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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

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

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Forty-first session**

**Krakow, Poland  
2 – 12 July 2017**

**Decisions adopted  
during the 41st session  
of the World Heritage Committee  
(Krakow, 2017)**

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## **2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS**

### **Decision: 41 COM 2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/2,
2. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
3. Authorizes the participation in the 41st session, as observers, of the representatives of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions in the fields covered by the *Convention*, listed in Part I of the above-mentioned document.

## **3A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

### **Decision: 41 COM 3A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/3A,
2. Adopts the Agenda contained in the above-mentioned document.

## **3B. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

### **Decision: 41 COM 3B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/3B,
2. Adopts the Timetable contained in the above-mentioned document.

## **4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 40TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (ISTANBUL/UNESCO, 2016)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016).

## 5A. REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS

### Decision: 41 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/5A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 5A** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of the expected result to ensure that “tangible heritage is identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 *Convention*”, and the five strategic objectives as presented in Document WHC/17/41.COM/5A;
4. Notes the results of expert meetings undertaken on criterion (vi) and on memory sites and their interpretation, thanks the authorities of Korea, Poland and Rwanda for organizing expert meetings and welcomes the financial support by the authorities of Germany and Korea for thematic studies on these topics;
5. Also welcomes the proactive role of the World Heritage Centre for enhancing the synergies among the Culture and Biodiversity-related Conventions and programmes and particularly, the integration of relevant synergies aspects in the revised Periodic Reporting format and the launch of a synergy-related web page on the Centre’s website;
6. Invites the States Parties to support the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the *Convention*;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at its 42nd session, a report on its activities.

## 5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

### Decision: 41 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/5B,
2. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities;
3. Also takes note of the progress made as well as of the challenges and gaps identified by the Advisory Bodies in the framework of the implementation of the *Convention*, in particular the concerns surrounding sustained funding of evaluation and monitoring activities;

4. Congratulates the Advisory Bodies for their efforts to mobilize additional financial resources and encourages them to continue in their endeavour;
5. Requests ICOMOS and IUCN to continue to engage in appropriate dialogue and consultation with States Parties to further enhance overall transparency and decision-making in the Committee.

## **5C. WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### **Decision: 41 COM 5C**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/5C,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5D**, and **39 COM 5D**, and **40 COM 5C**, adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions, as well as Resolution **20 GA 13**, adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015),
3. Welcomes the follow-up activities and the progress made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in disseminating the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*” and mainstreaming it into statutory processes, international policies and operational activities and requests that this effort be pursued;
4. Reiterates the need to achieve the right balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability, while fully respecting and protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties;
5. Underscores the important role and the contribution of the *Convention* towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal, Target 11.4: “Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage”;
6. Takes note of the support provided by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to Members States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and of the further work anticipated on developing indicators in this regard;
7. Also welcomes the work by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal, Target 11.4. through an indicator that reflects the total amount per capita each country spends to protect their cultural and natural heritage, and invites UNESCO and all parties to identify and make visible the many ways in which the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* contributes to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 11 for cultural sites and SDGs 14 and 15 for natural sites;
8. Calls upon States Parties to ensure that sustainable development principles are mainstreamed into their national processes related to World Heritage, in full respect of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties;
9. Further calls on States Parties to support capacity-building programmes and activities aimed at providing methodologies and tools for integrating heritage conservation into

sustainable development frameworks and mainstreaming the Sustainable Development approach in conservation and management activities;

10. Recalling Resolution **20 GA 13** and Decision **40 COM 12**, and in view of the ever increasing urgency to balance sustainable development and implementation of the *Convention* at the site level, urges the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to finalize a clear framework of the Policy Compendium for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party of Germany in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies concerning the operationalization of the World Heritage – Sustainable Development policy and calls for wider collaboration in consolidating these efforts;
12. Decides to inscribe an agenda item concerning World Heritage and Sustainable Development at its 43rd session in 2019 and also requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report in this regard.

## **6. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES**

### **Decision: 41 COM 6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/6,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 6** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme, and the capacity-building activities carried out in 2016 and in the beginning of 2017;
4. Also commends ICCROM for the presentation of the disaggregated statistics on the beneficiaries and impacts of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programmes and encourages that this practice continue in future reports;
5. Notes with appreciation the commitment of the Government of Norway to the six-year, World Heritage Leadership Programme, as well as the ongoing support for capacity building by the Government of Switzerland;
6. Calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and support for the implementation of the World Heritage Leadership Programme and other activities as part of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy at the international and regional levels;
7. Takes note of the development of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives, and also calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;



8. Welcomes the progress made by all Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities and also calls on interested stakeholders to support these activities;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and the activities of the Category 2 Centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## 7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### Decision: 41 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/7, WHC/17/41.COM/7A, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/17/41.COM/7B and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Thanks the State Party of Poland, Host Country of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017), for having organized the first World Heritage Site Managers Forum, as a capacity-building exercise aiming at increasing the understanding of the World Heritage decision-making process among site managers, in order to achieve a more effective protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), takes note with appreciation of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum Statement and encourages the future Host Countries to continue this initiative and organize World Heritage Site Managers Forums in conjunction with the World Heritage Committee session;

### **Statutory matters related to Reactive Monitoring**

4. Takes note of the practices of the Secretariat to address mass campaigns on state of conservation issues;
5. Recalling the importance of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and its adequate implementation, further recalls Decision **40 COM 7**, which requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies to evaluate the effectiveness of the Reactive Monitoring including procedures and case studies and to present a preliminary report for the consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, if funds are available;

### **Emergency situations resulting from conflicts**

6. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in several countries, the loss of human life as well as the degradation of humanitarian conditions and expresses its utmost concern at the damage sustained and the threats facing cultural and natural heritage in general;

7. Urges all parties associated with conflicts to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural and natural heritage and to fulfill their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;
8. Also urges States Parties to adopt measures against using World Heritage properties for military purposes;
9. Takes note of the progress made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to launch a reflection on a post-conflict recovery strategy, and of the support extended so far through technical assistance, capacity-building, and exchange of best practices in this regard, and recommends that further support for threatened or damaged World Heritage properties be pursued;
10. Notes with concern that the conflict situation in several countries in the world has increased considerably the workload of the World Heritage Centre staff, and that an adequate implementation of the Action Plans for the Emergency Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Mali, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen requires additional financial and human resources at the World Heritage Centre and in the UNESCO field offices; also notes the increased demands on the resources of the Advisory Bodies;
11. Calls on the international community to provide financial support for the implementation of the UNESCO Action Plans for the Emergency Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, including for additional human resources at the World Heritage Centre and in the UNESCO field offices;
12. Also expresses its utmost concern about the impacts of conflicts causing an escalation of the already severe poaching crisis, as armed groups are financing their activities through illegal wildlife trade, which is having a severe impact on African wildlife, and uncontrolled development, threatening the very survival of species and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of natural World Heritage properties;
13. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects (UNESCO 1970 Convention) and illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and to pursue the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding cultural heritage protection in conflict areas, especially Resolution 2199 and 2347;

## **Other conservation issues**

### Reconstruction

14. Noting the continued need to address the issue of reconstruction in World Heritage properties following conflicts or disasters, expresses its satisfaction that several international meetings have taken place or are being planned on recovery at large, and reconstruction in particular, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Poland to host an international conference on Reconstruction to provide guidelines to the World Heritage Committee to be held in Warsaw in March 2018;
15. Encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue, with all relevant stakeholders, the reflection on reconstruction within World Heritage properties as a complex

multi-disciplinary process, towards developing new guidance to reflect the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings, its social and economic context, the short- and long-term needs of properties, and the idea of reconstruction as a process that should be undertaken within the framework of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties;

16. Urges States Parties to include risk mitigation measures in the management plans of World Heritage properties to address the potential effects of conflicts or disasters on their integrity;
17. Also encourages the inclusion of capacity-building initiatives in the framework of recovery plans;
18. Requests the States Parties involved in reconstruction projects to maintain dialogue and close consultation and cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

#### Climate change

19. Recalls its Decision **40 COM 7** in relation to Climate Change, and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to pursue the implementation of this Decision as a priority, within available resources;
20. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the reported serious impacts from coral bleaching that have affected World Heritage properties in 2016-17 and that the majority of World Heritage Coral Reefs are expected to be seriously impacted by Climate Change;
21. Noting that the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with IUCN, has initiated a scientific assessment by independent experts to better understand the impacts of Climate Change on coral reef World Heritage properties, also requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as resources allow, to complete this assessment as soon as possible, and to ensure its findings are communicated effectively, and further requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to further study the current and potential impacts of Climate Change on the OUV of World Heritage properties;
22. Reiterates the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and by pursuing efforts to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change” and strongly invites all States Parties to ratify the Paris Agreement at the earliest possible opportunity and to undertake actions to address Climate Change under the Paris Agreement consistent with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, that are fully consistent with their obligations within the *World Heritage Convention* to protect the OUV of all World Heritage properties;
23. Takes note with satisfaction of the updated UNESCO Strategy for Action on Climate Change, approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 201st session in April 2017 (201 EX/Decision 5.I.B), and invites all States Parties to engage fully with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for its effective implementation;
24. Also recalls the need for all States Parties to continue, and where necessary to strengthen all efforts to build resilience of World Heritage properties to Climate Change, including by further reducing to the greatest extent possible all other pressures and threats, and by

developing and implementing climate adaptation strategies for properties at risk of Climate Change impacts;

25. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to report on progress in relation to action on World Heritage and Climate Change, and to present, subject to available time and resources, a proposed update to the “Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties”, for possible consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, and notes with appreciation the willingness of civil society groups to engage in this process;

#### Urban pressure

26. Noting that the increasing urban pressure in and around numerous World Heritage properties has become a major threat to their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
27. Taking note of the outcomes of the Habitat III Conference and notably the adoption of the “New Urban Agenda”,
28. Also taking note of the necessity to pursue the application of the Historic Urban Landscape approach towards a more effective and durable conservation and management of the urban heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List, and requests the States Parties to fully consider the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) ;
29. Calls on States Parties to take into account the recommendations of the Global Report on Culture for Sustainable Urban Development and take the necessary measures to integrate the role of culture in sustainable urban development in order to achieve SDG 11 – Target 4;

#### Vandalism

30. Notes with concern increasing vandalism at World Heritage properties and encourages States Parties to improve monitoring and security measures as well as awareness raising on the detrimental effects of vandalism, and to consider introducing creative solutions to allow visitors to express themselves without leaving permanent marks or damage;

#### Disasters Risk Reduction

31. Welcomes the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for reinforcing UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict (hereafter the Strategy), adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2015 (38 C/Res.48), whose implementation would be of great importance for the protection of World Heritage in situations of armed conflicts and disasters associated with natural and human-made hazards;
32. Encourages States Parties to provide support to the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, including through contributions to the Heritage Emergency Fund, as well as in kind contributions and advocacy at the highest international levels for the integration of a concern for culture in key international humanitarian, development, and peacekeeping operations;

#### Invasive species

33. Recalling its Decision **39 COM 7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
34. Noting with concern the continued threat posed by invasive alien species on natural World Heritage properties, strongly encourages the States Parties to develop adequately

resourced invasive alien species strategies that emphasize prevention and early warning and rapid response in World Heritage properties;

#### Illegal trade of wildlife species

35. Reiterates its utmost concern about the continued impacts of poaching and illegal logging on World Heritage properties driven primarily by the illegal trade of wildlife species and its products, and requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to take action, as resources permit, to strengthen the collaboration between the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the *World Heritage Convention*;
36. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trade in wildlife and its products, including through the implementation of the CITES, and with the full engagement of transit and destination countries;

#### Integrated approaches for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage

37. Recalling that the *World Heritage Convention* explicitly links the concepts of cultural and natural heritage, highlights the importance of promoting integrated approaches that strengthen holistic governance, improve conservation outcomes and contribute to sustainable development;
38. Notes with appreciation the growing interest and efforts by the States Parties and heritage practitioners to develop and apply integrated approaches to conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and encourages the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in cooperation with universities and other relevant actors, to continue and expand these efforts, in accordance with the Policy Document for the integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the *Convention* (2015);

#### List of World Heritage in Danger

39. Reiterates its request to the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and States Parties, to promote better understanding of the implications and benefits of properties being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to develop appropriate information material in this regard with a view to overcome the negative perceptions of the List of World Heritage in Danger. The information material should highlight the importance of the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value;

#### Other issues

40. Takes note with appreciation of the Chairperson of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee's initiative on structured dialogue with civil society and encourages States Parties and civil society organizations to continue exploring possibilities how civil society can further contribute to enhanced conservation of heritage on the site and national level and provide relevant input to the heritage related debate at the global level;
41. Notes, in conformity with Resolution **20 GA 13** of the General Assembly of the *World Heritage Convention* and the Decision **39 COM 11** (Bonn, 2015) of the World Heritage Committee, the establishment of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage as an important reflection platform on the involvement of Indigenous Peoples in

the identification, conservation and management of World Heritage properties, with a particular focus on the nomination process.

