastated the area in August 2010; May 2012: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2022 and March 2023: UNESCO emergency missions under the Emergency Assistance

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Earthquake
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Land conversion
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Other climate change impacts
- Solid waste
- Flooding
- Other Threats: Stability of the foundations (earth mechanics) of the Jam Nizamuddin II tomb ; works to the tomb of Isa Khan Tarkhan II

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/>

Current conservation issues

On 21 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Management Plan for the property has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It includes a Mission Statement, as requested by the Committee, but no technical review or comments have been provided. Implementation actions include staff workshops, community

education programmes, deployment of additional security guards, code of conduct, and controls over on-site activities and the monitoring of religious rituals at popular shrines;

- Recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission are being addressed through an action programme. Additional technical staff have been engaged and new visitor facilities provided. Commercial and residential encroachment has been removed and the entry gate has been strengthened. Other projects include the clearing of intrusive vegetation, tree planting, an architectural elements inventory system, visitor information boards, and site documentation. Tasks to be completed include a carrying capacity study, visitor survey and visitor management framework;
- The August 2022 monsoons severely affected the property. Response to monsoon damage remains the immediate priority. Emergency interventions including an emergency response workshop helped to avoid further destruction. Drainage was enhanced. Evaluation of the effects of the flooding is scheduled, and a report will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Local authorities have included cultural heritage protection in their regional disaster plan. The project: 'We Connect Makli' was instigated to provide first aid to the cultural property at the time of disaster and emergency through the local community as part of the ICCROM project: FAR First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, together with the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) Foundation and Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation. Capacity building initiatives include a five-week workshop at Makli in 2022 and online courses provided by ICCROM;
- An action plan for the stabilization and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II was prepared, and prior to its implementation, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. No major conservation work has occurred to the main mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II. However, the floor of the monument in one area was replaced to prolong its life. Components in danger of collapse and been stabilized, and other conservation works have been undertaken;
- Recovery efforts and emergency works are the current focus, so the proposed minor boundary modification has been deferred.

Two emergency missions were conducted under the World Heritage Emergency International Assistance in November 2022 and in February - March 2023 in order to carry out an urgent assessment and provide technical advice for immediate response as well as for elaborating longer-term preservation strategies.

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

The property was already facing significant physical conservation, security and site management challenges when it was hit by severe monsoonal rains in August 2022.

Following the visit of the UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres in Pakistan in September 2022, UNESCO Director-General announced the mobilization of USD 350,000 to help recovering flood-damaged cultural heritage sites in Pakistan. The Committee may wish to appreciate the two emergency missions sent to the property from 23 to 27 November 2022 and from 26 February to 1 March 2023 under the World Heritage Emergency Assistance scheme, which provided rapid assessment and established a roadmap for future recovery actions. The UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund also contributed to include culture and heritage into the [Post-Disaster Needs Assessment](#) (PDNA) for Pakistan.

The response to the impact of the monsoons has been substantive and effective, particularly the urgent response to immediate threats, augmentation of drainage and training of staff in emergency interventions. It would be appropriate for the Committee to encourage the international community to support the State Party, as it continues to respond and undertake longer-term conservation programmes. It would also be appropriate for the existing work on risk and disasters to be expanded into a full risk preparedness strategy and emergency response plan, as previously proposed. The Committee should request submission of the proposed report on the effects of the monsoon flooding, which also presents the action plan and future requirements considering the recommendations of the two emergency missions sent by UNESCO under the World Heritage Fund in November 2022 and February-March 2023. The action plan could include the list of monuments and areas which should be treated as priority, needs and planning for monitoring and documentation, study on the drainage plan, rules to be observed by the visitors, and the update of the Management Plan, including the progress on the disaster risk mitigation plan already under way.

Completion of the Management Plan for the property is welcome. It is however regrettable that the State Party was not provided with technical review at the time that the Management Plan was submitted, but technical comments have been provided since receipt of the State Party report. It would be appropriate for the Management Plan to be revised and updated accordingly, particularly regarding the engagement of local managers. It would also be appropriate to welcome the significant progress that has been made to improve the state of conservation of the property, which has been done through the implementation of recommendations from the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, a range of protection and visitor management initiatives, conservation works, staff training, and community engagement. The previously requested visitor management framework is yet to be completed and would further improve the management of the property.

The State Party and international collaborators have successfully pursued opportunities for staff training, and capacity building programmes. The 'We Connect Makli' project is particularly welcome and relevant to current risk and damage responsiveness.

The action plan for the stabilization and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. In late 2022, the State Party sought comments on a proposal to renovate the main gate at the property and preliminary advice has been provided by ICOMOS. It would be appropriate for the State Party to submit full documentation, including architectural details, materials schedules and visualizations for review, prior to commencement of works in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The State Party has repeated its previous general advice regarding works to provide waterproofing of the mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II but has not addressed the specific request from the Committee about the appropriateness of the works. Additional information regarding the reasons for installation of such extensive areas of new paving, whether the historic pavement was documented, the use of different sized pavers and the functionality of the new system have also not been provided. This information should be requested again.

The deferral of the previously requested proposal for a minor boundary modification is reasonable, given the circumstances of the monsoon damage, but this matter has been under consideration since 2013, and should be pursued at the earliest opportunity.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.170

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.35** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Expresses its profound compassion to the State Party on the impacts of the August 2022 monsoons on the World Heritage property, as well as its loss in human lives and livelihoods, welcomes the response and recovery efforts undertaken, and calls on the international community to support the State Party as it responds to the immediate threats, undertakes longer-term conservation programmes and further addresses risk preparedness and emergency response planning;*
4. *Expresses its appreciation for UNESCO's two emergency missions funded through Emergency International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to the property in November 2022 and February - March 2023, as well as the support through Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) to integrate evaluation on culture and heritage into the Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) of Pakistan after the August 2022 monsoons;*
5. *Suggests that the State Party consider the recommendations of the two abovementioned UNESCO emergency missions in preparing a report assessing the damage from the August 2022 monsoon, and presenting short-, medium- and long-term action plans and*

related financial and technical requirements in preserving monuments and areas, which should be treated as priority, conducting monitoring and documentation, studying on the drainage plan, rules to be observed by the visitors, and the update of the Management Plan, including the progress on the disaster risk mitigation plan already under way;

6. *Welcomes the completion of the Management Plan for the property, including the requested Mission Statement and requests that the Management Plan be revised with regard to the comments and findings of the recent technical review, particularly to address engagement of the local managers, and then re-submitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
7. *Welcomes the progress made with implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, the protection and visitor management initiatives and conservation works undertaken at the property, the staff workshops, stakeholder engagement and community education programmes and urges the State Party to continue with its action programme and to complete the proposed risk preparedness strategy and emergency response plan, and the visitor management framework and to submit these documents and the proposed report on the effects of the recent monsoons, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Welcomes the 'We Connect Makli' project, the training programmes and capacity building initiatives that have been undertaken and encourages the State Party and collaborating agencies to continue to identify opportunities for staff to benefit from national and international capacity-building programmes, in particular for risk preparedness and disaster response, management, stone conservation, and conservation of moveable heritage and detached architectural elements;*
9. *Takes note of the submission of the action plan for the stabilization and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II;*
10. *Takes note of the plans to renovate the main gate at the property and also requests the State Party to submit documentation including architectural details, materials schedules and visualizations, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement of works in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
11. *Reiterates its previous request that the State Party submit additional information about the works carried out to provide waterproofing of the Mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II, including particularly the reasons for the installation of such extensive areas of new paving, whether the historic pavement was documented, the use of different size pavers and the functionality of the new system;*
12. *Notes the deferral of the proposal for a minor boundary modification to be prepared in line with Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines and reflecting the boundaries identified in 2013, along with a regulatory plan for the proposed buffer zone, but further requests that this proposal be prepared and submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity;*
13. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

171. 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 <https://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 <https://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)
- Need for long-term solution to control the flow of heavy rainwater (issue resolved)
- Ground Transport Infrastructure (Proposed project to build the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge)

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

Current conservation issues

On 17 March 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report along with the Revised Conservation Management Plan (CMP) of Intramuros, Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessments (AIA/HIA) and Comprehensive Site Development Plan of the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge (BIB) project. The report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/documents/>. Progress with conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented as follows:

- Construction of the BIB project commenced in 2019 and the bridge was inaugurated on 5 April 2022. It is located on the north edge of Intramuros, in the buffer zone of the property, approximately 550 m away from the San Agustin Church component of the property;
- The revised HIA concluded that throughout the construction period and now that the project is completed, no immediate and direct physical impact has been observed, and the project has not caused any damage to San Agustin Church. However, the HIA highlights concerns that the larger volume of vehicular traffic will result in increased vibration and air pollution, which will have serious effects on the property.
- Therefore, the HIA concluded that mitigation measures should be implemented to minimise adverse impacts and protect the attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including its authenticity and integrity;
- The CMP has not been revised, but additional information is provided, including a Traffic Management Plan (TMP), a Heritage Risk Assessment Plan for Intramuros, and Interpretation and Visitor Management Plans;
- The revised Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) was conducted only through literature review, without additional archaeological excavation;
- Regarding the proposed reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo, the HIA indicates that there is no immediate plan to proceed in view of the impacts, including demolition of two historical buildings: Plaza Mexico and the Bureau of Immigration. However, the AIA indicates that the Baluarte de Santo Domingo is to be reconstructed;
- Communication activities have been conducted with stakeholders and general public, and their engagement opportunities have been secured.

The State Party's report also notes the findings of technical assessments, including the effects of earthquakes, particularly the 27 July 2022 north-western Luzon earthquake, and the associated recommendations.

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

It is regrettable that the BIB project was completed without changes to the design or location, nor consideration of cancelling the project, as requested by the Committee in Decision **43 COM 7B.74**. Project documents, including the updated AIA, HIA and CMP, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review by ICOMOS only after the completion of the project.

Despite the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review, the AIA was only updated in a limited way, without archaeological excavation. Therefore, the BIB project may have impacted remains of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo and the Maestranza Wall.

Although the updated HIA concluded that no immediate and direct physical impact has been observed on San Agustin Church, including during the construction period, significant potential indirect and long-term impacts caused by growth in traffic volume are identified. Therefore, as recommended in the HIA, it is necessary to implement mitigation measures such as traffic rerouting, imposing vehicle load limits, removing the carpark in front of the church, closing the surrounding streets and roads of the property to vehicles, creating pedestrian areas, conducting structural assessments, and organizing regular monitoring and maintenance work to San Agustin Church and on its surrounding heritage assets that support the OUV of the property. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the monitoring results to enable assessment of the effectiveness in mitigating adverse impacts on the OUV of the property.

The BIB stands on the perimeter of the buffer zone – Intramuros, and therefore, several surrounding assets have been visually affected. However, no mitigation measures for this effect presented, nor considered necessary in the HIA. Given that the BIB project is complete, the Committee may request the State Party to consider mitigation measures and submit a plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Committee may also request the State Party to provide further information regarding a proposed larger heritage development plan for the Intendencia. The submitted documents provide inconsistent information regarding the reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo. While the updated HIA sees difficulties considering its effect on Plaza Mexico and the Bureau of Immigration Building, the updated AIA indicates the possibility of reconstruction. The State Party might be invited to offer a clarification and should be reminded to inform the World Heritage Centre of proposals that may impact the OUV of the property, and to submit project documentation including an HIA, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.171

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.149, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the various communication activities with stakeholders and general public undertaken by the State Party;*
4. *Notes with concern that the construction of Binondo-Intramuros Bridge (BIB) project was completed without change to its design and location nor consideration cancelling the project despite the Committee's previous requests, and regrets that the State Party did not submit requested documentation for this project, including updated Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for review, as requested by the Committee, prior to construction works proceeding;*

5. *Notes that the updated HIA concluded that no immediate and direct physical impact has been observed on San Agustín Church including during the construction period, but also notes with concern the significant potential indirect and long-term impacts arising from growth in traffic volume identified through the HIA process, and therefore requests the State Party to implement mitigation measures and to submit a report on these measures and monitoring results, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to assess the effectiveness of mitigation against adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
6. *Regrets that the BIB has impacted the overall extended setting of the property in the buffer zone and extended setting of the property, and therefore also requests the State Party to consider further mitigation measures and submit a plan for implementing these measures to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide further information regarding the proposed, larger heritage development plan for the Intendencia and to clarify the current status of the potential reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo, and reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any project that may impact the OUV of the property, and to submit project documentation including an HIA, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

175. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland) (C 1321rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

176. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

177. The Great Spa Towns of Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1613)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

178. Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace (Azerbaijan) (C 1549rev)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

179. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

180. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95ter)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

181. Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries: *Stato da Terra* – western *Stato da Mar* (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro) (C 1533)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

184. Le Havre, the City Rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

185. Nice, Winter Resort Town of the Riviera (France) (C 1635)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

186. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

187. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii) (iv) (v)

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/1066/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2012: ICOMOS Advisory mission; May 2022: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a Master Plan for the sustainable development of the property (issue resolved)
- Potential impacts of the Rhine crossing project
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (traffic increase)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Input of excess energy (noise pollution)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Renewable energy facilities
- Management System/Management plan
- Quarrying

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in May 2022 (mission report available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/documents/>).

Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 29 November 2022, which is available at the above-mentioned link, and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The revision of the Management Plan has reached its final stages and following the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, the further development of the attribute mapping will be part of the concluding drafting phase. The State Party plans to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre by the end of 2023;
- A regional impact assessment for the planned permanent river crossing is being prepared, which will lead to a decision by the relevant authorities and will form the basis for a planning approval procedure, which will include the planning of its specific design. The planning approval procedure will be closely coordinated with World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
- A number of noise control measures for the rail roads within the property have already been put in place in recent years and seeking further measures will continue in the coming years. An alternative new railway section has been considered in the 2030 Federal Transportation Infrastructure Plan, and a related feasibility study has been commissioned and is underway;
- An 'Expert Report on the Exclusion Zones for Wind Turbines Outside the Buffer Zone of the Upper Middle Rhine World Heritage Site' has been commissioned to provide a basis for decision-makers regarding the proposals for the construction of wind turbines outside the property. This document will become part of the planning framework in Rheinland-Palatinate. In Hesse, the 'länder' government plans to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the adverse impact of wind turbines through the implementation of regional planning requirements. The impact of existing wind turbines in the wider setting of the property has also been assessed using the methodology of the 'Exclusion Zones' document;
- Updates were provided on the projects planned or being implemented on the Loreley Plateau (the visualisation of the rock crystal at the top of the Hall of Myths building referred to in the State Party report, has not, to date, been received by the World Heritage Centre). Although the original plan for a new hotel complex was cancelled and the project was put on hold in 2021, it will now resume. The compatibility of a new plan with the World Heritage values is planned to be ensured through the developed attribute mapping, the new Cultural Landscape Compatibility Study and the results of the Heritage Assets Map for the Loreley Plateau. A design competition is planned to take place in 2023 to integrate the Loreley Landscape and Cultural Park into the plans for the 2029 National Horticultural Show (BUGA 2029);
- Information was also provided on further projects that might have an impact on the OUV of the property. These include the latest information on the permanent operation of the cable car in Koblenz, the planned redevelopment of the Koblenz brewery quarter and the listed Löhnberger Mill building complex and site at Lahnstein, a planned grade-separated intersection between the B42 national road and railway track no. 3507 in Rüdesheim, a planned local bypass in Braubach, the potential expansion of the Sooneck quartzite open pit mine in Trechtingshausen, and the planned modernization or replacement of existing moorings in the river Rhine.

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

The 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that there are currently no major threats to the OUV of the property, its authenticity or integrity. It did however note a negative evolution related to changes that is already discernible and could lead to a serious degradation of the OUV. The Committee may therefore wish to request the State Party to implement the recommendations of the mission in a timely manner.

The dedicated work and progress made in updating the Management Plan for the property is noted with satisfaction, as well as the development of additional supporting tools developed to protect and preserve its OUV. Among the recommendations of the 2022 mission that the State Party should be encouraged to implement are the review and further development of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property and the development of a sustainable tourism strategy for the property. The State Party will

need to continue ensuring that an adequate management of the property extends also to its buffer zone and its wider setting. The final draft Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption.

The conclusions of the regional impact assessment and the related decision for the planned permanent river crossing will need to be communicated to World Heritage Centre together with the planned specific design as the basis for a planning approval procedure. The State Party is to be encouraged not to take any irreversible decision on the final plans prior to the joint review and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It is important that only a design that would not threaten the property's authenticity and integrity and the protection and preservation of its OUV is implemented.

The efforts made by the State Party to reduce railway noise levels are welcome, but it should be urged to give priority to the diversion of freight train traffic from the property.

The 'Expert Report on the Exclusion Zones for Wind Turbines Outside the Buffer Zone of the Upper Middle Rhine World Heritage Site', provides a comprehensive tool for consistently handling already implemented and planned projects in the property's buffer zone and wider setting. This report will be integrated into the planning framework in Rheinland-Palatinate, and it has led to the strengthening of related regional planning requirements in Hesse, but a unified planning system for the for the entire property is still required.

The 2022 mission reported that the Culture and Landscape Park on the Loreley Plateau has so far been constructed in a fairly respectful manner to the OUV. The replacement of the planned four out of five crystal rocks with natural stone steles is welcome. The mission advised, however, that the fifth crystal rock should not be placed on the top of the Hall of Myths building, but rather that a flat skylight should be installed, and the crystal rock placed inside the building. As plans for a new hotel on the Loreley Plateau are due to resume, the State Party needs to be reminded of the Committee's request to develop a spatial framework for the future use of the area that supports the OUV of the property before any new proposals are developed, which should be evaluated through an impact assessment process at the early planning stages. The spatial framework, plans and assessments should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review with the Advisory Bodies.

Concerning the BUGA 2029 and the other projects planned and implemented, the State Party should be requested to consider the outcomes and implement the specific recommendations of the 2022 mission related to these projects and to continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the status of these projects. With regard to the planned redevelopment of the Löhnberger Mill building complex and site in Lahnstein and the planned modernization or replacement of the existing moorings in the river Rhine, the Committee should request the State Party to submit detailed plans with accompanying impact assessment documentation to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available for review with the Advisory Bodies and before any decisions on their implementation are taken.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.187

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.83** and **44 COM 7B.155**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the conclusion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission of May 2022 that there are currently no major threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, its authenticity and integrity, but that a negative evolution related to changes is already discernible and could cumulate to a serious loss of values and degradation of the OUV, and requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations in a timely manner;*

4. Notes with satisfaction the dedicated work and progress made in updating the property's Management Plan, as well as the development of tools to protect and preserve its OUV, encourages the State Party to revise and further develop the attributes that convey the OUV of the property in line with the retrospective Statement of OUV and other research resources, and to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that an adequate management system of the property extends also to its buffer zone and its wider setting,
 - b) Submit the final draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;
5. Further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the conclusions of the regional impact assessment and the related decision for the planned permanent river crossing over the Rhine, as well as the planned specific design that will form the basis of a planning approval procedure, to the World Heritage Centre and not to take any irreversible decisions on the final plans until to the conclusions and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies' review are known,
 - b) Not to approve any design proposal for the planned permanent river crossing over the Rhine that would threaten the property's authenticity and integrity and the protection and preservation of its OUV;
6. Commends the State Party for developing a comprehensive tool to assess the impact of existing and planned wind turbines in the buffer zone and wider setting of the property, which provides the basis for establishing exclusion zones for these facilities and a framework for spatial planning, but regrets that a harmonised legislative tools for the entire property has not been developed as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.83**;
7. Also encourages the State Party to finalise the Hall of Myths building with a flat skylight and to place the planned crystal rock inside the building;
8. Notes with regret that the plans for a new hotel on the Loreley Plateau are planned to be resumed, and reminds the State Party of its previous request to:
 - a) Develop a strategic spatial framework for the future use of the area, tested through an impact assessment, that supports the OUV of the property before any new proposals are developed,
 - b) Ensure that an impact assessment process is conducted at the early planning stages of any new hotel project, and to submit the related plans to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review with the Advisory Bodies, accompanied by supporting documentation that ensures that the plans are compatible with the World Heritage status and the outcomes of the impact assessment;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to consider the outcomes and implement the specific recommendations of the 2022 mission in relation both to the 2029 Federal Horticultural Show and other specific projects planned and implemented, including the Koblenz Cable Car, the 'Koblenzer Brauerei' area and the Summer Bobsleigh Run next to the Loreley Landscape, while continuing to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the status of these projects;
10. Requests moreover the State Party, in relation to the plans for the expansion of the Sooneck open pit quartzite mine, to consider approving the proposal only after it has

been reviewed the Advisory Bodies, together with the corresponding impact assessment which should be conducted in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context;

11. *Further encourages* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed plans for the planned redevelopment of the Löhnberger Mill building complex and site in Lahnstein, as well as for the planned modernization or replacement of the existing moorings in the river Rhine as soon as they become available, together with the corresponding impact assessment documentation, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
12. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

188. The Porticoes of Bologna (Italy) (C 1650)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iv)

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/1650/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/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 revise the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone(s)
- Management and institutional factors (ensuring that all components have the highest level of protection available, and the need to strengthen the management system of the property)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented in that report, as follows:

- The report provides an overview of the results of bibliographical and archival research on the Municipal Statutes of 1288 and other subsequent ordinances, which corroborates the importance of the portico as an ordering element in the development of the city;

- Five new decrees that reinforced the legal protection of some component parts of the property have been adopted. In addition, provisions included in the 2021 General Urban Plan of the Municipality of Bologna have strengthened the protection of the property;
- A dedicated office, comprising of five people, has been set up within the Municipality of Bologna to act as the coordinating body for the management of the property, both internally and externally;
- Regarding the implementation of the management plan, the State Party informs that 60% of the expected actions have been completed, an additional 30% have commenced, and a new list of actions has been drawn up;
- The State Party notifies three development projects (i.e., the new Tram line, the restyling of the Dall'Ara Stadium and the functional restoration of Modernissimo Movie Theatre) that it would like to discuss during the Advisory mission. Two other projects (i.e., the restoration and structural consolidation of the Ospedale dei Bastardini and the reopening of the Roman Theatre) are also mentioned.