## **7A. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

### **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

#### **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

##### **1. Everglades National Park (United States of America) (N 76)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.17** and **40 COM 7A.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation the continuous progress made by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures, but requests the State Party to accelerate its efforts towards the completion of the restoration projects that are vital to meeting the water quality and quantity targets, and that can secure the improvement of the ecological indicators for the integrity of the property;
4. Welcomes the approval of the General Management Plan and the start of its implementation, encourages the State Party to establish its Advisory Committee without delay, and also requests the State Party to provide an electronic and three printed copies of the General Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
5. Notes with concern the negative effects of the 2015 El Niño event on the property as well as the continuously increasing abundance of invasive species both within the property and in its proximity, and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure the provision of all resources necessary for their successful containment, eradication, as well as preventing the introduction of any additional invasive alien species;
6. Also notes with concern the proposal of a utility transmission line along the eastern border of the property as well as the potential for hydraulic fracturing projects in proximity of the property, and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any development before making any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and recalls its established position on the incompatibility of oil and gas exploration and exploitation with the World Heritage status of the property;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
8. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### 2. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 40th Session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved with the finalization of the Draft Forest (Protection of Mangroves) Regulations, and requests the State Party to finalize the legal drafting and adoption of the Regulations as a matter of priority and to submit the final legal document to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it becomes available;
4. Also welcomes the commencement of the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan (ICZMP) and encourages the State Party to continue to ensure that the resources required for the long-term implementation of the Plan are secured;
5. Notes the progress achieved towards developing concrete regulations based on the Cabinet Decision to ban offshore petroleum exploration within the property, but reiterates its position that the adequacy of the one-kilometre buffer zone needs revision to secure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the full implementation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the exact maps of the areas where oil exploration will be prohibited by the proposed ban, as soon as they become available, and prior to completion of the legislation of the ban;
7. Taking note of the ongoing revision of the Petroleum Exploration Framework, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the protection of the property's OUV is fully integrated into this process;
8. Also taking note of the confirmation by the State Party that the voluntary moratorium on sale and lease of lands within the property remains in place, notes with concern that the cartographic information provided by the State Party shows a high proportion of private land

within the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a legally binding instrument to ensure a permanent cessation of all sales and leases of state owned land throughout the property;

9. Further welcomes the ongoing revision of the Environmental Impact Assessment system and urges the State Party to fully integrate the protection of the property's OUV into this process to ensure that the revised regulations guarantee that no areas within the property and in its immediate vicinity can be developed in ways that would negatively impact on its OUV, consistent with the requirements under the DSOCR;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **3. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party and governmental and non-governmental partners on further progress made in integrated monitoring and granting negotiated local access to land and natural resources, and encourages the State Party and partners to continue and enhance these efforts;
4. Welcomes the State Party's effort to accomplish an extensive titling process in favour of indigenous peoples that are settled within and beyond the limits of the property;
5. Notes the efforts made by the State Party in order to control illegal activities, however reiterates its concern that human, financial and logistical resources allocated by the State Party continue to be inadequate to address these challenges;
6. Recommends that the State Party maintain the overflights and ground level surveys to detect illegal activities and to detect illegal new settlements as early as possible to enable immediate responses, avoiding evictions after the full establishment of settlements;
7. Also encourages the State Party to further follow up on the conclusions and recommendations of the discussions facilitated by the provisions of the 2015 International Assistance, by continuing the consultation and negotiation process underpinning elaboration of a proposal for a significant boundary modification, which fully considers the interests, rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples, Afro-Honduran and Ladino (mestizo)



communities, with the technical support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;

8. Considers that the significant boundary modification and the efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger are intricately linked and should be regarded and managed as one coherent effort;
9. Recalls its request to the State Party to report on the possible impacts of the Patuca III project, and requests the State Party to ensure that current and potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are specifically assessed, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure that the implementation of this project will not be permitted before this assessment is completed;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 4. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party, with support from the ECOFAUNE+ and Central Africa Biodiversity Conservation Programme – Protecting Central Africa's Elephants (CABPC – PCAE), for the progressive strengthening of the protection of the fauna and flora in the North-east part of the country, where the property is located, in particular as regards the fight against poaching and the mitigation of cross-border transhumance in cooperation with the States Parties of Cameroon, Sudan and Chad;
4. Notes with concern that cross-border transhumance, artisanal mining and insecurity continue to threaten the property;
5. Recalls that due to persistent insecurity and extremely significant pressures faced by the property, and in the absence of data allowing an analysis of the current situation, the perspectives for restoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been called into question for many years;
6. Also welcomes the planned organization of a workshop to develop an Emergency Action Plan for the property, as requested on several occasions by the Committee, and urges the

State Party to undertake a feasibility study for the restoration of the OUV of the property before organizing this workshop;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to determine whether there remain perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property justifying its OUV;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, 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 42nd session in 2018;
9. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;
10. Also decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the efforts made in the implementation of the corrective measures and the significant progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) since the normalization of the political situation in the country, including the establishment of a functional management body and a sustainable financing mechanism for the conservation of the property;
4. Considers that the DSOCR indicators for the integrity and management of the property have been fully achieved and even surpassed, and that the biological indicators have attained a satisfactory level of achievement;
5. Decides to remove Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Requests the State Party to continue and to consolidate the ecological monitoring activities and the inventorying of large fauna by strengthening the synergy and consistency of methodological approaches in order to confirm the maintenance of positive trends in the populations of key species;
7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to assess the potential impacts of the mining projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and also requests the State Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) to the World

Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before hard-to-reverse decisions are made regarding the licensing of these projects in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

8. Notes with concern that gold panning persists in the property and further requests the State Party to take all appropriate measures to systematically eradicate this activity within the property and monitor its development around the property in collaboration with the technical services in charge of the mining sector;
9. Recognizing the significant efforts made by the State Party to address roaming of livestock in the property, notes the increase in this phenomenon in 2016, which appears to be linked to a particularly severe pre-harvest period, and urges the State Party to exclude livestock from the property by strengthening surveillance, awareness raising and agro-pastoral development activities, and by conducting a preliminary study of the potential impacts of these agro-pastoral developments on the OUV of the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the joint UNESCO / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission of 2017;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **6. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) (N 155bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.36**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with appreciation the continued actions by the States Parties to undertake anti-poaching patrols and ecological monitoring;
4. Noting that the borders between Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Liberia have reopened, reiterates its request to the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea to implement a joint monitoring system of the property to control all anthropogenic pressures, and to collaborate with UNDP and Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to develop the second phase of the Nimba Project, to concern the entire property, in order to promote the implementation of the corrective measures to safeguard the integrity of the property;
5. Welcomes the development of a protocol for collaboration of managers between Guinea and Liberia, and encourages all three States Parties, to consider extending this protocol to also include Côte d'Ivoire;

6. Requests the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to provide further details on the decree for the redefinition of the boundaries, in order to confirm that it does not exclude degraded areas of the property;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to strictly ensure that the preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the West Africa Exploration Company is in accordance with international standards as requested previously, and to submit this ESIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before authorizing the project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with international standards, to qualify and quantify all the potential cumulative impacts of all planned mining projects in proximity to the property on its Outstanding Universal Value, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, before making any decision on these projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Reminds the State Party of Guinea of its position regarding the fact that mining exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the declaration of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts in order to ensure that no mining will be permitted outside the boundaries of the property if it could have a negative impact on OUV;
10. Further requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to prepare a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the corresponding set of indicators;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party of Guinea to submit a map of the revised boundaries of the exploration permit granted to SAMA Resources Company in relation to the property;
12. Requests moreover the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a joint 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 42nd session in 2018;
13. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **7. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.7**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Welcoming the meetings held between the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda to discuss the threat of poaching on the property and insecurity in the region, encourages all four States Parties to continue the ongoing dialogue for the improvement of security in the region;
4. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to call on the State Party, as well as neighbouring States, in particular Central African Republic, South Sudan and Uganda, to ensure that military operations in the region do not impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to organize, in cooperation with United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), a high-level meeting between the above-mentioned States Parties and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue;
5. Commends the State Party on its continued anti-poaching efforts, notes with appreciation that there were no reported case of Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) personnel involvement in poaching in the reporting period and encourages the State Party to continue to pursue all its efforts to combat poaching at the regional level;
6. Reiterates however its deepest concern over continued insecurity around the property and on-going poaching pressure from the international ivory trade, and the fact that current estimates put the elephant population at 1,200, which represents a further decline from the 1,500 elephants estimated to remain in 2015, and reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illegal wildlife trade, including through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), with the full engagement of transit and destination countries;
7. Notes with significant concern the loss of three giraffes as a result of poaching from a population of approximately only 40 individuals that remain in the whole of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which are restricted to the property, and welcomes the planned radio-collaring of giraffes and more elephants;
8. Noting that 20% of the property's surrounding hunting areas are being patrolled, encourages the State Party to maintain an effective year-round surveillance of at least 50% of the hunting areas, in addition to the full coverage of the property;
9. Requests the State Party to provide an update on progress achieved towards establishing a conservation strategy for the hunting areas and developing a Buffer Zone for the property to strengthen the protection of its OUV;
10. Appreciates the progress made in developing the park's infrastructures and the further planned developments to facilitate efficient protection and management of the property;
11. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the final version of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) as requested by the Committee, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, and at the latest by **1 February 2018**, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
13. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;

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

## **8. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.8**

1. The World Heritage Committee,
2. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
3. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.37**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
4. Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the line of duty and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);
5. Notes with satisfaction the evacuation of the armed groups, the recovery of control of the posts and the deployment of guards in the lowlands, and encourages the State Party to continue its surveillance efforts to combat illegal activities (mines and poaching);
6. Also notes with satisfaction the recruitment and training of new guards and the infrastructures established to strengthen surveillance and, furthermore, also encourages the State Party to deploy personnel in all the sectors of the property to ensure an effective surveillance;
7. Expresses again its utmost concern as regards the conclusions contained in the report of Wildlife Conservation Society/ Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation/Fauna and Flora International report indicating that the Grauer's gorillas population has recorded a decrease of an estimated 77% since 1994 and emphasizes the crucial importance of increasing efforts to protect the great apes, to ensure their survival, as well as the other flagship species of the property, including the elephant and chimpanzee ;
8. Notes with concern that the mining, hunting and associated illegal trade of bush meat are the most serious threats for the habitat of the gorillas and other species and urges the State Party to close down all the remaining mines in and around the property and to ensure that they are not reoccupied, to urgently take measures to halt the consumption and commerce of bush meat and to concentrate its action on the halt of illegal commerce of great apes;
9. Takes note of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that took place in 2017 and requests the State Party to implement the corrective measures, as updated by the mission, from the current date until 2020:
  - a) Pursue the evacuation of armed groups, close down all the artisanal quarry mines both inside and around the property, and terminate the illicit traffic of the natural resources, including wildlife poaching, and more particularly the great apes,
  - b) Strengthen the anti-poaching combat and continue the joint patrols with the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and enforce the law in collaboration with the legal authorities,

- c) Continue recruitment and training of qualified staff, motivated and well equipped and deploy teams in all the posts of the property,
  - d) Pursue efforts to implement the recommendations resulting from the “National Forum for Governance and Enhancement of the Property” (April 2015) to resolve the issues of illegal occupation and evacuate the ecological corridor, and take the necessary measures to limit the impacts of encroachment, restore the vegetation and the connectivity between the lowlands and the highlands,
  - e) Maintain an efficacious surveillance coverage, throughout the year, of at least 60% of the property by increasing the scope and frequency of the patrols and provide the technical and financial resources to the management authority, to attain this objective,
  - f) Continue to develop the infrastructures of the Park and to acquire the necessary equipment to enable an efficient protection and management of the property,
  - g) Continue and strengthen the activities for the economic development of the local communities to reduce their dependence on the resources of the Park and support conservation efforts, including the continued implementation of the “Community Conservation Strategy” and the “local development plans” in all the chiefdoms of the property,
  - h) Complete the participative marking process and undertake a socio-economic study in the lowlands (Nzovu sector) to assess human presence in this sector,
  - i) Work for the sustainable funding of the management of the Park;
10. Also encourages the State Party to request International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund **before 31 October 2017**, to develop indicators for the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the final results of the wildlife inventory are available ;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;
13. Also decides to retain **Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **9. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
- 2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.41** and **40 COM 7A.39**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its deepest concern over continued insecurity around the property, especially in the south, that has led to a reported decrease in surveillance coverage in the reporting period;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize efforts to further expand the patrol coverage and regain control of the property to halt poaching and the deterioration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through the recruitment of additional guards and the adequate provision of financial and material resources;
5. Welcomes the initiation of joint operations between the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature (ICCN) and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) to patrol targeted areas within the property using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) technology;
6. Appreciates the closure of the RN4 road at night to reduce traffic within the property, but requests the State Party to monitor compliance and effectiveness, and to implement additional mechanisms to further mitigate the impacts of road use, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to evaluate the impacts of the increasing local populations on land use around the villages along the RN4;
7. Reiterating its concern about rebel groups encouraging the reopening of artisanal mining sites, and that the cause of increasing immigrants in the villages along the RN4 is closely linked to mining, also requests the State Party to provide an update on the measures taken to mitigate the threat, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on the remaining mining permits overlapping with the property and to ensure their cancellation;
8. Also appreciates the establishment of integral conservation zones in the property but notes with concern the extended delay in finalizing the Management Plan for the property and further requests the State Party to expedite its finalization rapidly;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide details on the data collected through the application of the SMART technology in order to enable an assessment of the illegal activities and poaching/wildlife trade, and their impacts on the OUV of the property and an assessment of progress achieved towards the targets defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
12. Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.