On 18 January 2023, the State Party invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist with the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and particularly with the revision of the boundaries of the property. While this revision is already under way, the State Party expressed its wish to discuss the adequateness of the delineation of some of the component parts, with a view to submitting a minor boundary modification in the future. The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission took place from 12 to 16 June 2023.

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

The State Party has started to address all the key recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription. The invitation of an Advisory mission to assist in the implementation of those recommendations, and in particular to help revise the boundaries of the property, is welcomed. This mission took place from 12 to 16 June 2023.

The State Party has provided a summary of the research which has been carried out in relation to the role that the Municipal Statutes of 1288 had on the relationship between public and private spaces in the medieval city. It is unclear if this research has been completed or will continue, and how the findings produced so far have been used to inform the revision of the provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV).

The efforts made by the State Party to strengthen the legal protection of all the component parts of the property are to be commended. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the highest level of legal protection available should extend to the entire area covered by the component parts and is therefore closely interlinked with the revision of the boundaries.

The creation of the dedicated office (called *Portici Patrimonio Mondiale* Office) to oversee the management of the property is also welcomed. It would be important for the roles and responsibilities of this office to be clearly formulated, particularly in relation to other actors with responsibilities in the management of the property, namely the Steering Committee and other departments within the Municipality.

Considerable progress seems to have been made in implementing the project actions included in the Management Plan. It is noted that the table of actions in the report submitted by the State Party shows some discrepancies with the table included in the Management Plan submitted with the nomination dossier. The State Party should be encouraged to implement the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for integrating urban heritage protection with the urban development plans and processes. Several actions that were originally expected to continue until 2024 are now considered completed. The State Party identified a new list of projects for implementation in the medium term. It is recommended that a precise timeframe be defined for their implementation, in order to assess the progress made.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory mission are foreseen to assist the State Party in the revision of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone(s), and in revising the SOUV, as well as enhancing its protection and management system. The mission will also assess the measures undertaken by the State Party to address any impacts of development projects on the OUV of the property, and whether further action is required.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.188

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.41**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online 2021),
3. Takes notes of the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription and notes with satisfaction the creation of a dedicated office for the management of the property;
4. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist in the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, particularly the revision of the boundaries of the property, with a view to submitting both a revised draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) and a minor boundary modification request in the future, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen the management and monitoring of the property and to ensure that all component parts that constitute the property benefit from the highest level of protection available, and considers that such protection must extend to the entire area covered by the component parts and also encourages the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as a tool for integrating urban heritage protection with urban development plans and processes;
6. Invites the State Party to submit further details of planned projects to the World Heritage Centre, and requests the State Party to ensure that all projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are subject to impact assessments before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, as required by Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

189. Venice and its Lagoon (Italy) (C 394)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (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/394/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Programme for the Safeguarding of Venice: since 1966 more than 1,500 projects worth over 50 million euros (mainly conservation and restoration projects)

Previous monitoring missions

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

2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/RAMSAR Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Concern over the announcement of a universal exhibition in Venice (*issue resolved*)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Inadequate planning tools
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation, including damage to building fabric and cultural context, through conversion of residences for tourist accommodation or commercial use
- Proposals for large infrastructure, navigation and construction projects (including new offshore platform, new terminals, tourist port, high-rise buildings and large leisure facilities) in the Lagoon and its immediate setting
- Potential negative environmental impacts triggered by motorboats, cruise ships and oil tankers
- Management and institutional factors/Governance/Challenges in co-ordination between the multiple government and non-government institutions involved in conservation, tourism, management and regulation
- Climate change and severe weather events/Climate Change impacts on the Lagoon ecology and built fabric

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/documents/>. In addition to responding to Decision **44 COM 7B.50**, the document refers to actions related to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/RAMSAR Advisory mission. The report provides information on the following:

- Several projects are underway or have been implemented in relation to urban redevelopment, regeneration (including cultural heritage conservation) and social cohesion;
- A specific high-water barrier has been constructed to protect the San Marco's Basilica, and the 'elevation of the entire San Marco insula' is planned;
- Progress has been made in enhancing tourism management tools, public urban spaces and housing opportunities for residents;
- The banning of large ships from the San Marco Basin – Giudecca canal is still in force. Three temporary landing stages have been built for large passenger ships in the Marghera area, and an additional landing stage is underway in Chioggia. Ships now use the Malamocco – Marghera channel to enter the Lagoon, for which a study is underway to assess the environmental impact of boat traffic;

- The port authority has launched an open competition for proposals and projects related to the construction and management of docking points outside the Lagoon, which can be used by passenger ships of more than 40,000 gross tons and container ships used for transoceanic transport;
- The update of the Management Plan is still in progress and was reportedly expected to be completed by spring 2023. Issues related to the governance and management system of the property and the establishment of a buffer zone are to be addressed in this context;
- Recovery interventions after the exceptional high tide in November 2019 continue. While the risk prevention system is improving, more frequent and higher magnitude high tide events have been recorded (on 22 November 2022, the highest level of the Adriatic Sea in history was recorded);
- The MoSE System is operational (it was used in 20 cases in 2021-2022) but is still not completed. Modernization and maintenance work are still needed to make the system fully functioning. A managing authority is to be appointed in the future. Environmental compensation interventions are planned;
- The 'Morphological Plan of the Venice Lagoon' and the related 'Sludge Protocol' are still being updated. Within the Metropolitan City of Venice, eight municipalities linked to the property have approved their 'Water Protection Plans';
- A 'Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan' for the City of Venice is being finalised and will be sent to the World Heritage Centre before its completion. Similar documents have already been developed for six municipalities linked to the property and for several more in its wider setting;
- Initiatives and projects are planned or being implemented to improve the ecosystem of the Lagoon, including initiatives to introduce innovative and sustainable industrial activities in the Marghera port area;
- The Municipality of Venice and the Ministry of Culture have launched a project to develop a World Heritage-focused Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for plans and projects, and consultation sessions among the main stakeholders have already started. The list of interventions to be submitted to the HIA was confirmed in November 2022 and the HIAs are reportedly expected to be completed in spring 2023 and shared with the World Heritage Centre. This process should also facilitate the development of the pending Integrated Master Plan and the skyline policy. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) transpose the specific EU directives on EIAs and SEAs, and plans/projects are regularly subjected to these based on regulation by the competent bodies at national, regional and local levels, depending on the type of plan/project;
- Following the prohibition on the construction of new liquified petroleum gas (LPG) storage facilities, legal regulations have been issued to provide compensation for projects already authorised. These measures will extend to the owner of the LPG storage facility in Chioggia;
- A table is provided in annex to the report with corrective measures suggested by the State Party, with a timetable for implementation;
- A note is provided by 'SAVE SpA', the operator of the Marco Polo International Airport in Venice, as an annex to the report, expressing objections to the relevant findings and recommendations of the 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/RAMSAR Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/RAMSAR Advisory mission.

Following the last session of the Committee in which the Committee requested the State Party to '... develop a proposal on a set of corrective measures with a timeframe for their implementation, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session,' (Decision **44 COM 7B.50**) in the course of 2021-2022, the World Heritage Centre (in its letters dated 29 September 2021, 28 June and 20 December 2022) repeatedly requested updates from the State and offered its assistance in the development of the corrective measures. The World Heritage Centre also transmitted third party information on planned projects within the property and its wider setting that might have a negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The State Party did not respond to the invitation to collaborate in the elaboration of the corrective measures and, in response to the various correspondence from the World Heritage Centre, provided a brief report on 14 February 2023, in which it informs that the project for the transformation of historic buildings on the island of San Pietro di Castello, which has been the subject

of concerns from third parties, is not currently approved, and that the proposed projects for a new railway line to Venice airport, a new intermodal land-water terminal for fast boats connecting the islands of Burano-Mazzorbo-Torcello to the mainland, two new arrival platforms in Venice at San Giuliano and Pili, and a high-rise building project in Mestre are all currently undergoing assessment through an HIA.

The State Party provided updated information to the World Heritage Centre on 26 April 2023, confirming that a decision had been taken to dismantle the LPG storage facility in Chioggia and that a HIA procedure was still ongoing for 12 projects at different stages of planning, including some of which have received planning approval, situated within the property and its wider setting.

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

The State Party reports progress on several issues of concern to the Committee, as well as efforts to start implementing several of the recommendations of the 2020 Advisory mission. The cultural heritage conservation activities should be acknowledged, as well as the completion of the works on the temporary barriers to protect the San Marco Basilica and the surrounding area from high-water occurrences which are not managed by the MoSE. The State Party should be requested to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed documentation on the works planned to elevate the entire San Marco insula.

The reported achievements related to sustainable tourism management by regulatory changes and management tools are positive, but the efficiency of the progress made (especially in reducing the outstanding number of tourists in the property) seems to be low or unknown.

The continued ban on large ships in the San Marco basin - Giudecca canal is appropriate, and the search for new options should be noted. The Committee should request that the result of related studies (on the environmental impacts of large ships passing through the Malamocco-Marghera canal) and the outcome of the competition (for docking points outside the Lagoon for large passenger ships and container ships) be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review and comments by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made.

The continued recovery work following the exceptional high tide in November 2019 should be noted with satisfaction. Efforts related to the creation and reinforcement of tide barriers and the reconstruction and consolidation of beaches and coastal dunes should be also noted, as should the development of advanced tidal forecasting technology. Nevertheless, the State Party should be encouraged to continue research into the evaluation of existing, predicting and modelling of future phenomena related to climate change and its current and potential impacts on the OUV of the property. In this regard, the works to make the MoSE system fully operational and to ensure its long-term operation and maintenance should be paired, as requested by the Committee, with close monitoring (jointly by all relevant stakeholders) of the impacts of the construction and operation of the system, and the continued development of appropriate measures to mitigate any negative impacts it might have on the ecosystem of the Lagoon. In this respect, the Committee should confirm that details of the monitoring, action plans and documents relating to the morphological conditions of the Lagoon, sustainable energy use and impacts of climate change, are all still awaited by the World Heritage Centre.

Improved coordination between the different stakeholders managing the property is also noted, as well as the availability of financial resources (mostly earmarked or project-based) dedicated to enhancing the protection and management of the property, including the ecosystem of the Lagoon, and to improving the ecological condition and reducing the polluting emissions of the industrial area of Marghera.

The efforts of the State Party to update the Management Plan and make it an integrated plan for the property can be acknowledged. The plan should also include measures for the future buffer zone, and, on completions of its final draft, it should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption so that the resulting recommendations can be reflected in its final version. The State Party should also again be urged to resubmit a revised minor boundary modification request (responding to the requests made by the Committee in its Decision **43 COM 8B.46**) for the establishment of a buffer zone. It is, however, to be noted that while the State Party reports improvements (resources allocated, projects and measures planned or implemented) on outstanding issues examined by the Committee, it is often unclear whether these apply to the World Heritage property or, in general, to the Metropolitan City of Venice (which comprises 43 municipalities, nine of which are directly linked to the area of the World Heritage property).

Information related to the proposed development of World Heritage focused HIAs for a range of interventions should be acknowledged. However, it is observed that the State Party is unable to fully comply with the Committee's request to halt all newly proposed large-scale projects within the property and its setting until a set of measures related to planning, management and governance are put in place

as some of these projects have already been approved. In addition, regarding the evaluation of impacts of developments and changes, the State Party needs to be reminded to integrate measures that ensure the protection and preservation of the OUV of the property in the EIA and SEA processes and be urged to give priority to the finalisation of the property's Management, the Integrated Master Plan, and the skyline policy, which need to support decision-making and guide any future development. Specific World Heritage focused impact assessments need to be carried out if no other impact assessment procedure is in place to consider the impacts of planned or proposed projects (within the property and its wider setting) on the OUV. Finally, it is of concern that the State Party has not been communicating in a sustained and substantive manner with the World Heritage Centre between the last Committee session in 2021 and the submission of its state of conservation report in 2022, as requested by the Committee, and that it did not engage in consultation to developing the corrective measures. The proposed corrective measures, as annexed to the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party, are currently insufficient and not detailed enough and should be subject to further discussions and exchanges.

The effects of the continuing deterioration due to human intervention, including continuing development, the impacts of climate change and mass tourism threaten to cause irreversible changes to the OUV of the property. Some of these long-standing issues have already led to the deterioration of the inherent characteristics of the property and its attributes, especially related to its cultural and social identity and integrity. Implemented and planned small- and large-scale changes, developments, particularly high-rise buildings which occur predominantly within in the wider setting of the property (in its potential future buffer zone), are likely to have significant negative visual impact on the integrity of the property. Moreover, the combined effects of human induced and natural changes (due to sea level rise, extreme weather events and other climate change induced phenomena) are causing deterioration and damage to build structures and urban areas, and threaten the integrity of the cultural, environmental and landscape attributes and values of the property. Many of these issues, which individually represent threats to the OUV of the property, but which also have a cumulative adverse impact, remain unresolved or only temporarily addressed. This is demonstrated by the lack of significant progress in addressing the complex issues affecting the property as evidenced by the limited reported achievements in implementing the Committee's decisions and past mission recommendations. The resolution of these long-standing but urgent issues is further hindered by a lack of overall joint strategic vision for the long-term preservation of the property and low effectiveness of integrated coordinated management at all stakeholder levels. All these factors combined lead the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to maintain their view that the property continues to face ascertained and potential danger as defined in paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore, recommends its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is hoped that such inscription will result in greater dedication and mobilisation of local, national and international stakeholders, for the development of effective and sustainable corrective measures that address these long-standing issues.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.189

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.27**, **40 COM 7B.52**, **41 COM 7B.48**, **43 COM 7B.86**, **43 COM 8B.46** and **44 COM 7B.50** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to implement previous Committee decisions and several of the 2020 mission recommendations, including:*
 - a) *Continuing enhancing tourism management tools, public spaces, and public housing possibilities,*

- b) *Improving coordination between the different stakeholders to enhance the protection of the ecosystem of the Lagoon and reduce the polluting emissions from the industrial area of Marghera,*
 - c) *Creating and reinforcing tide barriers, and the reconstruction and consolidation of beaches and coastal dunes, as well as the development of advanced tidal forecasting technology,*
 - d) *Reconfirmation of the ban on large ships from the San Marco Basin - Giudecca Canal and the continuing efforts to find new options for docking large ships outside the Lagoon,*
 - e) *Still ongoing update of the Management Plan, as well as the development of World Heritage-focused Heritage Impact Assessments for a set of projects;*
4. *Considers nevertheless that significant progress still needs to be made by the State Party in addressing ascertained and potential dangers due to individual threats and their cumulative impact, and therefore requests the State Party, as a matter of priority, to:*
- a) *Continue research on the evaluation of existing phenomena, prediction and modelling of future phenomena related to climate change and its current and potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and develop related action plans,*
 - b) *Fully complete and operationalise the MoSE system and ensure its long-term management and maintenance including through establishing with urgency the proposed management authority,*
 - c) *Ensure close joint monitoring by all relevant stakeholders of the impacts of the MoSE system (construction and operation), and continue developing appropriate measures to mitigate any negative impacts it might have on the ecosystem of the Lagoon,*
 - d) *Submit the results of related studies on the environmental impact of large ships passing through the Malamocco-Marghera canal and the competition for docking points outside the Lagoon for large passenger ships and container ships to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made, furthermore, to continue to prioritise the option of redirecting large ships to other more suitable ports in the region as a final solution,*
 - e) *Continue submitting action plans and documents related to the morphological conditions of the Lagoon and sustainable energy use to the World Heritage Centre for review and comments by the Advisory Bodies*
 - f) *Continue working towards a sustainable tourism model for the property and developing efficient strategies and measures that will reduce the exceptionally high number of visitors to the property, significantly improve the quality of life of the residents and the requalification of urban areas to their former residential use, as well as creating a more diverse resilient economic basis for future of the property and its inhabitants;*
5. *Also notes the information provided on the construction of temporary barriers to protect the San Marco Basilica and the surrounding area from the high-water phenomena not managed by the MoSE, and furthermore requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, detailed documentation on the works planned to elevate the entire San Marco insula, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any irreversible decision being taken and implemented;*
6. *Also considers that a strategic long-term vision for the long-term preservation of the property has yet to be established, and that integrated coordinated management at all*

stakeholder-levels needs to be further strengthened, and therefore urges the State Party to:

- a) *Finalise the updating of the Management Plan with adequate measures for the future buffer zone as well, and develop in parallel an Integrated Master Plan and a skyline policy for the property,*
 - b) *Integrate measures in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines that ensure the protection and preservation of the OUV of the property in the planning, Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes, and ensure that specific World Heritage-focused impact assessments are carried out if no other impact assessment procedures are in place to consider the impacts of planned or proposed projects within the property and its wider setting,*
 - c) *Establish processes in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines for submitting planned/proposed changes and projects to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner for review by the Advisory Bodies and ensure that impact assessment processes and the Management Plan support the relevant decision-making,*
 - d) *Resubmit a revised minor boundary modification request for the establishment of a buffer zone, responding to the requests made in previous Committee decisions;*
7. *Further considers that reported large scale development projects that are currently being investigated for implementation in the property hold potential, individually and cumulatively, to have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and therefore expresses concern that these projects, when implemented, will add to the continuing deterioration effects of human intervention, climate change impacts and mass tourism, which threaten to result in irreversible change, and substantial loss of historical authenticity and cultural significance, which are an integral part of the OUV of the property;*
8. *Regrets that the reported achievements in the implementation of previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations do not reflect a significant level of progress in addressing the persistent and complex issues related in particular to mass tourism, development projects and climate change, which are causing deterioration and damage to building structures and urban areas, degrading the cultural and social identity of the property and threatening the integrity of its cultural, environmental and landscape attributes and values, therefore considers that the property continues to face ascertained and potential danger from individual threats and their cumulative impacts which together have deleterious effects on the inherent characteristics of the property, **decides, in accordance with Paragraphs 177 and 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe Venice and its Lagoon (Italy) on the List of World Heritage in Danger and calls on** the State Party to ensure the utmost dedication and joint efforts of local, national and international stakeholders to address these long-standing problems in an effective and sustainable manner;*
9. *Further considers that the corrective measures proposed by the State Party are still insufficient and need to be further developed, and therefore also urges the State Party to establish, while continuing to implement previous Committee decisions and recommendations of the 2020 Advisory mission, a structured consultation process with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and an adequate set of corrective measures with a timetable for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and specifically a progress report on the development of the DSOCR and the revised set of corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.

190. City of Valletta (Malta) (C 131)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

191. 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 <https://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 <https://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 Management System/Management Plan
- Inadequate legal framework
- Building and development (accelerated urban development and urban pressure)
- Ground transportation infrastructure (proposed major bridge at Verige and other proposed development projects)
- Lack of buffer zone (*issue resolved*)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/>

Current conservation issues

On 8 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/> and presents the following progress:

- A study was prepared by the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Properties of Montenegro on the protection of cultural properties to inform amendments to the Municipality of Tivat's Detailed Urban Plan (DUP) for Lepetani village and the Urban Plan (UP) for the Lepetani Tourist Zone;
- The Municipalities of Kotor and Tivat are taking forward plans to designate the Vrmac hill as a protected nature park. A public consultation on a draft protection study, prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency, has taken place and is informing a revised proposal that will be sent to the Government for adoption;
- The State Party has ensured that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were prepared for a number of proposed projects located in the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, of which they submitted for technical review those for tourist facilities in Muo, Orahovac, Risan and Herceg Novi; a business centre in Škaljari; and residential projects at Prčanj, Dobrota and Tivat;
- HIAs have been requested for numerous other proposed construction projects located in the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, namely at Risan, Morinj, Dobrota, Stoliv, Kotor, Orahovac, Prčanj, Škaljari, Muo, Strp, as well as for the Verige Bridge project and the tourist complex proposed for the Luštica-Montrose peninsula;
- The State Party has sent a number of notifications in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, regarding actions proposed for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, including visual analysis of the Dub-Kuk section of the proposed cableway from Kotor to Cetinje and numerous projects planned for Sveti Marko Island;
- Consent was given for the reconstruction and expansion of the Hotel Teuta on the basis of revised plans that took into consideration ICOMOS' recommendations to reduce the negative impact of the existing hotel on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

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

Progress has been made on some of the Committee's recommendations, but it remains a concern that a series of documents requested from the State Party have not been submitted, making it difficult to accurately assess progress in improving the property's management system. While acknowledging the delay caused by the pandemic and political changes at both national and local levels, it is of particular concern that the revision of the Management Plan has not been completed since the 2018 joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and it is recommended that this is prioritised. In addition, the Management Plan should be integrated into the evolving legal framework, particularly in anticipation of the challenges of tourism management and the potential impacts of major tourism infrastructure projects.

Moreover, a robust planning framework, based on World Heritage commitments, needs to be put in place to effectively address the increasing development pressure in and near the property. Although the updated HIA for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments seems to have been completed and is currently under institutional review, it has not been shared with the World Heritage Centre, nor made publicly available. Information from third parties, which has been provided to the State Party for comment, indicates that the 2017 Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures no longer envisages the preparation of spatial plans by municipalities. In addition, information was provided that the moratorium on new construction ended in 2020. Clarifications from the State Party on these issues is awaited.