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

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7A.7** and **40 COM 7A.40**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the establishment of a new Rapid Intervention Force and a Rapid Response Team to further strengthen the State Party's efforts to effectively address poaching, and also welcomes the increase in surveillance coverage to 60% of the property;
4. Takes note of the preliminary findings of the inventory of flagship species, including bonobos and elephants, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the full findings of the inventories for all flagship species to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as they become available, and based on the results, to also submit an updated Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which quantifies the indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Requests the State Party to provide details of the reported 'demographic explosion' in the corridor, comprising of its potential causes, proposed measures to address them and the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including on the 'sustainable conservation zones' that have been identified by the State Party to be of particular importance in the ecological corridor to link the two components of the property;
6. Noting with appreciation the State Party's intention to undertake a biological inventory in 2017 to assess the ecological connectivity between the two components of the property, also requests the State Party to submit the findings to the World Heritage Centre once they are available;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to consider further options to improve the connectivity between the 'sustainable conservation zones' and the southern component of the property, and further requests the State Party to consider the findings of the above-mentioned biological inventory in reviewing the plan for the Multiple Use Zone;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently clarify its expression of interest in oil exploration and exploitation in the Central Basin, which includes the property, as communicated to the 2012 mission, and reiterates its position that oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;

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

## **11. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Addresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in the exercise of their duties and to all the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN);
4. Warmly welcomes the joint operations between ICCN and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the increase in the number of guards to ensure an adequate surveillance of the property, but expresses its utmost concern regarding the continued insecurity in some sectors of the property, that has caused a decrease of surveillance coverage over the period under consideration and an increase in illegal activities (poaching, illicit fishing and production of charcoal) threatening the integrity of the property;
5. Regrets that the State Party has not confirmed its commitment to not authorise new petroleum explorations and exploitations within the boundaries of the property and reiterates its position according to which all mining, petroleum and gas exploration and exploitation activities are incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by commitments undertaken by the leaders of industry, such as Shell and Total, not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;
6. Recalling that the importance of Lake Edward is evoked in many instances in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considers that any activity linked to petrol in the Lake Edward region is highly likely to damage the OUV of the property and including its integrity through negative impacts on the transborder waters;
7. Reiterates its request to the Ugandan State Party not to grant a petroleum exploration permit for the Ngaji block and urges the States Parties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda to strongly commit to not authorizing any petroleum exploration or exploitation in the Lake Edward region;
8. Notes with satisfaction the progress achieved concerning the combat against encroachment, and that the encouraging results demonstrate an increase in the resident mountain gorilla population, the hippopotamus as well as the stabilization of elephant poaching and welcomes the efforts of the “Virunga Alliance” in carrying out sustainable development activities to improve the life of local communities;
9. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, update the corrective measures,

prepare a timetable for their implementation and finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the, above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to continue to apply the reinforced monitoring mechanism;
12. Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **12. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.42**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and reiterating the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,
3. Condemns the violence perpetrated against the guards and soldiers killed during operations for the protection of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), addresses its most sincere condolences to their families and expresses its very deep concern as regards the worsening security situation in the properties located in the eastern part of the DRC;
4. Regrets the delay incurred in the establishment of the Corps responsible for security in the National Parks and Protected Areas (CorPPN) and requests the State Party to provide it, rapidly, with human and financial resources to enable the deployment of contingents to establish security within the properties;
5. Expresses again its utmost concern as regards the intention of the State Party to officially address the World Heritage Centre to request an IUCN advisory mission to discuss the petroleum issue in the Virunga National Park;
6. Reiterates with insistence its request to the State Party to cancel the petroleum exploration concession encroaching on the Virunga National Park and to clarify the situation concerning its petroleum interest in Salonga National Park, expressed by the State Party during the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its position according to which all mineral, petroleum and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the commitments made by industry leaders, such as Shell and Total, not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties;
7. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts to mobilize sustainable funding and notes with appreciation the substantial support provided to the properties of the DRC by the donors;

8. Also congratulates the State Party for the major progress achieved in finalizing the creation of the Trust Fund for the protected areas in the DRC, entitled « Okapi Fund for Conservation – FOCON » and also requests the State Party to take all the necessary legal provisions to render it operational without delay;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, on the security situation in the properties, on the status of the petroleum exploration and exploitation concessions that overlap the World Heritage properties, for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

### **13. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7A.9**, **39 COM 7A.10** and **40 COM 7A.43** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively;
3. Congratulates the State Party for the efforts made in the implementation of the corrective measures and achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. **Decides to remove Simien National Park (Ethiopia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
5. Notes the possible increase in Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations and requests the State Party to develop clear and agreed monitoring protocols for the populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada;
6. Also notes that the voluntary relocation of the Gich community has been completed, and establishment of alternative livelihood options is underway, and also requests the State Party to ensure the application of the highest standards in concluding all the remaining commitments;
7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to complete the construction of the alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road in important afro-alpine habitats, and to re-align the power line with this new road, and further requests the State Party to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the part of the new road crossing the national park in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
8. Also notes with appreciation that multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental partners cooperate with the State Party on the conservation of the property and strongly encourages

all current and future partners to fully coordinate their efforts under the leadership of the State Party;

9. Further notes the location of the proposed eco-lodge developments inside the park and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the EIAs including a thorough assessment of the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, to the World Heritage Centre for review in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2017 mission, which build upon earlier mission recommendations, in particular to:
  - a) Adopt a clear, realistic and funded plan to manage and substantially reduce overgrazing in the property to the levels that do not impact on its Outstanding Universal Value,
  - b) Initiate the evaluation of the current 2009-2019 General Management Plan (GMP) to inform the next GMP,
  - c) Strengthen the participation of local communities in the management and eventually the governance of the property;
11. Reiterates its repeated request to the State Party to submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification through the preparation of a new nomination as per Decisions **35 COM 7A.9** and **40 COM 7A.43**, in order to harmonize the boundaries of the property with the new boundaries of the national park;
12. Requests in addition the State Party to initiate the development of a new GMP to encompass the expanded Simien Mountains National Park boundaries and to further refine the policy and management framework with the objectives to reduce overgrazing, better manage tourism and infrastructures and promote alternative livelihoods;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

#### **14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.44**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the issuance of a decree to operationalize Act N° 2015-056 creating a special tribunal to adjudicate traffickers and reinforce penalties, which should contribute towards halting the illicit trafficking of precious wood;

4. Appreciates the international donor support provided in strengthening the monitoring, management and governance of the property towards reducing illegal logging;
5. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in restoring degraded sites and requests the State Party to report on the remaining sites to be rehabilitated and ensure continued engagement with the local workforce;
6. Notes with significant concern that illegal logging and forest clearance have increased in 2016, particularly in Masoala and Andohahela National Parks, exceeding for the first time since 2013 the indicator for forest clearance of maximum 0.01%, as defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and also requests the State Party to further enhance its monitoring activities in these two components of the property;
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to continue to fully implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Action Plan and the Biodiversity Management Plan;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. **Decides to retain Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 15. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the report on the state of conservation of the property submitted by the State Party did not adequately address the Committee's requests;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to accelerate the recruitment of forestry agents, and ensure adequate funding of the Management Unit to better control the exploitation of the natural resources within the property;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information and data on poaching and timber harvesting within the property and its vicinity, as well as the actions taken to combat these threats;
6. Appreciates the State Party's efforts to improve surveillance and ecological monitoring within the property through local community engagement, but urges the State Party to

develop a Surveillance Plan and a Management Plan for the property as a matter of priority, and submit copies of both to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

7. Notes with concern the spread of the invasive plant species, *Prosopis juliflora*, across the property, and requests the State Party, in consultation with IUCN's Species Survival Commission Invasive Species Specialist Group, to design and implement an eradication plan for the species;
8. Also requests the State Party to monitor the trend of the key species that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and submit to the World Heritage Centre the results for each species in order to demonstrate their trends;
9. Noting with concern that there is inadequate support for the captive breeding of North African red-necked ostrich, further requests the State Party to secure necessary funding for the effective operation of the captive breeding centres and closely collaborate with other neighbouring States Parties to develop and implement a regional action plan for the conservation of this species, and encourages the State Party to seek the support of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Breeding Specialist Group;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide details of the camera trap survey including how it will contribute towards improving the monitoring and surveillance of the property, and submit its findings to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN once they are available;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on the current status of gold mining in the region of Agadez as well as any other areas outside of the property that has the potential to impact on the OUV of the property;
12. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2015 IUCN reactive monitoring mission as well as an action plan on the corrective measures defined in consultation with the State Party during the mission;
13. Urgently reiterates its requests to the State Party to carry out the necessary studies with a view to preparing a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit the draft DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**, for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures and the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
15. **Decides to retain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 16. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7A.13** and **40 COM 7A.46**, adopted respectively at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions,
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to implement the corrective measures, in particular as regards strengthening the anti-poaching mechanism and the capacities of the property staff, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts;
4. Also welcomes the intensified protection project prepared, discussed and implemented following a Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the National Parks Directorate (DPN), Petowal Mining Company (PMC) and the NGO Panthera, covering the southeastern part of the property adjacent to the mining concession in Mako;
5. Also recalling its concern about the potential impacts of the gold prospection project at Mako that could exacerbate existing problems, such as poaching, illegal gold-mining and habitat fragmentation, and its request to the State Party that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project be monitored and implemented to reflect this concern;
6. Regrets that a mining concession was granted to the Mako gold prospection project for the period 2016-2027;
7. Also requests the State Party to take all necessary precautions to avoid any impact of the project on the OUV of the property, including the permanent loss of chimpanzee habitat outside the property, considered as having a direct impact on its OUV;
8. Considering that the exploitation of the mine is underway, requests the State Party to take all necessary measures to ensure that this exploitation has no negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to enable the implementation of all corrective measures adopted by the Committee in its Decision **39 COM 7A.13**;
9. Also regrets that an evaluation of the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property has still not been carried out, despite repeated requests from the Committee and, once again expressing deep concern about the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, in particular on the reduction of the areas of gallery forests and Ronier Palm stands, on the river fording by the great fauna and on the insufficient water supply of the flood basins and the ponds in the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a specific study on the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note: the Environmental Assessment, before any decision on its construction, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and also to provide updated information on the status of this project;
10. Notes the updating and implementation of the ecological monitoring program and its foreseen integration in the management plan of the property, while recalling that updating and implementing the management plan remains an urgent priority;



11. Takes note with satisfaction of the State Party's confirmation that the basalt quarry at Mansadala will be permanently closed in 2018;
12. Further requests the State Party to provide in its next report information on the implementation of all corrective measures and on the progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
13. Requests moreover that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
14. **Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **17. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.5**, **36 COM 8B.43**, **40 COM 7** and **40 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) session respectively,
3. Commends the State Party and its international partners for their on-going efforts to address poaching, and requests the State Party to submit the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) project plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;
4. Welcoming the development of a draft Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the Emergency Action Plan, also requests the State Party to submit the revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available, and to ensure adequate resources are available for the implementation of the Action Plan, and to report on progress made;
5. Notes with appreciation the development of a draft Action Plan by the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to strengthen their collaboration to protect the Selous-Niassa corridor, and further requests the States Parties of Tanzania and Mozambique to submit the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre and to report on progress of its implementation;
6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Tanzania and China to report on the activities carried out in the framework of their agreement to prevent wildlife crime;
7. Considering the high likelihood of serious and irreversible damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property resulting from the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project, and noting the inclusion of the project in the updated 2016 national Power System

Master Plan, strongly urges the State Party to conduct a comprehensive ESIA/HIA for this project before deciding to proceed with the construction of the project and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and requests the State Party to consider alternative options to the Stiegler's Gorge Hydropower project ;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to fully implement all of the recommendations of the 2017 mission, in particular:
  - a) To consider a project design of the Kidunda Dam that will not inundate any part of the property at full supply level, to include a model for the flooding regime in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,
  - b) To develop an ESIA for the InSitu Leaching (ISL) method and any other method selected at the Mkuju River Project (MRP), should the project proceed to this stage,
  - c) To propose an additional valuable wildlife forest area as an extension of the property as requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 8B.43**;
9. Notes with concern the Kito-1 oil and gas prospecting concession located in the Kilombero Valley Floodplain Ramsar site, where drilling is expected to start in the third quarter of 2017, which may impact on the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to not permit drilling to proceed until a specialist study on the hydrological regime of the floodplain and a comprehensive EIA informed by the specialist study, have been undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Decides to retain **Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 18. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

#### Decision: 41 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.28** and **40 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes progress made by the State Party with increasing patrols throughout the serial property, including the implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in all of its components;
4. Notes with concern that poaching and forest loss, including as a result of encroachment, illegal logging and other illegal activities such as small-scale mining, continue to threaten the property, and requests the State Party to take urgent additional measures to ensure that the applicable laws are fully enforced and offenders prosecuted;
5. Notes with appreciation that the completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for road development plans that could affect the property, takes note of its conclusion that road development within the property would cause unacceptable habitat loss and biodiversity conflict and have a direct negative impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including the conditions of integrity, and also requests the State Party to:
  - a) Continue ensuring that new roads within the property are not permitted, and consider that upgrading a footpath to a road for motorized vehicles represents a new road development,
  - b) Prioritize better maintenance of existing roads and footpaths as a means for better meeting the needs of local communities,
  - c) Ensure that any upgrade to existing roads and footpaths shall only be permitted if it would demonstrably not cause any negative impact on the property's OUV;
6. Noting the State Party's statement that a preliminary study to explore the possibility of developing geothermal energy extraction will not be conducted within the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any development of geothermal energy within the property remains prohibited by law;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide further information on measures taken to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impact on the property and key areas in the Leuser Ecosystem, in line with the commitment made by the State Party in 2016;
8. Urges the State Party to strengthen the property-wide monitoring of key species, including Sumatran Tiger, Sumatran Rhino, Sumatran Elephant and Sumatran Orangutan, in collaboration with its conservation partners, as specified in the corrective measures;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which shall provide advice on any proposed geothermal development and its likely impacts on the OUV of the property and assess progress made with the implementation of corrective measures towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 19. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.49**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) submitted by the State Party (see Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add) and requests the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a set of corrective measures to guide action towards achieving the DSOCR;
4. Calls upon the international community to provide support to the State Party in its efforts to implement the DSOCR and to develop sustainable livelihoods for the customary owners of the property;
5. Commends the State Party for undertaking important steps aimed at consolidating the conservation and management of the property, including the adoption of the Cabinet Paper which provides a strategic framework for the various measures required to ensure the conservation of the property and the establishment of the inter-ministerial Core Team for Heritage which will oversee the process;
6. Welcomes the State Party's decision to organize a national Round Table to discuss future strategies for the property and the State Party's commitment to ensuring the inclusion of all stakeholders in the process;
7. Notes the Cabinet decision to revoke and/or refuse granting any felling licences for areas within the property, but considers that a permanent legal mechanism should be put in place to ensure that no commercial logging can be permitted within the property in the future, and therefore urges the State Party to expedite the designation of the property under the Protected Areas Act and the finalization of the Management Plan, with the consent of the customary owners;
8. Also notes the information provided by the State Party that no bauxite mining activities in the property take place and also urges the State Party to defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until a better understanding of the ecological links between East and West Rennell is available;
9. Notes with concern that a proposal for a rat eradication project has been put on hold due to uncertainties about governance mechanisms and further urges the State Party to take urgent measures to clarify these uncertainties, in order to address the threat of invasive species, in line with the DSOCR, including by seeking international support from States Parties with significant expertise in eradication of invasive species;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