The State Party has listed a large number of projects proposed within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. Several of these have been subject to technical review by the Advisory Bodies, together with relevant HIAs. The construction of the Muo Hotel has been assessed as having a negligible potential impact on the OUV, as has the residential complex proposed for Dobrota – although in the latter case the accommodation seems to cater more to the needs of tourists than local residents. The 'Anchor Centre' at Škaljari and the four villas at Prčanj, while not problematic in principle, would require design improvements before approval. Two different hotels proposed for Orahovac were assessed as having minor/moderate negative impacts on the OUV. This latter case emphasises the urgent need for the planning framework to be completed, given the large number of projects proposed and their cumulative impacts which can be highly significant. In addition, indirect impacts of construction projects, such as those potentially favouring increased tourism (e.g., the Luštica peninsula road), need to be given greater consideration in both individual HIAs and strategic planning decisions. For example, the Committee already requested information on developments associated with the new Luštica peninsula road and the

multiple projects being proposed in that area need to be assessed both individually and in terms of their cumulative impacts.

Meanwhile, it is also noted that some more sensitive projects have been approved without any information being provided in advance to the World Heritage Centre, as requested, such as the three stone quarries in the buffer zone that were authorised following HIAs. More recently, in the light of additional information received on this issue, the World Heritage Centre invited the State Party to comment on the existence of three quarries and plans to open three more, and to provide the corresponding HIAs. In view of the serious potential negative impact that quarries can have on OUV, the exact location of all quarries and their potential impacts need to be better understood. It also seems important to review the relevant sections of the Spatial Urban Plan adopted by the Municipality of Kotor and other planning documents to ensure that the proposed quarry locations are adequately considered in future with regard to World Heritage protection.

In light of all of the above, the State Party is requested to continue to ensure that information on all proposed projects is provided in advance to the World Heritage Centre, including any relevant HIAs. This relates to information on projects already requested in previous Committee decisions and the 2018 mission report, as well as on any new proposals that have the potential to affect the OUV. It would be beneficial for impact assessment teams to refer to the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* to better integrate World Heritage considerations into future impact assessments and subsequent planning decisions.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.191

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.51, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for a number of developments and the provision of information on various proposed projects, and encourages the State Party to continue to improve the HIA process and to give particular consideration to the indirect and cumulative impacts of the many projects being implemented, in the light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property and the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;*
4. *Expresses concern about the slow pace of revision of the Management Plan and requests that it is completed as a matter of priority, incorporating the recommendations of the 2018 Joint Reactive Monitoring mission so that it becomes a fully operational instrument for the efficient management of the entire property and its buffer zone, with binding policies and provisions endorsed at national and local government level within the changing legal framework, addressing the following issues in particular:*
 - a) *Development issues, in harmony with the Spatial urban Plan for Kotor Municipality,*
 - b) *The conservation of the tangible and intangible attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other values,*
 - c) *Disaster risk reduction,*
 - d) *Tourism management, including issues related to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that tourism could have on the property;*
5. *Notes that the moratorium on new construction and development ended in 2020 and urges the State Party to renew it until a complete suite of planning and protection measures are in force to satisfactorily accommodate possible sustainable developments*

within the sensitive landscape of the area and prevent any impact on the cultural and landscape values of the property;

6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the following documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity:*
 - a) *The updated HIA for Natural and Culturo-Historic Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments,*
 - b) *The Detailed Urban Plan for Lepetani and the Urban Plan for the Lepetani Tourist Zone,*
 - c) *The buffer zone study to define areas in and around the property where an impact assessment should be required for potential projects,*
 - d) *An HIA for the Verige Bridge project,*
 - e) *Documentation on the proposed underpass near Kotor old town and the planned developments associated with the Luštica peninsula road, even if these have already been authorised,*
 - f) *The revised project for the Morinj accommodation complex,*
 - g) *The detailed spatial plan under preparation for the conversion and construction of a hotel complex on the former Fjord Hotel site and the Jugooceanija building,*
 - h) *Relevant documentation on any other projects proposed in the property, buffer zone or wider setting that may have a potential negative impact on the OUV, such as the projects proposed on the Sveti Marko Island and the projects located on either side of the entrance to Kotor Bay;*
7. *Further expresses concern about quarries which were recently permitted in the buffer zone of the property, and about plans for future quarries, requests the State Party to provide as a matter of urgency to the World Heritage Centre precise maps indicating the exact location of these quarries, as well as the relevant sections of the adopted Spatial Urban Plan of the Municipality of Kotor with reference to quarries, and advises the State Party to immediately halt any further projects until an Impact Assessment has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Further requests that the planning for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting be carried out in the light of the State Party's commitment to protecting the property's OUV and be informed by a strategic approach to impact assessment that considers the potential cumulative impacts of proposed projects; and requests furthermore that decisions to authorise new developments should only be taken where it is clear that negative impacts on OUV will be avoided;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2024**, 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 46th session.*

192. Dutch Water Defence Lines (Netherlands) (C 759bis)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

194. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Pöland) (C 1165)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

195. Tarnowskie G6ry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland) (C 1539)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

196. Royal Building of *Mafra* – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (*Tapada*) (Portugal) (C1573)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (iv)

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/632/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; April 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poor state of conservation of the monastic irrigation system
- Management System/Management Plan (lack of finalized Master Plan)
- Inadequate coordinated management between national, local and religious authorities (*issue resolved*)
- Lack of appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration, management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest (*issue resolved*)
- Inappropriate location of the planned Museum Complex (*issue resolved*)
- Construction of an airport building (*issue resolved*)
- Air transport infrastructure (*issue resolved*)

- Interpretative and visitation facilities (issue resolved)
- Legal framework (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/documents>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Ministry of Culture is finalizing the documentation necessary to have the Solovetsky Archipelago designated as a religious-historical site under federal law;
- Detailed attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are to be defined, following which the draft Master Plan will be adjusted to ensure compatibility with these and the religious-historical site designation;
- Following approval of the Master Plan, a Management Plan will be prepared;
- Repair and restoration of the buildings and structures of the main monastery and *sketes* on Muksalma and Anzer Islands are being promoted by the Solovetsky State Historical, Architectural and Natural Museum-Reserve with approval of the Solovetsky Museum, Solovetsky Monastery and the Russian Orthodox Church, and with the support of the Ministry of Culture, which licensed specialised contractors;
- Restoration of the 18th century Nikolskaya tower (Cathedral Bell Tower) to allow the hanging of a new set of 23 bells has been completed, as has the restoration of the 19th century St. Herman's Chapel, including reconstruction of its iconostasis based on historical photographs, while restoration and adaptation of the monastery's power plant, seaplane hangar and vegetable storage facility are underway;
- Conservation surveys will be undertaken on the foundations of the fortress wall;
- Restoration of parts of the main island's hydrological systems is being planned based on scientific and design documentation;
- Extensive landscape surveys will be used to update the inventory of sites, views, landscape modifications, lost routes, etc. as a basis for sound conservation;
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) have been introduced for new constructions;
- Studies of 'lost' monastic sites of religious significance (temples, chapels, bow crosses, the monastery's economic activities, etc.) will be carried out and, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, will aid in the preparation of a reconstruction (restoration) concept;
- Restoration project for the derelict Preobrazhenskaya Hotel (incorrectly referred to as the 'St. Peterburg Hotel' in the previous state of conservation report) is being adjusted to reflect additional studies and, once completed, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

On 12 May 2022, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting comments on third-party information in relation to reported changes to the legal status of some elements of the property. At the time of preparation of this report, no reply has been received from the State Party.

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

Progress towards the designation of the property as a religious-historical site is welcomed. This approach was supported by ICOMOS missions to reinforce the conservation of the archipelago as a living sacred cultural landscape with intertwined culture/nature/people processes. The detailed landscape inventories that have been undertaken are also welcomed, including studies of 'lost' monastic sites and areas related to former economic activities. The proposed reconstruction (restoration) concept for these sites should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The Master Plan for the settlement part of the archipelago is nearing completion. As the State Party finds the term Master Plan difficult to translate, it would prefer the term Development Strategy, as this

implies a strategy for spatial development whereas Master Plan translates as a General Plan for planning and development. To ensure equivalence with other properties, it is suggested that 'Master Plan (Development Strategy)' be used in state of conservation reports and 'Development Strategy', locally.

The Master Plan (Development Strategy) will define an integrated approach to preserving and reviving the key historical spatial elements of the cultural landscape, including the network of monastic roads, dikes, lake and canal systems and agricultural landscapes. Once finalised and approved, a management plan will be developed.

All restoration projects are now supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Solovetsky Museum, Solovetsky Monastery and the Russian Orthodox Church, and are undertaken by contractors who are licensed by the Ministry. This approach is welcomed.

The extensive list of projects undertaken over the past two years includes routine conservation work, emergency repairs and large-scale projects such as the extensive restoration of the Cathedral Bell Tower, adaptation projects for the 19th century monastic power plant, the seaplane hangar and an airport development project. For all these large projects, the State Party has been in dialogue with ICOMOS, and technical reviews have been provided. In 2022, ICOMOS provided technical reviews on the possible reconstruction of St. Onuphrius' Church and a new waste management facility, and in 2023 on the conversion of the Soviet-era vegetable storehouse and the redesign of the museum building.

At its 40th session in 2016, the Committee requested the State Party to halt work on the construction of a major museum building in light of the adverse impact this project would have on the OUV of the property, to demolish what had already been built and to submit new proposals. Under the current plans, the existing half-built structure will be reduced to one storey, covered with a grass roof and screened by new trees planted to minimise light pollution. This creative approach is commendable and results in an acceptable, if not ideal, building that does not impact adversely on the OUV. The solution should be seen as a one-off solution, appropriate to these circumstances.

A start on the scientific documentation necessary to support the restoration of those parts of the main island's hydrological systems that present serious problems is welcome. Covering some 52 lakes and several kilometres of canals, this single system dating mainly from the 15th and 16th centuries underpins the cultural landscape of the main island, supplies water for the monastery from the Sacred Lake and once provided power for mills.