11. **Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

#### **20. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A and WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Also recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.31**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) regarding significant boundary modification of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, that excluded Bagrati Cathedral from the property of Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, thus becoming Gelati Monastery,
4. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures concerning the Gelati Monastery;
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the following recommendations :
  - a) Ensure adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings,
  - b) Develop a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work,
  - c) Put in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;
  - d) Approve and implement the management structure for the property with clear responsibilities for the various agencies and organizations involved in its management,
  - e) Set up a Coordinating Committee for the property with representation from key stakeholders,
  - f) Put in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes,
  - g) Register as soon as possible the land rights in order to avoid land disputes,
  - h) Submit full details of proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy, outlining the new visitor access arrangements and location of new domestic quarters for monks, including the archaeological profile of the chosen area, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before

any commitments are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,

- i) Augment the monitoring indicators to reflect the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value;
6. **Decides to remove Gelati Monastery (Georgia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
  7. **Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.**

## **21. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Decides to adjourn the debate on this agenda item until its next ordinary session.**

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

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,**
2. **Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7A.35**, **38 COM 7A.19**, **39 COM 7A.43**, and **40 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,**
3. **Notes with regret that the implementation of the Liverpool Waters scheme has started with the granting of planning permission for a 34 storey tower at Princes Dock and that the State Party acknowledges that it cannot accede to the Committee's request to limit granting of further planning permissions that impact adversely on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);**
4. **Considers that the recent planning permissions at Liverpool Waters scheme and elsewhere, and the stated inability of the State Party to control further developments clearly reflect inadequate governance systems and planning mechanisms that undermine protection and management and therefore fail to sustain the OUV of the property;**

5. Recalls that it has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns over the impact of the proposed Liverpool Waters development, as it would irreversibly damage the attributes of OUV and conditions of integrity of the property; and also recalls that it already considered possible deletion of the property (Decisions **36 COM 7B.39** and **37 COM 7A.35**) due to the potential threat brought by Liverpool Waters development to the OUV, including the authenticity and integrity of the property;
6. Although noting that the State Party has proposed a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), also regrets that this draft does not provide a comprehensive desired state of conservation nor appropriate corrective measures, and remains a statement of process instead of acknowledging the importance of protecting key attributes which contribute to the OUV of the property, and the significance of the context of the property and its buffer zone;
7. Notes that all stakeholders recognize the serious concerns of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme to the OUV of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to clarify whether a further DSOCR can be defined in line with previous recommendations, and further recalls that submission of a further draft of the DSOCR by the State Party and its approval by the Committee should come prior to the finalization and approval of the necessary planning tools and regulatory framework;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit, only if it confirms the feasibility of revising the draft DSOCR in line with previous recommendations by the Committee, a revised draft of the DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as requested in Decision **40 COM 7A.31**, and to include the approval of the Local Plan and the revised Management Plan as part of the agreed implementation plan for the corrective measures;
10. Further requests the State Party to progress in the establishment of clearly defined attributes that contribute to OUV and substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form and linking the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document, which provides legal guidelines on protection of OUV;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering the deletion of this property from the World Heritage List at its 42nd session** if the State Party does not:
  - a) Reverse course and stop the granting of planning permissions which have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,
  - b) Provide substantive commitments to limitation on the quantity, location and size of allowable built form,
  - c) Link the strategic city development vision to a regulatory planning document,
  - d) Submit, lastly, a DSOCR and corrective measures in a form that might be considered for adoption by the Committee;
12. **Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

#### Decision: 41 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in view of the establishment of the Inter-institutional Committee to oversee the implementation of the stabilization works in the summit of Cerro Rico;
4. Notes with satisfaction the resuming of the stabilization works on the summit of Cerro Rico, while expressing its deep concern over longstanding instability and vulnerability of Cerro Rico;
5. Also notes with satisfaction that the State Party started using the International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund in view of achieving positive outcomes towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and commends the State Party for the participatory approach in which all the stakeholders have worked in the definition of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) at the occasion of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS technical mission to the property in May 2017;
6. Adopts the DSOCR developed in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and all stakeholders, as presented in Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add and urges the State Party to start the immediate implementation of the corrective measures;
7. Also urges the State Party, based on technical assistance provided by the technical mission of May 2017, to complete the definition of the buffer zone and submit a final proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Requests the State Party to establish an integrated management unit for the property, with appropriate articulation between the various bodies and committees and to proceed with the elaboration of an Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) that includes all attributes of the property and ensures its Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further urges the State Party to finalize the process of adopting a new legislation to address the issue of the relocation of miners and enforcing the moratorium for all explorations over the quota 4,400m;
10. Notes with appreciation the development of restoration works undertaken in the Historic Centre and the updating of the Master Plan for the City, and also requests the State Party to integrate its conservation strategy in the IPMP to be elaborated and implemented;



11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;
12. **Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **24. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178bis)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party and congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the programme of corrective measures;
4. Welcomes the progress made in the creation of the Ministry of Culture of Chile and the establishment of the “National Center for World Heritage Sites”;
5. Invites the State Party to continue the implementation of the corrective measures so that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) may be achieved by the end of 2018, as scheduled;
6. Requests the State Party to pay particular attention to the establishment of a buffer zone and the definition of regulatory measures to ensure its protection;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, addressing in detail the five-year programme of corrective measures 2014-2018 and the indicators as included in Decision **37 COM 7A.37**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7A.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the commitment of the institutions responsible for the conservation and management of the property and their efforts to strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and coordination;
4. Notes with great concern that there is a continued lack of sustained funding from the State Party that jeopardizes the implementation of the Emergency Plan and the corrective measures foreseen for 2016-2019, which, as a consequence, may seriously affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its attributes, including its authenticity and integrity;
5. Urges the State Party to secure sustained government funds that are required for the integral implementation of the strategy, work plan and timeframe 2016-2019 in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by 2019;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
7. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**26. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7A.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures that are required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

4. Welcomes the agreement for the extension of the site museum and its facilities, as well as the Pan-American Conservation Centre for Earthen Heritage Sites (PCCEHS), among others;
5. Acknowledges the commitment expressed by the State Party to update the Archaeological Intervention Manual and the Integral Risk Prevention Plan;
6. Takes note of the progress made in three main pending issues and that administrative processes for their completion are under way, and urges the State Party to give high priority to:
  - a) The formal adoption of the Master Plan by the Minister of Culture,
  - b) The formal delimitation of the buffer zone and elaboration of its regulatory measures, which may incorporate the Guidelines document proposed for the Municipality of Trujillo,
  - c) The review of the draft regulations for Law 28161 which will address the issue of illegal occupations, following observations made by the Office of the Prime Minister;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **27. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (C 658)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Appreciates the continued efforts by the State Party in implementing the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, and recognizes the steady progress in conservation and management of both public and private structures within the property;
4. Also appreciates the inclusion of Community Councils and the two communities at large as integral participants in the property's conservation and management efforts, and commends the State Party on its initiatives for capacity building and transmission of traditional know-how for the sustainable development and use of the property;
5. Notes that the State Party requires additional time for the implementation of the corrective measures, as updated in Decision **39 COM 7A.48**, and therefore requests the establishment of a new detailed timeframe for the implementation of the outstanding corrective measures;

6. Also notes the preliminary proposal submitted by the State Party to redefine the property's boundaries and buffer zones, and also requests the State Party to work with ICOMOS to consider options for the redefinition of the property's boundaries as a matter of priority, considering its primacy for continued management and conservation efforts;
7. Also urges the State Party to finalize and submit the property's Management Plan, including the disaster risk management plan, taking into account the definition of the property's boundaries;
8. Recognizing the advancements in diagnosing and proposing potential solutions for the property's drainage system, further urges the State Party to develop a prioritized and costed plan to begin the implementation of these solutions;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide, as noted in the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Advisory mission report, clear and comprehensive information on the progress towards the full implementation of the entire set of corrective measures;
10. Considers that once the State Party has resolved the boundary definition process, and has demonstrated significant progress in implementing the Management Plan and an adequate drainage system, an assessment could then be made to determine whether the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) has been reached;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 28. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116rev)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of some of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session, in a difficult security context in Mali, and with the lack of adequate resources at the local level, which slowed down their implementation;

4. Notes that despite the inadequate financial and logistical resources available to the Cultural Mission of Djenné, resources have been allocated to the finalization of the Conservation and Management Plan by the end of 2017, and that measures are ongoing for awareness raising with the fight against illicit traffic;
5. Also expresses its concern with the appearance of further deterioration in the old urban fabric of the property after the flooding caused by the torrential rains in August 2016, which led to the collapse of certain monumental houses, including the old Moroccan Palace dating back to the 16th century; and about the risks of degradation and looting of the archaeological sites;
6. Encourages the State Party to seek a request for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund in order to implement priority actions for the rehabilitation of these damaged monumental houses;
7. Notes with appreciation the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's support for the sustainable riverbank conservation measures;
8. Expresses its concern with the fragility of the security situation in Djenné, which prevented the organization of the requested joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the security situation will be stabilized in Mali, this joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;
9. Also notes that international support for the buildings has focused mainly on Timbuktu, and calls upon the international community to support the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, by all possible means, for the conservation and protection of the property, in particular in the implementation of the Action Plan for the second phase of the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage of Mali;
10. Requests the State Party to update and finalize the list of corrective measures, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, with an updated implementation calendar, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Decides to retain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## 29. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session in a difficult security context in northern Mali and encourages it to continue with the support of its partners;
4. Expresses its concern at the fragility of the security situation in Timbuktu which prevented the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission from being carried out in order to assess the general state of conservation of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to update and implement the urban regulations within the inscribed perimeter, the ancient fabric and the buffer zones of the property, as soon as possible;
6. Calls upon the international community to continue to provide support to the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in all possible ways, for the conservation and protection of the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the situation in the northern region of Mali is stabilized, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;
8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a precise timetable for implementation, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Decides to pursue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;
11. Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

### 30. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted at its 40th session in a difficult security context in northern Mali, and encourages it to pursue its efforts with the support of its partners;
4. Expresses its concern about the unstable security situation in Gao, which did not allow the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be organized in order to assess the general state of conservation of the property;
5. Also expresses its concern at the problems of degradation of the necropolis of the men's mosque due to water erosion caused by heavy rains in August-September 2016, and also encourages the State Party to request international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the rehabilitation of this necropolis;
6. Notes with satisfaction the granting of the status of Enhanced Protection to Tomb of Askia under the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the opportunity thus offered to strengthen synergies on the ground between the 1954 and 1972 Conventions;
7. Taking note of the decline in community participation in the conservation of the site, requests the State Party to take measures to promote the latter;
8. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in all possible ways, for the conservation and protection of the property;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, when the security situation in the northern region of Mali is stabilized, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, and the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures;
10. Also requests the State Party to finalize, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a clear implementation timetable, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018** for adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;

13. **Also decides to retain the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **31. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress that has been made in installing the roof rings as part of the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, even though progress has been slower than anticipated;
4. Also welcomes the efforts made by the State Party for instituting training programmes for younger artisans and further encourages these efforts, while noting that high priority should be given to resolving cash flow problems that have impacted adversely on the workers;
5. Further welcomes the initial work undertaken on the Master Plan and also encourages the State Party to continue this work, with support and guidance from the Advisory Bodies as a matter of high priority in the light of the urgent need to define, justify and coordinate the various development activities at the property, which currently remain separate and lack detail, and requests the State Party to halt all new development projects (except the reconstruction of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga) until the Master Plan has been finalized and approved;
6. Expresses its concern that risk management arrangements, encompassing fire-fighting equipment, fire management practices and security and other measures necessary to reduce risks, have still not been fully developed; urges the State Party to undertake this work as soon as possible as part of the finalization of the Management Plan, ensuring that solutions (especially in regard to lighting and other visible elements) respect the traditional aspects of the property; and hopes that the Japanese extrabudgetary project will be able to restart shortly in order to provide all necessary conditions for the success of the implementation of these activities;
7. Notes that the ICOMOS technical review recommends modifications to the fire prevention system to reduce risk and increase effectiveness, and also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, revised plans that address these recommendations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Also notes the progress made on the revised Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to update the organizational structure to take into account the Buganda Heritage Board as site manager, the existence of other committees related to the management of the property and any other changes that have been made to the structure, and to include a Tourism Management Plan;



9. In the light of a clearer understanding of when the main reconstruction work is to be completed, recommends that revised timeframes be suggested by the State Party for the completion of other corrective measures relating to the completion and implementation of the Management Plan, the development of the Master Plan and the development and implementation of a Risk Management Strategy;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## ARAB STATES

### 32. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Continues to express great concern regarding the state of conservation of the property and the low level of implementation of the recommended corrective measures;
4. Notes that the State Party has submitted a schedule of management actions and projects, but urges it to prepare a comprehensive integrated Management Plan for the property;
5. Also urges the State Party to proceed with comprehensive implementation of the corrective measures, to protect and conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, with particular attention to the Management Plan and the following issues:
  - a) Preparation of a conservation plan for the entirety of the property, which includes a condition survey and the identification of priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,
  - b) Removal of inadequate new constructions and the creation of facilities to allow for religious uses in areas outside the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
6. Welcomes the 'Efficiency-Raising and Maintenance of the Groundwater Lowering' project, but reiterates its request that the State Party undertake an analysis of ways to address the underlying causes of the rising water table and elaborate a project to address them, as well as mitigation measures for the archaeological remains once the water table has been lowered and stabilized;

7. Also notes that the State Party has invited a technical Advisory mission to the property to provide advice on appropriate irrigation and water management technologies;
8. Requests the State Party to submit a revised modification of the boundaries of both the property and buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed visitor centre, which has particular regard to potential impact on the OUV of the property, and is prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details for all other on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica, the reburial strategy, and initiatives arising from the project for restoration and rehabilitation of the property prepared by the Ministry of Antiquities and the Abu Mena Monastery administration, for review prior to implementation;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **33. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for undertaking a rapid emergency assessment of the property, and requests it to submit a copy of this assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Expresses its great concern about the state of conservation of the property following intentional destructive acts, and about the continuing lack of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation, and in particular to start implementing urgently the priority actions outlined at the International Coordination Conference on the

Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq (UNESCO, February 2017), with the support of UNESCO and the international community;

6. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural and natural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;
7. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

#### **34. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its great concern about the state of conservation of the property, following intentional destructive acts, and about the continuing lack of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation, and in particular to start implementing urgently the priority actions outlined at the February 2017 International Coordination Conference on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Liberated Areas of Iraq, with the support of UNESCO and the international community;
5. Also encourages the State Party to carry out a rapid emergency assessment of the damages incurred, in close collaboration with UNESCO, before undertaking emergency actions and as soon as the situation allows;
6. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;

7. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **35. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.35**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for documenting the damage done to the affected monuments, and requests the State Party to submit a copy of this documentation for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue to pursue efforts to ensure the protection of the property, despite the difficult prevailing situation;
5. Expresses its great concern about the continuing lack of information on the state of conservation of the property, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the situation on the ground;
6. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Iraq to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage;
7. Launches an appeal to all UNESCO Member States to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, 2253 of December 2015 and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-17/41.COM/7A.ADD2,
2. Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
3. Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),
4. Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,
5. Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,
6. Further recalling the 12 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Dec.19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/PX 30.1 and the seven World Heritage Committee decisions: 34 COM/7A.20, 35 COM/7A.22, 36 COM/7A.23, 37 COM/7A.26, 38 COM/7A.4, 39 COM/7A.27, 40 COM/7A.13,
7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunneling, works, projects and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its

request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;
9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;
10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **37. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.24** and **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the important efforts made to ensure the protection and conservation of the property, despite the prevailing unstable situation and difficult working conditions on the ground;
4. Expresses its concern regarding the numerous difficulties faced by the Department of Antiquities of Cyrene (DOAC) in the protection of the property, especially from urban encroachment;
5. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to Libya to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party to organize as soon as possible a follow-up technical workshop to explore ways for the monitoring and management of the property and for the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the locations of encroachments and interventions of the DOAC , and any additional information useful in the conservation of the property and its buffer zone;

7. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed of the evolution of the situation at the property and of any new measures undertaken to ensure the protection and conservation of the property, and to provide a detailed report on the restoration works carried out, including technical explanations justifying these interventions;
8. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to Libya as soon as the security conditions permit;
9. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **38. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;
4. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;
6. Also requests the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre towards the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the location of the main threats to the property and its environment;
7. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. **Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **39. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;
4. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;
6. Also requests the State Party to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre towards the elaboration of a map indicating the precise boundaries of the property and of its buffer zone, as well as the location of the main threats to the property and its environment;
7. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to Property as soon as the security conditions permit;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. **Decides to retain the Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



#### 40. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362)

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with concern the absence of detailed information on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### 41. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) (C 287)

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.25** and **40 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 40th session;

4. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Emergency Fund for Heritage, to implement the short- and medium-term measures identified during the International Meeting on the Safeguard of Libyan Cultural Heritage (Tunis, May 2016);
5. Requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any evolution of the situation at the property as well as of measures undertaken to ensure its protection and conservation;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party invite the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a mission to the property as soon as the security conditions permit;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
8. **Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7A.42**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);
3. Commends the State Party on the successful completion of the conservation works of the roof and of the narthex of the Church of the Nativity and notes that the church is now in sound condition in relation to the primary factors leading to its decay;
4. Also notes that three of the four corrective measures have been completed and that the remaining one, the development of a Conservation Plan, is being planned;
5. Requests the State Party to complete the Conservation Plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, along with details of recent work on mosaics, plaster, architraves, stone pillar, etc.;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit a resume and analysis of all evidence relating to the age of the roof fabric in order that there is a clear understanding as to whether any material survives from the 6th century AD and if not what of the dates of the surviving fabric in relation with the conservation works undertaken;
7. Further requests the State Party to complete the development of a Management Plan and also submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Notes with concern that the proposed projects for a Manger Square Tunnel and a Manger Square Village commercial outlet and car park could have the potential to impact adversely on the property; and requests furthermore the State Party to halt further work on these projects and compile the necessary justification and independent Heritage Impact Assessments and submit these to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in line with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before any irreversible commitments are made;
  9. Finally requests that the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
  10. **Decides to retain the Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**
- 43. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7A.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the timeframe submitted by the State Party for the full implementation of the adopted corrective measures in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and encourages the State Party to review this timeframe to determine whether an accelerated pace for any of the key corrective measures is feasible;
4. Commends the State Party for commencing preparations for the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP), the completion of which is forecast for July 2017, also encourages the State Party to envisage additional means in order to reinforce the engagement of local residents and stakeholders, and reiterates its request that the adopted corrective measures be adequately integrated into the MCP;
5. Also reiterates its request for the State Party to put in place, as soon as possible, an effective management system for the property and its buffer zone and, until the MCP is established and operational, to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
7. **Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12** **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its great concern at the impact of the armed conflict and resulting humanitarian crisis and irreversible destruction within the property, including of whole neighborhoods;
5. Recalls its request that humanitarian and security actions be done in coordination with cultural heritage stakeholders, to avoid further irreversible damages to the property, and allow for undertaking of first aid measures on its cultural heritage;
6. Also expresses its deep concern about the instability of buildings within the property and urges the State Party to undertake a detailed risk assessment and emergency consolidation works for the concerned structures in order to guarantee the safety of the inhabitants;
7. Notes the efforts mobilized by the State Party for the recovery of Aleppo since December 2016 and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in documenting and assessing damages, despite the extremely difficult situation;
8. Encourages the State Party to implement the actions agreed upon at the technical coordination meeting organized by UNESCO in March 2017, and also urges the State Party to allow sufficient time for the development of integrated strategic plans for the rehabilitation and revitalization of the property in its broader urban context, in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and in this regard, underlines the need for UNESCO to ensure its coordinating role;
9. Further expresses its concern that rehabilitation and restoration works are taking place within the property without quality control and recalls to the State Party that before any works are undertaken at the property, detailed studies and extensive field work are required, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches including considerations that go beyond technical issues, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for consideration by the Advisory Bodies, any planned projects within and around the property, prior to their implementation, in accordance with Article 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. Takes note of the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
12. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party is preparing minor boundary modification proposal for the property, and also encourages it to submit the proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
14. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **45. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account the State Party's submission of a minor boundary modification proposal for the property, Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic and Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
4. Encourages all parties to pursue their cooperation for ensuring the respect of a ceasefire within the property;
5. Acknowledges the efforts of the local communities to protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances;
6. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36**, and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its concern over the damage regularly caused by fire within the property;
5. Regrets that the restoration works undertaken in al-Asrooniya neighbourhood are not based on historical archives and documentation, and do not use traditional materials, thus impacting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Reiterates the urgency to plan and implement all necessary risk-prevention and mitigation actions outlined in the Emergency Response Plan of December 2013, and to report back to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made thereon;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:
  - a) Limit conservation or restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves,
  - b) Take immediate action to save the remaining structures through adequate shoring and temporary consolidation measures,
  - c) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any reconstruction and restoration project within property, in particular al-Asrooniya neighbourhood including the "Ottoman Bank", prior to the commencement of any works;
8. Encourages the State Party to also implement the recommendations of the First Aid Support Meeting and the Technical Assistance Workshop, in particular:
  - a) Reinforce coordination for the protection of the property, including through joint committees for disaster risk management and for the restoration of the "Ottoman Bank",
  - b) Develop an integrated management plan,
  - c) Create a data bank of documentation and archives to ensure that restoration works are carried out in conformity with the original buildings design,
  - d) Ensure the revision of the cultural heritage law to avoid the gradual loss of authenticity in the property,

- e) Ensure the strict use of traditional construction techniques and materials for the restoration works within the property,
  - f) Carry out a sound structural diagnosis and implement emergency measures at the Ottoman Bank as a priority, in particular emergency consolidation and the protection of the building from weathering;
9. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the Ancient City of Damascus, including preventing the use of cultural property and prominent architectural elements, in particular the Suleymaniye and Omayyad Mosque Minarets, for military purposes;
  10. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
  11. Requests the State Party to invite of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
  12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
  13. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **47. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Expresses its concern about the situation at the site and the lack of detailed information on damages;
5. Acknowledges the efforts of the local communities to monitor and protect the property despite the very difficult circumstances;
6. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
9. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36**, and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations of the Technical Assistance Workshop organized by the World heritage Centre, and undertake:
  - a) The urgent and necessary small and medium scale consolidation and restoration works,
  - b) The studies needed for complex restoration works,
5. Encourages the State Party to develop a conservation plan for the property, including a risk management plan, to address restoration works, future conservation projects and regular maintenance;
6. Reiterates to the State Party the need to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves;
7. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
8. Takes note of the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;



9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah EI-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **49. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, **adopted** at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account Decision **41 COM 7A.50** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic,
4. Condemns the additional deliberate acts of destructions at the property and deplores the considerable damage to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance workshop, and in particular:
  - a) Gather all documentation available to understand previous restoration works carried out at the property,
  - b) Conduct a sound structural diagnosis for the remaining structures,
  - c) Shore the Portico of the Temple of Bel and remove the unstable upper stones at the Arch of Triumph according to structural evaluations;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to limit restoration works to first aid interventions until the security situation improves and allows conducting detailed studies and extensive field work, and also discussions on defining optimal approaches;
7. Requests the State Party to invite of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to proceed to a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;
8. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party is preparing minor boundary modification proposal, and encourages it to submit the proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **50. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.12**, **39 COM 7A.36** and **40 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;
4. Taking note of the reports provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and of the sites inscribed on the Syrian Tentative List, commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions, but expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;
5. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law, and in particular the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, including the halting of all damages that result from targeting World Heritage properties, sites included in the Tentative List and other cultural heritage sites;
6. Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;
7. Further urges the State Party and the international community to include recovery actions within the properties to the overall humanitarian, security and peace building response;
8. Urges furthermore the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and to refrain from undertaking conservation and restoration work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties, whenever conditions allow, and to implement all possible risk mitigation measures, to inform on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;
10. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015, and in engaging in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and reiterates its suggestion to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;
11. Insists on the importance of ensuring that there be effective coordination of all efforts with a view to restoring, reconstructing, and conserving the cultural heritage of Syria with the effective participation of UNESCO ;
12. Calls upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds or through contribution to the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
13. Also calls upon the international and national cultural heritage professionals to unite for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage, and pursue their ongoing initiatives in coordination with UNESCO;
14. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the properties and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **51. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.51**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.43**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the Historic Town of Zabid as a result of ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be threatened by the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the State Party for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the

Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the local authorities, and the community of Zabid to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions;

5. Welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on short-term repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;
6. Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;
7. Requests the State Party to continue dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;
8. Reiterates its previous calls for the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre with details of the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2018**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **52. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of Yemen as a result of ongoing armed conflict, and that the Old City of Sana'a has incurred irreversible destruction, and continues to be vulnerable, owing to the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the State Party for its involvement in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions, and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;
5. Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;
6. Notes that the State Party has undertaken a range of remedial and preparatory actions including staff training and a technical study, and emergency intervention, but regrets that further conservation actions or other projects at the property cannot proceed owing to the security situation and lack of resources;
7. Notes with concern the construction of new buildings within the property without prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Advisory Bodies, further information on these new buildings and on new projects prior to initiate any construction works;
8. Also urges the State Party to continue dialogue and consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;
9. Reiterates its previous call to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures; and also calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
10. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
  - a) Maintain a moratorium on new development or new construction, pending completion of the proposed Conservation Plan and, where appropriate, project-specific heritage impact assessments,
  - b) Prior to proceeding with the proposed rehabilitation of the water and sewerage project, prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), which includes assessment of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with the relevant 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, and submit a copy of the HIA to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,

- c) Develop, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
12. **Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### **53. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.53**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its continuing concern at the recent damage caused to the cultural heritage of the Old Walled City of Shibam as a result of natural elements and ongoing armed conflict, and that the property continues to be vulnerable, owing to the residual impact of previous flooding, as well as the current security situation, ongoing social change and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the State Party for its involvement in damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions, and for its communication with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and acknowledges the efforts of the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY), the community and the other concerned stakeholders of Shibam to protect and conserve the property despite the very difficult conditions in the city;
5. Welcomes the open invitation for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on short-term repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as soon as the security situation in Yemen has improved;
6. Urges all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of properties on the World Heritage List and those included in the Tentative List of Yemen, and encourages all concerned stakeholders to unite for the preservation of cultural heritage in Yemen;