It is noted that HIAs have been introduced for all new constructions. These should also apply to major restoration projects and, when submitted, should include proposed plans.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.197

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.159**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes progress towards the designation of the property as a religious-historical site, to reinforce conservation of the archipelago as a living, sacred, cultural landscape with intertwined culture, nature, people and process and strong intangible associations; and requests the State Party to clarify that this designation will protect all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Appreciates concerns over the translation of the term 'Master Plan' and agrees that in future, this will be referred to as 'Master Plan (Development Strategy)' in state of conservation documents and as 'Development Strategy' locally;*
5. *Notes that the Master Plan (Development Strategy) is nearing completion for the settlement part of the main island, reiterates its request for this to be submitted to the*

World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before final approval, and further notes that a Management Plan will be developed once the Master Plan (Development Strategy) has been approved;

- 6. Also welcomes the process that is now in place for major restoration projects which involves support from the Ministry of Culture, Solovetsky Museum, Solovetsky Monastery and the Russian Orthodox Church and the use of contractors licensed by the Ministry, and requests the State Party to submit details of major conservation projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in advance of work commencing;*
- 7. Notes the extensive list of projects that have been undertaken over the past two years, including routine conservation work, emergency repairs and large-scale projects, welcomes the dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as well as the ICOMOS technical reviews, which have been provided, and encourages the State Party to take into account their recommendations;*
- 8. Commends the creative proposals to re-shape the half-built museum building, in response to the Committee's request at its 40th session to halt work, demolish what had already been built, and submit new proposals, and considers that the submitted plans, which reduce the existing half-built structure to one storey, cover it with a grass roof and screen it with planted trees, result in an acceptable, if not ideal, building that does not impact adversely on the property's OUV, but recalls that this is an appropriate solution in these circumstances;*
- 9. Further welcomes the collection of scientific documentation for the restoration of parts of the main island's hydrological systems which present serious problems, underlines the crucial impact of this single system of 52 lakes and several kilometres of canals, dating mainly from the 15th and 16th centuries, on the cultural landscape of the main island and on the supply of water to the monastery from the Sacred Lake, and welcomes the commitment of the State Party to take into account the recommendations of the missions and the advice of ICOMOS experts as this project develops;*
- 10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the proposed reconstruction (restoration) concept for the 'lost' monastic sites and areas related to former economic activities, once it has been developed and before its implementation;*
- 11. Further notes that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) have been introduced for all new construction, encourages the State Party to extend this measure to major conservation projects, appreciates the detailed HIAs which have already been provided, and requests that in future such assessments for major restoration projects as well as for new construction be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, accompanied by copies of the proposed plans, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
- 12. Reiterates its request that details of the repair and restoration project of the largely destroyed, early-19th-century Preobrazhenskaya Hotel be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest stage possible, considering its prominence near the Monastery;*
- 13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

198. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

See Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add.2

199. Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea (Russian Federation) (C 1654)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iii)

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/1654/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/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:

- Boundaries of the two components of the property and their buffer zones to be modified
- Legal protection of the two components of the property and their buffer zones to be completed
- Management (centralized management system to be established, Management Plan to be approved, conservation plan and a monitoring programme to be established, Tourism Strategy and Risk Preparedness Plan to be developed, research strategy linked to conservation plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 January 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- As part of the legal designation of the property in the *State Code of Especially Valuable Properties of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation*, properties must already be designated as cultural heritage sites of federal significance. This process is ongoing for six sites within the White Sea component and five sites within the Onega Lake component. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and management restructuring, these procedures have been delayed but should be completed within the first half of 2023;
- Regarding a centralized management system, in November 2021, a Petroglyphs of Karelia Unit was established at the National Museum of Karelia. An independent State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia was planned to be established before the end of 2022. It will be tasked with the coordination and management of the two components of the property, with a branch for each component;
- A revised Management Plan (2021-2027) was approved at the first meeting of the Coordination Council for the management of the property. The Plan has short-term (2021-2022), medium-term (2023-2024) and long-term (2025-2027) programmes. Details are provided on a conservation

monitoring programme. A Risk Management Plan for the property is included along with a detailed interdisciplinary Research Plan, linked with conservation strategies;

- In 2022, a digital documentation system was developed, which provides a range of information on the petroglyphs, maintenance and conservation history, management, visitor flows and maintenance of protection processes;
- Progress is reported on the development of a tourism strategy for the property. However, government agencies responsible for tourism development at both regional and federal levels have been closed, resulting in delays;
- The State Party notes several activities aimed at improving the visitor experience in the White Sea component, in particular at the Zalavruga site;
- In January 2022, the State Party submitted revised maps of the modified boundaries of the two components and their respective buffer zones, along with a progress report on the establishment of two Remarkable Places of Federal Significance covering the buffer zones.

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

Progress has been made in relation to some of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations. Useful clarification has been provided regarding the Risk Management Plan and the Research Plan. However, important elements of the recommendations have not been fully addressed and require further work.

In relation to legal protection, the process of protecting the property by including it in the *State Code of Especially Valuable Properties of Cultural Heritage* should be completed in the first half of 2023. However, the State Party states that 'cultural heritage sites in the territory of the Russian Federation inscribed to the World Heritage List are automatically included to the State Code'. It is thus recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify the situation regarding the legal protection of the property.

As requested, the State Party, in January 2022, submitted revised maps of the modified boundaries of the two components and their respective buffer zones. ICOMOS reviewed the maps and advised that they are adequate. Additional documentation on the petroglyph sites located within the proposed boundaries was requested to complete the Nomination dossier. Noting that the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List under Criterion (iii) refers to the petroglyphs and the related archaeological sites, detailed information should be provided on the archaeological sites that have been included in the revised property boundaries to understand the full range of attributes of the property and how they underpin its Outstanding Universal Value.

Formal establishment of a centralized management system is welcomed. The Committee may wish to recommend that the establishment of the State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia is confirmed and that a detailed review is provided of its progress in implementing the short- and medium-term programmes of the Management Plan.

It is noted that while some aspects of the management system appear robust and progress has been made in some areas, the Management Plan needs to be strengthened. For example, in response to World Heritage Committee's recommendations, implementation dates are provided in the accompanying Action Plan, but otherwise deadlines are to be determined 'on the basis of a dynamic approach to management planning'. The conservation monitoring programme is not linked to a detailed conservation plan and limited detail is provided on the establishment of baseline data and monitoring indicators.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as a matter of priority, an augmented and strengthened Management Plan and associated Action Plan, including the new documentation system, comprehensive Conservation, Risk Management and Research Plans (noting that the latter two have been provided) and a visitor/tourism strategy, which include details of baseline data and monitoring protocols for conservation work, risk assessment, visitor satisfaction, community involvement and broader environmental indicators. The Committee may also wish to recommend the use of Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 in this process.

Draft Decision: 45 COM.7B.199

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B. 44**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party and requests as a matter of priority that it:
 - a) Confirm that the entirety of the two components of the property have been afforded the highest legal protection by being included in the State Code of Especially Valuable Properties of Cultural Heritage of the Peoples of the Russian Federation,
 - b) Provide detailed information on the archaeological sites that have been included in the two components of the property,
 - c) Confirm the establishment of the State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia;
4. Also requests the State Party, to build on the establishment of a centralized management system and submit an augmented and strengthened Management Plan and associated Action Plan, to include:
 - a) A full Conservation Plan as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach, with associated detailed action plan and dedicated resources,
 - b) The Risk Management and Research Plans,
 - c) A visitor/tourism strategy,
 - d) Details of baseline data and monitoring protocols for conservation work, risk assessment, visitor satisfaction, community indicators and broader environmental indicators,
 - e) Details of how the new digital documentation system underpins the management system;
5. Further requests the State Party to monitor developments around the property that may have an impact on its landscape, integrity and archaeological potential, and assess these through impact assessments based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and in accordance with Paragraphs 110, 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.

200. Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences (Spain) (C 1618)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)(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/1618/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/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:

- Management and institutional factors (including the need for developing and implementing the full monitoring system, completing the documentation, and listing of the historic buildings, establishing an adequate buffer zone, enhancing the role and independence of the Civic and Social Board and developing an interpretation strategy)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous session is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Madrid City Council uses a geospatial data analysis system called GEOPORTAL as a basis to monitor the property. The portal displays various layers of geo-referenced information, primarily from the City Council's open portal, as well as from other institutions located within the property;
- The documentation of all historical buildings within the property is reported to be completed;
- The State Party submitted new maps showing the definitive delimitation of the property and establishing its buffer zone;
- A project is currently underway to improve the quality of the public space of the Paseo del Prado, including the pavements;
- The listing of some of the buildings has not been completed yet;
- A logo and visual identification for the property have been developed;
- Efforts are underway to recognise the Civic and Social Board as an association independent from the City Council.

On 16 September 2022, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre about the demolition of an existing building and the construction of a care building and underground parking in the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital within the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. ICOMOS provided a Technical Review for the project proposal, which was transmitted to the State Party by the World Heritage Centre on 30 November 2022.

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

The State Party has implemented some of the Committee's recommendations and has begun to address the remaining ones.

The geospatial data analysis and visualisation tool used by the Madrid City Council is noted. This software displays various layers of geo-referenced information, such as demographic indicators, socio-economic indicators, and mobility indicators, which are foreseen to be expanded over time. While this type of information is relevant to the management of this urban area, an effective monitoring programme for the property needs to focus on gathering information on the state of conservation of the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, to detect changes over time. It is therefore recommended that the State Party continue its efforts to develop a monitoring programme based on a specific set of indicators linked to the property's OUV, which support integrated management and can alert when actions are required.

The new boundary map for the property shows that for the most part, the entire plots at the edge of the property have been included. The submitted map of the buffer zone shows that it coincides with the area of the Historic Centre, as defined in the General Urban Development Plan of Madrid. Accordingly, a minor boundary modification request has been submitted for consideration by the Committee.

Information on the project to improve the public space of the Paseo del Prado, including the quality of the pavements and street furniture, and to reduce road traffic is very brief, without indicating a project timeframe. Similarly, the information on the studies related to the impact of the intensive use of the property, environmental sustainability and the impact of climate change is not detailed enough to judge their appropriateness. The State Party should be invited to share more details in this regard with the World Heritage Centre.

The annexed report on the legal regime and the listing of buildings implies an extensive and complex process. The State Party should be requested to continue its efforts to address the legal difficulties identified to finalise the listing of the remaining buildings.

The report does not provide adequate level of information to understand how the reported initiatives and activities relate to a comprehensive interpretation strategy. It is also noted that the State Party is using a different title for the property for its promotion (i.e., the Landscape of Light), which is not related either to its official title or to the values that supported its inscription on the World Heritage List.

The efforts to transform the Civic and Social Board, established originally as a body under the City Council, into an independent association could be noted and the State Party is to be encouraged to continue finalising this process and ensuring that this body functions in an efficient manner for community engagement.