7. Requests the State Party to continue dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in all restoration and/or reconstruction processes to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and the respect of international conservation standards;
8. Expresses regret that owing to the security situation in Yemen, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) has been compelled to discontinue its direct support for Yemeni cultural heritage;
9. Reiterates its previous calls for the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural heritage, adopted at the UNESCO Expert meeting in July 2015, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures, and calls on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue providing the State Party with technical assistance and support where needed;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. **Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.54**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.26, adopted at its 40th session** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the approval of Phase V of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (FiT) project for the safeguarding of the Bamiyan Buddha Niches in 2016, which allowed to resume various long-awaited conservation activities at the Western Buddha niche and the organization of the Bamiyan Expert Working Group meeting in December 2016;
4. Expresses its concerns over the state of conservation of the other components of the property, which have seriously deteriorated and are in imminent danger of collapse, except the site of Shahr-i Ghulghulah where emergency activities were carried out in 2015-2016 along with other conservation activities, and urges the State Party to allocate a minimum amount of funding for those components which have not received any international funds,

as these might otherwise crumble beyond repair and thereby cause the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support not only to the Bamiyan Valley, but also to other components of this serial property, such as Shahr-i-Zohak, Kakrak and Shahr-i Ghulghulah, in order to help the State Party attain the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) adopted by the Committee in 2007;
6. Notes that the Cultural Master Plan, along with the City Master Plan, have been functioning efficiently to control increasing development pressures in and around the property, and also urges the State Party to continue vigilantly implementing this protection framework;
7. Acknowledges the State Party's intention to revise the Cultural Master Plan in order to better respond to the increasing development pressures, and expresses its full support for the State Party's proposal to revise the boundaries of the property in order to fully reflect the values of the cultural landscape;
8. Deeply regrets that irreversible decisions concerning the Cultural Centre and Museum in Bamiyan were taken without informing the Committee, which goes against Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and that construction has progressed without submission of detailed information, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies;
9. Also notes that, in the framework of the UNESCO/Japan FiT project, an international symposium is to be organized in September 2017 to discuss the long-term conservation of the Buddha niches, taking into account the wish of the State Party to partially reconstruct at least one of these niches, and that the meeting will also discuss proposals for partial reconstruction, and requests the State Party to submit the outcomes of the symposium, as well as any selected proposals or options, for review by the Advisory Bodies and consideration by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Also welcomes the deployment of on-site guards to each component of the property, in addition to the police officers deployed by the Ministry of Interior, who together can effectively stop any illicit trafficking of cultural property and increase the sites' security;
11. Further urges the State Party to review, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit this revised timeframe to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by the Committee;
12. Reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity-building programme to strengthen local and national capacities with regard to heritage conservation and management, including the development of the local communities' capacity to contribute to the safeguarding the property;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
14. **Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**



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

### Decision: 41 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7A.27** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with regret that the State Party has neither adopted the detailed topographic map of the property produced in 2012, nor submitted a proposal for a minor boundary modification, and reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the 2012 topographic map of the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by ICOMOS;
4. Regrets that the State Party has not carried out any conservation work at the site since 2012;
5. Urges the State Party to approve the Conservation Action Plan, which was established as an outcome of the Emergency International Assistance granted from the World Heritage Fund, along with the necessary financial resources, and to start implementing this Action Plan as soon as possible;
6. Also urges the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to address the two issues that have been reported as urgent for several years already:
  - a) The installation of a monitoring instrument on the Minaret of Jam to measure its inclination, and
  - b) The emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases, in order to prevent further destabilization of the Minaret's structure;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, the detailed Conservation Action Plan along with details on the means allocated towards its implementation, including any financial measure;
8. Also requests the State Party to construct a footbridge over the Hari Rud River and a guesthouse at the property, in order to improve access to the property and site security, which the State Party itself has highlighted as urgent for a number of years;
9. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, for the implementation of above-mentioned Action Plan, which will be part of a strategy to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);
10. Further requests the State Party to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an update report on the state of conservation of the property and the

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

12. **Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **56. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia, Federated States of) (C 1503)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.56**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.22**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016);
3. Welcomes the support extended by the international partners (France, Japan and the United States of America) in offering expert resources to the State Party to work on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Notes that the State Party will submit a consolidated report to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, on the outcomes of the three visits by international experts;
5. Also notes that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in 2017 and considers that this mission must have the benefit of the report of the international experts;
6. Further notes that the mission will consider a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and that this should aim to reflect both the long timeframe needed for the major project to stabilize the extensive stone remains, and the need to define a point at which the main threats have been mitigated to an acceptable degree before the overall project has been completed;
7. Regrets that work on adopting legislation LB 392 has been delayed until April/May 2017 and urges the State Party to make progress on this matter so that a Nan Madol Historic Preservation Trust can be set up and become operational;
8. Notes furthermore that efforts to appoint cultural heritage staff are ongoing, but that progress on developing management, conservation, risk management and a tourism strategy will only be achieved once a property manager has been appointed, and also urges the State Party to proceed with this appointment as soon as possible;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

10. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **57. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7A.57**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the Action Plan submitted by the State Party, which reflects an acknowledgement of the need to transform the protection, management and decision making not only for Shakhrisyabz but also for other World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan;
4. Notes with extreme concern the findings of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission concerning the drastic and irreversible damage to the Timurid urban planning and to traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town resulting from works undertaken under the 'State Programme for complex measures for building and reconstruction of Shakhrisyabz city';
5. Also notes with extreme concern the relocation of some 2,000 residents and the extensive conservation work at and around a number of cultural heritage monuments, including the Ak-Saray Palace, the Dorus-Saodat Complex, the Chor-su Bazaar and the Medieval Baths, partly carried out using inappropriate materials and irreversible techniques, including some reconstruction, which caused significant damage to the authenticity of the property;
6. Greatly regrets that no information was provided to the World Heritage Centre on this major project before irreversible decisions were taken and work commenced, and understands that, had the project not been halted as requested by the Committee in 2016, the demolition would have been extended to other mahalla districts;
7. Notes that no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), no detailed systematic documentation, and no rescue archaeology was carried out before the major interventions began;
8. Takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that, as the monumental buildings have now been disengaged from their urban surroundings, the heart of the Timurid town planning has been lost and, as the traditional dwelling houses in the core of the medieval town have been destroyed, the key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been damaged to such an extent, and for the most part irreversibly, that the property can no longer convey the OUV for which it was inscribed;
9. Also takes note with concern of the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that recovering sufficient attributes to justify the OUV identified at the time of inscription seems impossible at this stage, but considers nevertheless that the State Party should explore all possible options for the recovery of attributes and examine whether a significant boundary

modification could be envisaged based on any recoverable attributes, in line with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

10. Requests therefore that the State Party halt any further work at Shakhrisyabz and provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, further details and documentation to allow an assessment of what, if anything, could be recovered, for review by ICOMOS, including:
  - a) Detailed plans of the town centre showing the layout and buildings before and after demolition,
  - b) Detailed plans of the remaining mahalla areas and descriptions of their characteristics,
  - c) Inventories of remaining traditional houses,
  - d) Assessment of changes to houses and streets since inscription, including comparisons with the 1983 drawings of selected houses,
  - e) Current plans for further improvements and upgrade work on houses and access routes, such as the widening and re-paving of roads,
  - f) Documentation on work carried out on the monuments and their settings since inscription,
  - g) A current Master Plan for the city;
11. Decides that on the basis of this documentation, a decision will be made at its 42nd session in 2018 on whether there is potential for a re-nomination of the property including only some of the monuments and the remaining urban areas, or **whether the property has deteriorated to such an extent that it has lost the attributes of the OUV defined at the time of inscription and should therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 192 of the *Operational Guidelines*, be deleted from the World Heritage List;**
12. Urges the State Party to address all other recommendations of the December 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, notably regarding protection, management and tile decay on the façade of Ak-Saray Palace;
13. Requests the World Heritage Centre to provide to the Committee at its 42nd session a report concerning the clarification of the processes associated with the Periodic Reporting and Reactive Monitoring system with regard to this property;
14. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
15. Also decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## 7B. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### NATURAL PROPERTIES

#### EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

##### 1. Białowieża Forest (Belarus / Poland) (N 33ter)

#### Decision: 41 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the decision by the State Party of Belarus to increase the strict protection zone of the Belarussian part of the property;
4. Notes the information provided by the States Parties regarding the activities termed sanitary cuttings undertaken in the Polish part of the property and the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Amendment to the Forest Management Plan for the Białowieża Forest District but, noting that the separate evaluation of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property mainly summarized the conclusions of the SEA, considers that the focus of the SEA on assessing potential impacts to the Natura 2000 site “Puszcza Białowieska”, does not represent an adequate assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property;
5. Reiterates its position that commercial timber extraction within the entire property would represent a potential danger to the property in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and notes with utmost concern the infringement decision issued by the European Commission in relation to Białowieża Forest in Poland, which noted that increased logging is likely to adversely affect the conservation of the site's habitats and species as well as cause irreparable biodiversity loss, including through removal of 100-year and older trees, and that these measures would, according to the evidence available, exceed those that would be necessary for ensuring the safe use of the forest;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Poland to maintain the continuity and integrity of protected old-growth forest in Białowieża Forest and strongly urges it to immediately halt all logging and wood extraction in old-growth forests, and to clarify third party reports about logging targeting species other than those affected by bark beetle, which cannot be justified as so-called sanitary cuttings;
7. Requests the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate current and potential impacts of ongoing and planned forest management operations on the OUV of the property and to assess whether the property meets the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. While also noting the conclusion of the States Parties that the preparation of the Transboundary Management Plan for the property will require several years, also reiterates its request to the States Parties to prepare such a Plan as a matter of priority in order to ensure a coordinated approach to the management of the property and to guarantee that no actions can be allowed within the entire property that could negatively impact on its OUV;
9. Also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019 , **with a view to considering in case of confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **2. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the State Party's acknowledgement of the property's challenges and vulnerability, and the commitment to embark on a major and participatory management response in the form of an overarching and coherent Action Plan, and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Allocate adequate resources for the elaboration and implementation of the Action Plan as a matter of priority, and clarify the timeline for its completion,
  - b) Ensure a process enabling fair, transparent and meaningful involvement of all legitimate stakeholders and rights-holders, including First Nations and Métis, based on mechanisms agreed by these stakeholders and rights-holders,
  - c) Ensure the best possible coherence with all relevant planning schemes affecting the property, including at provincial and territorial levels,
  - d) Fully reflect the results of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which should assess the cumulative impacts of all industrial developments on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and is scheduled for completion by the end of March 2018;
4. Also welcomes the State Party's support for the recommendations formulated by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission and also requests the State Party to fully implement all the mission's recommendations and to ensure refinement of its preliminary views on the concrete follow-up so as to fully and consistently reflect the management responses to these recommendations in the above-mentioned Action Plan, the 2020 Management Plan and the specific Area Management Approach for the Peace-Athabasca Delta;

5. Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to invest in comprehensive and independent analysis of the conservation importance and status of the Ronald Lake Bison Herd, including threats to it posed by the proposed development, within a broader Species Recovery Strategy and to dedicate, in full cooperation with First Nations, adequate attention and funding to the management of Wood Bison, including as regards the development of disease management options other than culling;
6. Further requests the State Party to make every effort to assess and understand the potential impacts of the Site C hydropower project and of the various major dams on the Peace River on the OUV of the property and ensure the application of best practice at all stages of the project, including mitigation measures and strategic flow regulation;
7. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to assess the potential cumulative impacts of all developments on the OUV of the property in the form of an SEA, including hydroelectric dams, oil sands development, and mining, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available, for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to conduct, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*:
  - a) An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of any other hydropower projects potentially affecting the OUV of the property,
  - b) An ESIA of any other oil sands development between the current northern frontier of the actively mined area and the property, which may affect the OUV of the property, including the Teck Frontier project,
  - c) A systematic risk assessment of the tailings ponds of the Alberta Oil Sands region with a focus on risks to the Peace-Athabasca Delta;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a refined response to the 2016 mission recommendations and report on the progress achieved with their implementation, and to submit by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the Action Plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

### **3. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Notes with significant concern the conclusions of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that, while the ecological integrity of the property has so far been preserved, the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are threatened by the significant expansion of tourist facilities, excessive number of visitors, associated pressures from unsustainable water use, water pollution, traffic as well as pressures to expand road infrastructure;
4. Considers that inappropriate and poorly regulated development of tourist facilities inside the property is causing visual impacts and pressures on the sensitive hydrogeology of the area, and therefore represents a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Acknowledging the strong institutional and scientific capacity of the State Party as a premise to address the issues related to both conservation and physical planning, appreciates the State Party's stated commitment to address the threats to the property by initiating a number of actions to remedy the situation, as noted below;
6. Notes that a process to develop the Management Plan and the Visitor Management Plan for the property has been initiated, and requests the State Party to provide these draft plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as soon as they become available;
7. Also notes that an analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation, as well as the inspectional supervision of suspected illegally built facilities within the property have been initiated, and urges the State Party to ensure that no new construction permits are issued until this process, which is expected to inform the potential amendments to the related procedures and legislative framework, has been completed and proposed developments are confirmed to not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Spatial Plan, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV and on the ecological and visual integrity of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Also requests the State Party to provide further information on the major EU-supported project to rehabilitate water infrastructure within the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to undertake rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), including a specific assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, of all major developments within the property, such as the upgrade of the water infrastructure, the construction of the presentation centre and the reconstruction of entrances to the park proposed within the Action Plan, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Taking note of the proposed Action Plan to improve the property's conservation status, requests furthermore the State Party to fully and effectively implement all recommendations made by the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as a matter of priority, and to review the Action Plan based on the results of the analysis of the Spatial Plan and its implementation as soon as they are available;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in the**



**implementation of the above, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**4. Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany (Germany,Slovakia,Ukraine) (N 1133bis)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party of Slovakia to explore how sustainable tourism could contribute to sustainable development around the property as well as the information provided by the State Party regarding the establishment of a new nature reserve and of an “ecological functional area” covering parts of the property located within Poloniny National Park, but notes with utmost concern that, despite these measures and the voluntary commitment of some entities involved not to carry out logging operations, only parts of the Slovak components of the property are currently legally protected against logging;
4. Also notes with concern that no Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has been established for the Slovak components of the property; reiterates its request to the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property’s boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, of an IMP for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage property, Biosphere Reserve, European Diploma and Natura 2000 and urges the State Party to ensure that no logging will be possible within the property’s boundaries after the adoption of the plan;
5. Takes note that negotiations regarding possible boundary modifications of the Slovak components of the property are planned to be completed in 2017, and also urges the State Party of Slovakia to submit a proposal for such boundary modifications as soon as possible, after consultation with the other States Parties for this property;
6. Also welcomes the State Party’s progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to complete the implementation of all mission recommendations;
7. Considers that, unless urgent measures are taken to address the lack of an adequate protection regime of the Slovak components of the property and to ensure that their boundary delineation is adequate, their protection from logging and other potential threats cannot be guaranteed in the long-term, which would clearly constitute a potential danger to the OUV of this serial transnational property as a whole, in line with Paragraphs 137 and 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

8. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia, in consultation with the other States Parties for this property, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## 5. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment and progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts in the implementation of all the mission recommendations, in particular as regards tourism planning and management, the involvement of civil society and particularly indigenous communities, as well as the consideration of the cultural heritage of the property;
4. Noting the information provided by the State Party that the selection of the route for the proposed Altai gas pipeline has not been decided yet and that no further construction works have taken place, reiterates its utmost concern that the Altai gas pipeline may cross the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the plans for the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property and urges the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China to consider alternative routes;
5. Reiterates its position that any decision to go forward with the Altai gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
6. Also welcomes that the government of the Altai Republic has currently no intention to construct linear (e.g. pipelines) or any other major infrastructure projects within the property but also reiterates its concern about legal changes in 2012 which still grant the legal possibility of such constructions, and emphasizes that, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the modification of legal protection status of an area included in a property is considered as a potential danger to its OUV and a reason for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party to revoke Decree 212 N 202 dated 2 August 2012 of the Republic of Altai;
7. Commends the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan on further progress in transboundary conservation efforts and strongly encourages all States Parties of the Altai region to consolidate existing transboundary conservation efforts, including under the *World Heritage Convention* and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as required;

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, in particular the status of the Altai gas pipeline project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to the property's OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 6. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.97**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding existing regulations on water use and management of Lake Baikal, but notes with concern the resolution increasing the allowed fluctuation between the maximum and minimum water levels of Lake Baikal in 2016-2017 and urges the State Party to elaborate an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of potential impacts of existing water use and management regulations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and not to introduce any further changes in the regulations until their effects on the property are fully understood;
4. Also notes with significant concern the reported changes in the property's ecosystem, including algal blooms and decreases in fish stocks, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a property-wide ecological monitoring system in order to identify the scale and causes of such changes and the responses required to preserve the ecological integrity of the property;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the EIAs for each Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property, for review by IUCN, and to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all SEZs, in order to guide all future developments, including tourism infrastructure projects, in a coherent manner consistent with the conservation of its OUV, which should include a specific assessment of impacts on OUV in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and take into account cumulative impacts of all existing and proposed developments;
6. Regrets that the State Party did not report on the development of a detailed EIA on the future use of the Baikal Paper and Pulp Mill site and its impact on the OUV of the property, as was requested in Decision **38 COM 7B.76** and reiterated in Decisions **39 COM 7B.22 and 40 COM 7B.97**, and also urges the State Party to develop such an assessment as a matter of priority and to submit a copy of it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it is completed;

7. Welcomes the intention of the State Party of Mongolia to undertake an additional study on the impacts of the Egiin Gol project on the biodiversity of the property, and notes the information provided by the State Party of Mongolia regarding the Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon river project, including the Terms of References for the development of Regional Environmental Assessments (REAs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for these projects;
8. Reiterates furthermore its request to the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to jointly develop a transboundary SEA for any future hydropower and water management projects which could potentially affect the property, taking into account any existing and planned projects on the territory of both countries, and requests both States Parties to ensure that the results of such transboundary SEA guide the elaboration of ESIAs of any concrete hydropower and water management projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower project and the Orkhon river project;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

#### **7. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation) (N 1023rev)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.7**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and takes note of the fact that due to climatic conditions, this mission will only be able to visit the property in July 2017 and therefore its recommendations will only be available for consideration by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
4. Also welcomes the ongoing progress with the removal of metal waste accumulated during the times when limited economic activities were undertaken within the property;
5. Notes with utmost concern that the construction of facilities has continued within the property and that no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been submitted by the State Party for these projects;
6. Urges the State Party to halt the construction of facilities and any associated activities until their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been assessed through rigorous EIAs, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

7. Regrets that the State Party did not provide detailed information regarding the seismic oil exploration projects in the East Siberian Sea and the Chukchi Sea, nor any EIAs of these projects, and requests the State Party to submit this information to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of priority;
8. Considers that the ongoing construction of facilities and the associated increase in human presence on Wrangel Island continue to pose a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the case of the confirmation of potential or ascertained danger to its OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 8. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.101**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with concern the recent legislative changes adopted by the State Party, which may weaken the protection regime of the property and recalls its concerns over a number of previous legislative changes potentially affecting the property;
4. Considers that such continuous degradation of the legal protection regime of protected areas comprising the property represents a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and requests the State Party to provide detailed information about all recently adopted legislative changes and measures taken to avoid negative impacts on the property;
5. Notes the conclusions of the 2016 IUCN Advisory mission that the recent plans for development of skiing facilities within the property may have significant impacts on the OUV of the property including its conditions of integrity;
6. Recalls that the Committee has repeatedly reiterated its position that the installation of capital construction on the Lagonaki Plateau, including Mount Fisht and Oshten, 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 considers that this also applies to such constructions in any other part of the property;
7. Reiterates its concerns over potential development of large-scale skiing facilities within the property and also requests the State Party to confirm the current status of any existing plans for large-scale tourism and sport infrastructure within the property;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## 9. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.79** and **39 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment not to authorize the dredging project to deepen the Guadalquivir River and takes note of the State Party's statement to remove this project from the Guadalquivir Basin Hydrological Plan when it is next revised;
4. Also welcomes the information provided by the State Party and encourages the State Party to continue working on enhancing water resource management so as to guarantee the state of conservation of the property;
5. Notes with concern the conclusions of the 2016 annual report of the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation which confirms that the current level and use of underground resources in a significant part of the groundwater bodies, if sustained, would compromise the good state of underground water bodies and the terrestrial ecosystems and requests the State Party to expedite the full implementation of the Special Management Plan of the Irrigated Zones to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana, and submit to the World Heritage Centre the findings of the current initiatives on monitoring of the hydrological processes to inform the status of the Doñana aquifer, once they are available;
6. Recalls that the continued declining condition of the Doñana aquifer, if not reversed, could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Further welcomes the decision of the State Party not to authorize the gas and storage projects in Marisma Oriental, and also requests the State Party to submit, as a matter of urgency, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the gas extraction projects at Aznalcázar and Marisma Occidental, comprising specific assessments of impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, before any decisions are taken that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Noting that a research project for Aznalcóllar mine has been authorized but that there is no mining project to date, and that enlargement of Agrio dam on the Guadiamar River is still at a conceptual stage, further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any agricultural, industrial and commercial developments related to these projects and to ensure that the cumulative impacts from these projects on the OUV of the

property are assessed in the framework of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) mentioned below;

9. Requests furthermore, the State Party to present an updated SEA for the Guadalquivir River Basin to ensure that it includes a specific chapter on the OUV of the property, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 10. Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.10**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.29**, **39 COM 7B.27** and **40 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the confirmation of the State Party that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be well preserved
4. Takes note with satisfaction of the expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, recently approved by the Presidential Decree of 5 June 2017, accomplishing a long participatory process of discussions between stakeholders, civil society, national and regional authorities;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare and submit, as soon as possible, a proposal for a boundary modification of the property, in conformity with Chapter III.1 of the *Operational Guidelines*, in order to align the boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component with the new boundaries approved for Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, including the State proposed Nova Roma ecological station;
6. Also requests the State Party to ensure that any land tenure issues around the approved expansion of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park are fully addressed in order to guarantee that the extended boundaries are accepted by all local stakeholders;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 11. Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Highly commends the State Party on the continuation of systematic management responses to the Committee's requests and recommendations, as well as recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Strongly encourages the State Party to:
  - a) Further consolidate human and financial resources and the partnership approach, bridging gaps between the government and civil society and among governmental institutions, both at local and national levels,
  - b) Further assess the feasibility of extending the Los Katíos National Park and possibly the property so as to include the Serrania del Darien National Protection Forest Reserve (Colombia) and potentially other areas,
  - c) Further integrate the property with the emerging regional protected area system and continue the promising efforts to define a functional buffer zone for eventual formalization under the *World Heritage Convention*,
  - d) Monitor the implementation of user agreements jointly with the involved communities, in particular the "Special Management Regime" in the Wounaan community of Juin Phubuur, and adapt the agreements to emerging needs as appropriate and required,
  - e) Further integrate local user agreements with comprehensive management of fish populations within and beyond the property,
  - f) Further refine the assessment of options to manage the impacts and risks posed by the artificial connection between the Leon and Atrato Rivers, while respecting the socio-economic importance of the canal;
5. Also commends the States Parties of Colombia and Panama on efforts to strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation in the management of the two contiguous properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama) and also encourages both States Parties to formalize a specific Memorandum of Understanding in this regard;
6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor includes a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of both properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Requests the State Party to fully assess the possible impacts of the planned port projects (Puerto PISISI and Puerto Antioquia), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on



Environmental Assessment, and to report on the development of both projects to the World Heritage Centre, and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **12. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the State Party on the comprehensive reporting on multiple threats to the property and on its efforts to balance renewable energy and biodiversity conservation objectives;
4. Also commends the State Party on its commitment to consider the property off limits to geothermal development, and requests it to unambiguously confirm that no facilities associated with the projects are or will be located within the boundaries of the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre clear maps showing the exact location of all existing facilities;
5. Notes with concern the multiple threats to the property reported by the State Party, and the limited availability of financial and human resources to enable adequate management responses, and therefore also requests the State Party to ensure that appropriate actions are undertaken to address or mitigate these threats and to reinforce the resources available to support this endeavour;
6. Also notes with concern the reported extraction of parrots for the pet trade, and the collection of turtle eggs, and in particular the noted decline in mass nesting (arribada) of Olive Ridley turtles, which may impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value as recognized under criterion (x), and further requests the State Party to provide more information on the measures foreseen to address these issues and to undertake further studies regarding the dynamics of these mass nesting events;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and in particular to review the current and potential impacts of multiple and serious threats to the property, and exchange in more depth with the State Party and other stakeholders, as appropriate, about the option to formally establish a buffer zone;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**13. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama) (N 205bis)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Noting the information provided by the States Parties that several small areas affected by encroachment and illegal activities have been detected through recent patrolling and overflight activities and the States Parties' intention to further investigate these cases, requests the States Parties to continue their efforts to combat all illegal activities within the property;
4. Takes note with satisfaction of the commitment of the States Parties to finalize the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property by 2018 and the commitment of the State Party of Panama not to approve any new hydropower projects in the vicinity of the property until the SEA is available, and also requests the State Party to submit the results of this SEA by **1 February 2018** to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
5. Also takes note with satisfaction of the information provided by the State Party of Panama that the contract for the construction of the Changuinola II dam has been cancelled and further requests the State Party of Panama to confirm this decision once it has officially entered into force following the necessary procedures, and to clarify whether the cancellation of this contract means that the plans for Changuinola II hydropower project will be definitely abandoned;
6. Recalls its position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the OUV of the property in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines* and would lead to its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party of Panama to continue monitoring activities of the Chan 75 and Bonyic dams, the findings of which should be taken into account in the above-mentioned SEA and assessment of cumulative impacts, and to establish a long-term monitoring programme for these two projects to evaluate the effectiveness of their mitigation measures;
8. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### 14. Morne - Trois Pitons National Park (Dominica) (N 814)

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to strengthen the management of the property, including through elaboration of a new Management Plan and establishment of a buffer zone and encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard and, once the buffer zone of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park has been established, to submit a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, according to paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to officially establish a buffer zone of the property;
4. Notes the confirmation by the State Party that no activities related to the geothermal project in the vicinity of the property have taken place since the exploratory phase was completed in 2013, and also welcomes the State Party's decision to include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be prepared for the operational phase of the project;
5. Requests the State Party to submit the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it becomes available and prior to making any decisions regarding the operational phase of the project that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to ensure that this phase of the project will not be approved if it would have any negative impact on the OUV;
6. Also notes the conclusions of the March 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and also requests the State Party to implement all its recommendations;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