Concerning the project at the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital, ICOMOS considered in its Technical Review that the proposal, in its current design is likely to have negative effects on the property, considering its architectural design and the additional traffic caused by the increase in available parking spaces. The Committee should therefore request the State Party to reconsider the urban and architectural design of the new building and to drastically reduce the number of parking spaces.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.200

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.21**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online 2021),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the progress made by the State Party in clarifying the delimitation of the property and the submission of a request for a Minor Boundary Modification for the creation of a buffer zone to be examined by the World Heritage Committee under Item 8 of the Agenda of this session;*

4. *Notes the existence of GEOPORTAL as basis for a monitoring system for the property and encourages the State Party to strengthen this tool and develop a set of indicators clearly linked to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes of the property that foster integrated management and can alert when actions are required to preserve its state of conservation;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide further details on the projects and studies being developed to improve the public space in the Paseo del Prado, to address the issues related to intensive use and the effects of climate change;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to resolve the legal issues in order to finalise the listing of buildings, with a view to completing this process within a short period of time;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to develop a comprehensive interpretation strategy for the property as a whole, which is clearly based on its OUV and presents and promotes its title as adopted by the Committee at the time of inscription;*
8. *Also encourages the State Party to take the necessary steps to establish the Civic and Social Board as an independent association that might function in an efficient manner for community engagement;*
9. *Urges the State Party to reconsider the urbanistic and architectural design of the new building of the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital project, and to significantly reduce the number of parking spaces foreseen, before the project is approved for implementation, and to resubmit the revised design plans to the World Heritage Centre prior to taking any decisions that may be irreversible;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.*

201. Aphrodisias (Türkiye) (C 1519)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(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/1519/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need to revise the Management Plan
- Lack of legal protection for the entirety of the buffer zone
- Need to integrate the local community into the management system for the property
- Slow implementation of the drainage rehabilitation plan within the walled city
- Lack of a fire response plan
- Need to expand the patrols by the agricultural guards to include the quarry component and the whole of the buffer zone (*issue resolved*)
- Need to conduct a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces to provide a baseline record of their condition (*issue resolved*)
- Need to implement corrective conservation measures within the quarry component (*issue resolved*)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Studies were initiated to support the revision of the Management Plan;
- Biannual monitoring of the quarry component continued in 2022, with a team who surveyed the site using key indicators to measure the state of conservation of the quarry, including the quarry faces, the ancient graffiti and waste blocks. In particular, a new photogrammetric 3D model of the quarry faces was created and compared with 2018 data used as a baseline in order to detect any changes;
- Excavations are underway to document the ancient water system and inform the water drainage rehabilitation plan. Ancient drainage channels (in front of the Sebasteion Propylon and leading to the southwest) have been cleaned in preparation for their reuse in case of flooding. Additional excavation started in 2022 at the location of the first of two caissons planned for the lowest area of the site, in order to process flood water;
- A fire prevention plan has been prepared for the archaeological site, which includes a fire vulnerability and risk assessment, together with the identification of mitigation and risk preparedness actions. Actions currently being implemented include mobile water tanks, vegetation management, video surveillance and annual health and safety training.

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

While progress has been made on some of the Committee's recommendations, it is of particular concern that two key issues have not been addressed and require further work:

- First, the Management Plan has not yet been sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The 2014-2018 Management Plan needed a substantial update, including revisions to reflect adjusted boundaries and protection measures, as well as current management and conservation conditions. This was first recommended by the Committee at the time of inscription and was requested as a priority following its review of the 2021 state of conservation report. However, this work is apparently still at a preliminary stage with studies to inform the Management Plan having only been initiated;
- Second, there seems to have been no progress on the issue of providing legal protection to the entire buffer zone. While the State Party reports that this will be reviewed by the Aydın Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties, it seems that no developments have occurred since the last state of conservation report.

In other areas, the State Party can be commended for the progress made. For example, ongoing monitoring of the quarry component takes place biannually and has recorded results against key indicators going back to 2014, which show positive trends in the state of conservation. In addition, a second 3D model has been created for comparison to the 2018 baseline. The results seem to confirm that, overall, the state of conservation is sound, with no visible stability problems. Consequently, the remedial conservation measures recommended by the Committee do no longer appear to be necessary.

However, construction activity close to the main quarries, where no visible change until 2022 had occurred, needs to be detailed by the State Party. It is noted that the fire prevention plan is now completed, with actions already being implemented at the archaeological site component; although this has not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested.

Further progress has been made on the drainage rehabilitation plan, including excavations to understand and clean parts of the ancient water drainage system that could be reused, as well as excavations at the location of the first of two new caissons which will serve to help manage flood water. The emphasis on archaeological checks prior to any drainage work is commendable and the State Party should be encouraged to continue to implement the drainage plan. However, with regard to the related sewer and infrastructure works, which took place within the buffer zone, the situation has only been partially clarified. The State Party confirmed that this work was considered compulsory and was assessed by the Aydın Regional Conservation Council of Cultural Properties, under the supervision of the Museum Directorate. However, the way in which this assessment was carried out has not been addressed in the report submitted by the State Party. The State Party should ensure, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines respectively, that any project assessment is based on a clear understanding of its potential impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and draws on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that project proposals, which may have such an impact, are communicated to the World Heritage Centre, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.201

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 44 COM 7B.55, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Expresses its concern at the lack of information on new activities that may have been undertaken since the last report submitted by the State Party in response to the Committee's decisions and of details of progress made since then;*
4. *Takes notes of the progress made by the State Party and requests it to continue working on the issues identified at the time of inscription and beyond by:*
 - a) *Revising, as a matter of priority, the Management Plan and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption,*
 - b) *Providing appropriate legal protection for the entire buffer zone by considering the extension of the 3rd Degree Conservation Zone to encompass all of the buffer zone,*
 - c) *Continuing to implement the drainage rehabilitation plan, with appropriate archaeological supervision,*
 - d) *Submitting the fire prevention plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre details on the location and the characteristics of the new buildings that have occurred close to main quarries, including informing the World Heritage Centre on how their impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was assessed;*
6. *Reminds the State Party that infrastructure projects within or around a World Heritage property should be assessed on the basis of its potential impact on OUV and draws on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that*

the World Heritage Centre should be informed in due course before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines respectively;

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

202. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye) (C 1622)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iii)

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/1622/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1622/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:

- Management System/Management Plan: Improve conservation and management system
- Management System/Management Plan: Clarification of extent of archaeological features and buffer zone delineation
- Buildings and Development: Proposed new roof shelters

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1622/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1622/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property in 2021 (Decision **44 COM 8B. 22**) is presented in this report as follows:

- A detailed Conservation Plan with protocols, priorities and procedures is being developed, which was to be finalized by the end of 2022;
- Detail is provided of the management system structure, local management roles and responsibilities and decision-making processes, including risk assessment. A site manager, has been appointed and approved by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism;
- All developments in the buffer zone (the A3 area in the local Conservation Development Plan) are supervised and controlled by the Malatya Metropolitan Municipality Bureau of Conservation Implementation and Supervision of Cultural Assets (KUDEB);
- Maintenance and repair work has been carried out on the existing shelter and temporary roof. These improvements have halted to a large extent the soil flow from high excavation section faces. A pilot project involving the use of nets has begun to secure such section faces. Work is

ongoing on designing the new roof shelter and rainwater drainage project. An updated version of the project will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, along with the additional information and documents requested by the World Heritage Centre in August 2022;

- Geophysical surveys were carried out in 2022 to assist in determining the extent of archaeological features in the buffer zone to the north and west of the property;
- Photographic documentation is ongoing, and there is a record of this process going back 60 years. A monitoring system has been established to detect differences and changes in structures and objects;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is being prepared for the proposed new visitor centre. The assessment will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Following the devastating earthquakes that struck the provinces of Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Şanlıurfa and Malatya in February 2023, the State Party of Türkiye informed the World Heritage Centre on 7 and 23 February 2023 that collapses had been observed in the property in some places of the temporary roof cover as well as shearing in the adobe walls of the mound. At a meeting held on 27 April 2023 between the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Permanent Delegation of Türkiye to UNESCO and UNESCO, it was confirmed that urgent works would concern: repairing the temporary roof; stabilising/protecting the slopes to protect the excavations in progress; repairing the 'excavation house', which had also been damaged. At the time of writing, the project specifications and cost estimates for the work had not been submitted to UNESCO for consideration of technical and/or financial assistance.

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

Progress has been made on some of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription and useful clarification is provided, for example on the management system for the property. The appointment of a site manager is noted. However, some important elements of the Committee's recommendations have not yet been fully developed.

In relation to the Conservation Plan, useful details on measures to develop conservation and maintenance skills in the monitoring, maintenance and conservation of the adobe structures at the property are provided. The Conservation Plan will focus on protocols, priorities and procedures. However, there is no mention in the State Party report of the critical issue of the inclusion of a cautious strategy for anticipated archaeological research and excavations. This is a key issue for developing a sustainable conservation strategy for the property. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to submit the Conservation Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption.

Useful detail is also given on local management roles and responsibilities, and decision-making processes. While there is some discussion of risk preparedness, the urgent need for a comprehensive risk assessment and risk preparedness plan is highlighted by the February 2023 earthquakes. The property is located within the severe/very strong impact zone of those earthquakes, close to the East Anatolian fault line. Hundreds of buildings were reported as collapsed in the city of Malatya, 5km to the southwest of the property, where excavated materials are stored and exhibited in the Malatya Archaeological Museum. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee, as a matter of priority, request the State Party to submit a comprehensive risk assessment and risk preparedness plan, including details of baseline data and monitoring protocols, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The detail provided of the proposed new roof shelter and the associated rainwater gutter and drain system is helpful. It is noted that urgent repair work was carried out in September and October 2022. In the context of the preparation of additional documents requested, further work was undertaken which indicated a need to make changes to the overall roof shelter project. The State Party has committed to submitting the revised version of the project when it is completed to the World Heritage Centre. It is further recommended, in line with its previous recommendation, that the World Heritage Committee request clarification on the state of conservation of excavated areas not covered by the shelter system, areas beyond the present protective shelter and any intention to extend excavations to the south and east of the palace complex.

It is noted that design for the new visitor centre, south of the property, in the buffer zone has started. In addition, the report from the State Party mentions that a lot adjacent to the visitor centre has been allocated as a 'social facility' area. It is also noted that while the maximum height for buildings in the A3 Area (buffer zone) is 6.50m, the maximum height for the visitor centre and social facility is 7.50m. It is

recommended that the World Heritage Committee request that the proposed HIA cover both the visitor centre and social facility, that be carried out in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and that it be submitted, together with the details of these projects, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.202

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision 44 COM 8B. 22, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Expresses its solidarity with the State Party of Türkiye and its people for the devastating effects of the earthquakes that took place in February 2023, assures the State Party of the availability of the Convention assistance mechanism to support affected World Heritage properties and invites the State Party to call upon them;
4. Takes note of the progress reported by the State Party and requests that it continues working on the issues identified at the time of inscription of the property, giving priority to the completion, and submission of the relevant documentation for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before adoption, of:
 - a) The conservation strategy and plan, specifically including a cautious strategy for anticipated research and excavations, that determines protocols, priorities and procedures for all forms of conservation, excavation and maintenance interventions needed for the property,
 - b) A comprehensive risk assessment and risk preparedness plan, including details of baseline data and monitoring protocols, and the use of periodic photographic documentation,
 - c) A revision of the current management plan with specific reference to the conservation plan and strategy and the risk preparedness plan;
5. Also notes the State Party's reports on planned archaeological, conservation and interpretation projects and its commitment to submit the revised design of the project for extension and alteration of the new roof shelter and rainwater drainage project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its implementation, and further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Continue to undertake survey work to determine the exact extension of archaeological findings, particularly towards the north and west of the property, and that basis submit a report on the results of such investigations to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - b) Submit an assessment of the state of conservation of the previously excavated areas that remain unsheltered and develop cautious conservation measures to address any deficiencies,
 - c) Extend the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed visitor centre to include the Associated social facility and carry it out in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and await its review by the Advisory Bodies before taking any decision on its implementation;

6. *Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course, and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, of its intention to undertake or authorize any major developments that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2024, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including on the impact of the earthquakes in February 2023, and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session.*

203. Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye) (C 1572)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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/1572/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Developments around the property that may have an effect on the landscape and visual integrity and archaeological potential of the property
- Proposed railway line to the south of the property
- Visual impact of the irrigation channel to the south-east and quarry to the west of the property
- Need to strengthen the protection measures for the buffer zone
- Development of the management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an executive summary of which is available at <https://unesco.org/en/list/1572/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Details are provided of the legal protection of the property, buffer zone and wider management area, as well as the work been carried out to maintain, conserve and protect the property in response to the Committee's request for information on the monitoring of developments that may have an impact on the landscape, integrity and archaeological potential (cleaning work, construction of a permanent shelter and addition of soil, balustrades repairs). It is noted that only 'compulsory infrastructure', which requires consent, is allowed as an intervention in the property;
- Following a detailed transport survey, the route of the railway line, previously projected 2.5km south of the property, will shift to 4.5km south of the boundary of the management area and will

run parallel to a road highway. Project documentation will be sent to the World Heritage Centre and impact assessments may be undertaken if judged necessary;

- Regarding the betterment of visual impacts, the State Party considers that the inactive quarry 2.5km to the west of the site is not intrusive and does not have a negative effect on the setting of the property. The majority of the heaps of material resulting from the creation of an irrigation channel to the southeast of the property have been removed under appropriate supervision;
- The archaeological field survey, which will form the basis for reassessing the degree of statutory protection of the buffer zone, commenced in July 2022 and will continue until 2025. Significant quantities of Palaeolithic and Neolithic surface finds have been discovered. Prehistoric activity areas and potential camp/settlement areas were identified to the south and west of the property. As a precautionary measure, until this survey has been completed and its implications assessed, no development consent will be granted, with the exception of compulsory infrastructure;
- With regard to further developing and strengthening the Management Plan, the five-year implementation of the current plan expired in January 2022 and the process of revising the plan has been initiated. This will include the preparation of a full conservation plan and a risk preparedness plan. A draft Visitor Management Plan has been prepared and is under evaluation before submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- The site manager and the Head of Excavation closely follow all works and the expert assigned by the Directorate of Sanliurfa Museum closely monitors the works and cooperates with the site manager, who reports monthly to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism;
- Various raising awareness activities are reported involving local communities and including primary school children, local populations, and disadvantaged groups;
- Following the devastating earthquakes that struck the provinces of Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Şanlıurfa and Malatya in February 2023, the State Party of Türkiye informed the World Heritage Centre on 7 and 23 February 2023 that no damage occurred to the World Heritage property of Göbekli Tepe.

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

Progress has been made on some of the Committee's recommendations and useful clarifications provided, for example on the commencement of the review of the management system. However, important elements of the recommendations have not been fully developed and require further work.

Useful information is provided on maintenance, conservation and protective measures for the property, as well as on the designations in place to protect the property, buffer zone and management area. However, these are not especially relevant to the issue of close monitoring of the impact of developments, although the proposed railway line to the south of the property is discussed.

In relation to clarifying the impact of 'compulsory infrastructure', the legal process of consent is cited. The *Protection and Use Provisions in Archaeological Sites, Decision 658, 5/11/99* of the High Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties only refers to 'Compulsory infrastructure (electric, water, etc.)'. It appears that protective measures to prevent negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are taken only after consent is granted. The Committee should reiterate its recommendation that the potential negative impact of developments around the property be closely monitored. The Committee may wish to recommend that formal assessment of compulsory infrastructure should take place before consent is given and should be communicated to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraphs 110 and 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The preliminary details of archaeological field survey in 2022 are welcome and the Committee may wish to recommend the continuation of this work as a basis for reassessing the degree of statutory protection of the buffer zone. In addition, noting that the archaeological survey has revealed significant finds and prehistoric activity in the management area close to the route of the proposed railway line, the Committee may wish to reiterate its request that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of this development be carried out, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The response concerning the recommendation on the irrigation channel and quarry is noted and the action taken appropriate. In relation to the disused quarry, concerns remain regarding the negative visual impact of the quarry, as it is visible from the property. The Committee may wish to recommend that further amelioration be implemented.

The formal review and strengthening of the Management Plan are noted. The Committee may wish to recommend the use of the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 in this process. The commitment to completing a full conservation plan is noted. This should be accompanied by an Action Plan and dedicated resources. The urgency of developing a comprehensive risk assessment and risk preparedness plan was highlighted by the February 2023 earthquakes. The property is located within the strong impact zone of those earthquakes. A risk assessment should include the Sanliurfa Museum where excavated material is stored and exhibited. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit, as a matter of priority, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the revised Management Plan, including comprehensive conservation and risk assessment and risk preparedness plans, with details of baseline data and monitoring protocols, including on conservation work, risk assessment, visitor satisfaction, community involvement and broader environmental indicators.

The draft Visitor Management Plan should be incorporated into the revised Management Plan. Once finalised, the draft Visitor Management Plan should be sent to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its approval.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.203

1. *The World Heritage Committee,*
2. *Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,*
3. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.57**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
4. *Notes the progress accomplished by the State Party but requests that it:*
 - a) *Submit, as a matter of priority for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies a revised Management Plan, utilizing the Enhancing our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 and including:*
 - (i) *A full conservation plan as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach, with associated action plan and dedicated resources,*
 - (ii) *A comprehensive risk assessment and risk preparedness plan based on the Resource Manual Managing Disaster Risks at World Heritage,*
 - (iii) *Details of baseline data and monitoring protocols, including on conservation work, risk assessment, visitor satisfaction, community indicators and broader environmental indicators,*
 - (iv) *A draft Visitor Management Plan, including a Tourism Management Plan and actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,*
 - b) *Continue to closely monitor developments around the property that may have an impact on the landscape, integrity and archaeological potential of the property and assess the impact of any proposed compulsory infrastructure before consent is granted, in accordance with Paragraphs 110 and 172 of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - c) *Carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed development of a railway line to the south of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and prior to any construction, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - d) *Continue to take active amelioration measures to ensure that the visual impact of the irrigation channel in the management area and south-east of the property is*

reduced and to further assess the visual impact of the quarry in the management area to the west of the property,

- e) *Continue to undertake archaeological survey work as the basis for reassessing the degree of statutory protection of the buffer zone;*
5. *Reminds the States Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course of its intention to undertake or authorize any major developments that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage property and to undertake Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines respectively;*
6. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, 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 47th session.*

204. 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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://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 (note that the previously raised issue of the new supermarket built at Hayle Harbour has since been resolved)
- Potential impact of new development projects
- Management and institutional factors / Improvements to the planning tools and approval processes not yet completed and implemented (*resolved*)
- Social/cultural uses of heritage

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is reported as follows:

- The World Heritage Site (WHS) Supplementary Planning Document, the Planning Performance Agreements and neighbourhood development plans and the use of the WHS Planning Toolkit are actively applied to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The Management Plan for the property was adopted in January 2021. In 2021 and 2022, a governance review involving stakeholders was undertaken with the aim to ensure a robust management structure;
- Early engagement occurs between Historic England and the WHS Planning Officer about specific planning applications and Historic England is represented on the property's Technical Panel;
- A collaborative process will address the recommendations of the February 2022 technical review by ICOMOS of the North Quay Phase 2 proposals and the need for further revisions to the Hilltop site. The Local Planning Authority awaits submission of these revisions for formal assessment, after which the State Party will seek further input from ICOMOS;
- Planning permission for the South Crofty Mine was granted in 2011 conditionally on the terms that the protection of areas of archaeological/historical interest was addressed and the boundary treatment approved by the Minerals Planning Authority. An explanation of boundary treatments was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 14 July 2021, noting that the mine site boundary had already been addressed through a condition discharged on 14 October 2016;
- Research and interpretation across the property and stakeholder involvement has increased. In partnership with the Cornish Buildings Group, buildings that enhance the property through its design and heritage-led regeneration have been awarded. The renovation of the Guildhall in Tavistock has been completed and it functions as an interpretation centre for the property.

On 6 December 2022, the State Party submitted information and documentation on two planning applications for housing at Lower Boscaswell within the St Just Mining District, and results of research conducted by Plymouth University which identified concerns about arsenic levels in the soil within parts of the Tamar Valley Mining District, in reply to a letter from the World Heritage Centre under Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, dated 22 August 2022.

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

The continued application of the WHS Supplementary Planning Document, the WHS Planning Toolkit, Planning Performance Agreements, neighbourhood development plans and the revised Management Plan in January 2021 are welcomed.

It remains vital to seek and implement the advice of both Historic England and the WHS Planning Officer for planning applications that may affect the OUV of the property. These applications should be referred to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, with adequate time for consultation, rather than being addressed solely through the UK planning process as occurred for the Lower Boscaswell developments, about which the World Heritage Centre was informed by third parties. Any development that may have an impact on the OUV of the property should be subject to an impact assessment using the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Following ICOMOS technical reviews in September 2018, April and July 2019, February 2021 and February 2022 for the North Quay Phase 2 projects, a number of ICOMOS' recommendations have been addressed. The issues at the Eastern Gateway and East Quay have been resolved, but the planned housing development at the Hilltop site remains unsatisfactory. The ICOMOS technical review of February 2022, concurred with Historic England that the scale and extent of the proposed housing and associated features would overwhelm the natural setting. The Committee should confirm that this housing development should be revised in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations and request the State Party to submit the revised plans for review prior to consideration by the Local Planning Authority.

Regarding the reopening of the South Crofty Mine, partly located within the property, the procedural information regarding the discharged condition is noted. However, the information provided in the State Party state of conservation report does not provide an update on the current status of the re-commencement of mining activities. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies a comprehensive information package on the current status of this project, taking into account the recommendations of the 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission. In the case of any plans for the potential reopening of the South Crofty Mine, it is also recalled that, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, impact assessments shall be carried out as a pre-

requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property to ensure the long-term safeguarding of OUV.

The State Party's efforts regarding research, interpretation and stakeholder involvement across the property should be acknowledged.

Draft Decision: 45 COM 7B.204

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/45.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the continued application of the World Heritage Site (WHS) Supplementary Planning Document, WHS Planning Toolkit, Planning Performance Agreements, and neighbourhood development plans to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and previous Committee decisions, as well as the adoption of the revised Management Plan for the property;
4. Also welcomes the early engagement of Historic England in specific planning applications and in wider guidance and policy implementation, and encourages the State Party to ensure that the advice of Historic England and the WHS Planning Officer continue to inform statutory decision making;
5. Notes the ongoing engagement regarding the North Quay Phase 2 projects and the commitment to implement the recommendations provided by ICOMOS, and requests the State Party to submit revised plans for the Hilltop site, amended in line with the recommendations of ICOMOS, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before granting approval;
6. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party concerning the South Crofty Mine, and in particular the details requested on the boundary treatment, but considers that further updated information should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and therefore requests the State Party to submit a comprehensive information package on the current status of this project, taking into account the recommendations of the 2013 mission and recalls that any plans of a potential reopening of the mine shall be subject to impact assessments in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and using the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
7. Invites the State Party to continue to ensure that, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of significant changes to statutory documents and any new planning applications which may impact on the OUV of the property are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before final decisions are taken;
8. Further acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party for increased interpretation, research and stakeholder involvement across the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, 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 47th session.