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

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's ongoing commitment and efforts aimed at the preservation of the critically endangered vaquita and totoaba, particularly through the establishment of an unprecedented level of cooperation between different national authorities, including the Mexican Navy and regrets that the Integral Strategy for the Protection of the vaquita has not delivered the expected results and that illegal fisheries are still threatening both totoaba, as the target, and vaquita, as bycatch;
4. Notes with utmost concern the conclusions of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the decline of the critically endangered vaquita has continued to an estimated 30 individuals, therefore putting it at risk of imminent extinction and that the main cause of its mortality is entanglement in illegal gillnets;
5. Notes the confirmation of the mission that other attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remain in good condition and that the State Party has started the implementation of the most urgent recommendations made by the mission;
6. Also notes the adoption of a joint Decree by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture that permanently bans gillnets use in the vaquita area, while prohibiting night fishing and enforcing control and monitoring of small vessels; and further notes that the State Party signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Leonardo DiCaprio and Carlos Slim Foundations seeking at working with communities to promote sustainable fishing practices and remove illegal fishing gear from the vaquita habitat;
7. Urges the State Party to ensure fully effective implementation and enforcement of the recently established permanent ban on gillnets use, sale, manufacture and possession at sea and on land within the Vaquita Refuge and the current gillnet and longline suspension zone and in the adjacent land areas;
8. Also urges the State Party to fully implement the programme on development of alternative gear for legal fisheries which would not cause bycatch of vaquita and other marine mammal species, sharks and turtles;
9. Welcomes the initial efforts by the State Party aimed at strengthening cooperation with State Parties that are transit and destination countries for the illegal trade of totoaba swim bladder, and reiterates its calls to other States Parties to support the State Party of Mexico to halt this illegal trade, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
10. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the recently adopted measures for the protection of the threatened vaquita;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the case of the absence of significant progress in the implementation of the above, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 16. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the trilateral efforts undertaken by the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America to preserve the Monarch butterfly migration, including establishment of the Trilateral Working Group and encourages them to continue their efforts;
4. Also welcomes the significant measures undertaken by the State Party to combat illegal logging and to restore the previously affected areas, but notes with concern that the property remains vulnerable to this threat and requests the State Party to strengthen its efforts in this regard;
5. Notes with utmost concern that plans for reopening a copper mine in the vicinity of the property continue to be discussed, despite the conclusion of the National Commission for the Protection of Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas - CONANP) that the project would be incompatible with the conservation objectives of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, and also requests the State Party to ensure rigorously that any mining in the vicinity of the property will not be permitted if it has the potential to negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate current and potential threats posed to its OUV by illegal logging and the proposed mining project, and to assess its overall state of conservation and the protection of the Monarch butterfly overwintering areas located both within the property and in its vicinity;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes progress made by the State Party on removing feral livestock from Coiba Island and introducing amendments to ensure that legislation continues to be in place prohibiting development (apart from low-impact infrastructure for ecotourism and scientific research) within the property;
4. Also welcomes the development of a Public Use Plan (PUP) for the property and requests the State Party to finalize it by **1 February 2018**, ensuring that it clearly improves the visitor experience to the island without expanding the space occupied by existing infrastructure, and sets out a biosecurity plan, and submit the draft PUP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, as part of the updated report on the state of conservation of the property;
5. Notes the information that measures to operationalize the Coiba Fund are expected to be completed by mid-2017 and urges the State Party to adhere to this deadline;
6. Notes with increasing concern the conclusions of the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that while the terrestrial component of the property appears to be well preserved with previously identified threats gradually diminishing, the management of its marine component continues to face significant challenges, with declines having been reported for some key marine values, and with little progress reported in the implementation of the Committee's requests related to the management and control of fisheries, and also urges the State Party to implement these requests as a matter of utmost priority;
7. Also requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions;
8. Takes note of the proposed draft regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), but notes with utmost concern that they include provisions for types of activities that would be incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property, particularly industrial fishing, and further urges the State Party to revise the proposed draft to ensure that no such activities are permitted within the property, and to submit the revised draft regulations for the SZMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in protecting the property from unsustainable fisheries, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## AFRICA

### 18. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its deep concern as regards the damage to the forests, but also to the fields and plantations of the local communities, caused by the flood provoked by the partial impoundment of the Mékin Dam, and as regards the extremely fragile situation of the property in the face of these threats;
4. Reiterates its deep concern regarding the fact that the joint World Heritage/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission of 2015 had noted that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property was at risk from serious threats in the event that the construction of the Mékin Dam was completed without any mitigation measure in place to reduce the negative impacts of this project;
5. Again urges the State Party to urgently implement the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES) ensuring that the mitigation measures for negative impacts of the dam on the property are implemented;
6. Requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the measures undertaken to mitigate the impacts caused by the partial impoundment of the dam to the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned measures and those contained in its Decision 40 COM 7B.79, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

### 19. Sangha Trinational (Cameron / Central African Republic / Congo) (N 1380rev)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.19**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.8** and **39 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the States Parties for intensifying their efforts to coordinate anti-poaching efforts, notes, however, that poaching of large mammals and consumption of bushmeat is on the increase, and requests the States Parties to further strengthen their efforts to combat environmental crime and for the seizure of weapons of war within the perimeter of the property, as well as the awareness-raising of judicial authorities in this field;
4. Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties of Cameroon and the Republic of Congo respectively to secure the right of Baka to exploit their resource in areas identified within the property and to promote the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources, targeting in particular women and Indigenous peoples;
5. Also welcomes the fact that no mining exploration license now exists in the buffer zone of the property, but notes with concern that gold-mining and other illegal activities, such as the advance of the agricultural frontier, harvesting of non-timber forest products and cutting down of timber are observed in the buffer zone of the property and also requests States Parties to:
  - a) Strengthen their efforts to eradicate illegal mining activities in the territory of the property and in its buffer zone,
  - b) Design and implement a plan for the ecological restoration of sites degraded by any illegal activity;
6. Appreciates the establishment by the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) of a system for monitoring and controlling the legality of forestry operations of SINFOCAM (Central African Forestry and Industrial Development Corporation) and STBC (Wood Processing Company in Central African Republic), and recalling also that the allocation of these concessions in the buffer zone of the property presents certain risks to its integrity, further calls upon the States Parties to require that all forest concessions in the buffer zone of the property shall be certified in order to minimize the seriousness of the potential threats to the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the States Parties concerned to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to identify potential impacts on the OUV of the property of the Bangui Road Project, in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessments and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN before approving the project;
8. Further requests the States Parties to implement all the recommendations of the 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.



## 20. Tai National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party towards controlling and reducing gold mining with the assistance from the regional consultation committee, reiterates its position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in order to eliminate this threat from the property;
4. Also welcomes the increased patrol efforts and the implementation of an operational strategy to improve the monitoring of poaching and other illegal activities, including the application of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART), however, noting with concern the reported increase in poaching following the lifting of the ban on bushmeat consumption, also requests the State Party to urgently address both local subsistence and commercial illegal trade in bushmeat, at the hunter-, trader- and consumer-levels;
5. Reiterates again its request to the State Party to publish as soon as possible the decree formalizing the extension of the Park in order to align the boundaries of the property with those of the national park to enable more effective management, and to submit, once published, a boundary modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre, for adoption by the World Heritage Committee;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 21. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 8B.6**, **38 COM 7B.91** and **39 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Taking note of the progress of the Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary boundary modification project, which aims to address encroachment and clearance of natural riparian

vegetation in the areas adjoining the property by expanding the protected area, requests the State Party to submit a map of the new proposed boundaries, and encourages the State Party to incorporate into the next phase of the project proposals to strengthen the protection of the areas between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita ;

4. Notes the reported collaboration between the State Party and the local communities in revising the Lake Elementaita Management Plan, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, upon completion;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to report on:
  - a) The current status of potential geothermal prospecting activities undertaken adjacent to the property, including the status of any Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
  - b) Progress made to implement the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Endorois ruling to ensure the full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of Lake Bogoria,
  - c) Actions taken to ensure the removal of any existing illegal developments, to carry out the ecological restoration of affected areas, and to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property;
6. Also requests the State Party of Tanzania to report on the soda ash deposit investigation at Lake Natron as soon as any information is available, and before taking any decisions that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **22. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Appreciates the submission of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) for the period 2016 to 2021, and efforts to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, and requests the States Parties to finalize this strategy as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
4. Also appreciates the decision taken by the State Party of Zambia to further reduce water abstraction from the Zambezi River, but also requests the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Batoka Gorge Hydroelectric Scheme includes a specific assessment of the impacts of the

dam and all of its associated infrastructures, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Noting with significant concern that construction of a Ferris wheel is proposed within a high ecologically sensitive zone of the Eastern Cataract inside the property, which would be incompatible with the permitted infrastructural development as prescribed in the JIMP, and which will likely have a significant detrimental impact on the OUV of the property, urges the States Parties to not permit the project;
6. Also noting with concern the State Party of Zambia's intention to partner with private investors to construct a hotel and recreational facilities inside the property, further requests the States Parties to clarify the exact locations of all developments and the plans to utilize Cataract Island for tourism, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, an ESIA for each of these projects, including a specific assessment of the impacts on OUV, in line with IUCN's Advice Note, before taking any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Notes that the development of the sustainable financing/business plan is in progress and reiterates its request to the States Parties to expedite its completion, taking into consideration mechanisms for financing management operations;
8. Acknowledging that the States Parties recorded a drop in Zambezi River water flow over the last two years and, noting that the States Parties will be assessing the cause of the decline by analysing water flow data, rainfall data and upstream activities, requests furthermore the States Parties to utilize the findings to inform the management of the property, also taking into consideration the added impact expected from climate change;
9. Welcomes the continued efforts by the States Parties to control the highly invasive alien weed, *Lantana camara*, which has been cleared from 70% of the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to continue their efforts to control this species, and to provide an update on the status of water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) inside the property;
10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## ARAB STATES

### 23. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

#### Decision: 41 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Reiterates its significant concern that the vulnerability of the property to pressures from unsustainable resource use, soil erosion and habitat degradation is likely to have increased following the impacts of the cyclones, and recalls its request to the State Party to ensure that the road network in the property is not expanded;
4. Calls on all UNESCO Member States to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
5. Recalls the State Party's commitment expressed in 2016 that the rehabilitation of the sea port, which was damaged by the cyclones, would be limited to restoring it to its previous condition, and would not include any extensions;
6. Requests the State Party and to provide further information on the development projects on Socotra to the World Heritage Centre and on alleged military operations, for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions regarding their implementation that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that any development on Socotra, including humanitarian aid-related development, is subject to a rigorous assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit a copy of the completed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, including in view of the impacts from the cyclones, and to support the State Party in identifying priorities for rehabilitation and management activities;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 24. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress made with the inception and initial implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (2050 LTSP) and the establishment of the Investment Framework, and expresses its appreciation for the significant efforts by all those involved in the implementation of the 2050 LTSP;
4. Strongly encourages the State Party to accelerate efforts to ensure meeting the intermediate and long-term targets of the plan, which are essential to the overall resilience of the property, in particular regarding water quality;
5. Notes with serious concern the coral bleaching and mortality that affected the property in 2016 and 2017;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an overall report on the state of conservation of the property demonstrating the effective and sustained protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value and effective performance in meeting the targets established under the 2050 LTSP, linked to the findings of the 2014 and 2019 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Reports, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

### 25. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the State Party's decision not to approve the Orion power plant and Phase II of the Rampal power plant,

4. Also welcomes the State Party's decision to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the South-West region of Bangladesh, including the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that any large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure developments will not be allowed to proceed before the SEA has been completed, and to submit a copy of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as soon as it is available;
5. Also welcomes the information provided on ecological monitoring and notes with concern that sea level rise, salt intrusion and reductions in fresh water flows are posing a threat to the Sundarbans' ecosystem and that the property is particularly vulnerable to impacts from these threats;
6. Takes note of the critical importance of transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Bangladesh and India on the World Heritage properties "The Sundarbans" (Bangladesh) and "Sundarbans National Park" (India), further welcomes the efforts made by both States Parties to enhance collaboration, and urges the State Party of Bangladesh to fully implement the recommendations made by the 2016 mission in relation to ensuring adequate freshwater inflows to the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to make constant efforts to fully implement all the other recommendations made by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Welcomes furthermore the development of a draft "National Oil Spill and Chemical Contingency Plan" (NOSCOP), and further requests the State Party to ensure adequate provision of funding and human resources for the implementation of the plan once it is adopted, and to provide further information and data on the monitoring of long-term impacts from recent shipping incidents involving spills of hazardous materials in proximity to the property and requests furthermore the State Party to put in place a management system for shipping to minimize negative impacts on the property, including from associated activities such as dredging;
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any future dredging of the Passur River to include an assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as requested by the Committee;
10. Also takes note of the mission's concerns about the likely environmental impacts of the Rampal coal-fired power plant on the property arising from air and water pollution, a substantial increase in shipping and dredging, and additional removal of freshwater from an already increasingly saline environment and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that these impacts are comprehensively assessed as part of the SEA and adequate technological measures are put in place to mitigate these impacts and to put in place adequate measures to mitigate these impacts, in order to avoid damage to the OUV of the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 26. South China Karst (China) (N 1248bis)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.9**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Welcomes progress achieved by the State Party to integrate planning, governance and management across the whole serial property, including the finalization of the Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst (CMP-SCK) and the establishment of the Protection and Administration Coordinating Committee for South China Karst World Heritage Sites (PACC);
4. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to address impacts from tourism, water pollution, agriculture and urban development, considers that the implementation of the CMP-SCK should enable the State Party to make further progress in this regard, and urges the State Party to closely monitor the effectiveness of the measures taken, in particular to ensure that the promotion of tourism as an alternative livelihood to agriculture does not exacerbate the current impacts and threats from tourism development and high levels of visitation in the property;
5. Notes with concern the two planned tourist roads that would cross the property at Shilin Karst, which according to the State Party would have a negative influence on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also urges the State Party to not proceed with these projects;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the planned Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway (GN Railway) that would cross the buffer zone of Libo Karst, including a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Takes note of the relocation of Wukeshu Village, and also requests the State Party to provide detailed information about the processes followed, in particular to ensure that the relocation was carried out with the consent of the population concerned;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 27. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N 1083bis)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's reaffirmation of its commitment to consider the property and its buffer zone off limits with regard to mining and the closure of mining operations incompatible with this commitment, and encourages the State Party to expand its commitment so as to explicitly encompass any mineral exploration and extraction that would impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to rehabilitate all closed mines within the property and its buffer zones;
4. Welcomes the progress achieved so far with the development and conduct of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and also encourages the State Party to consolidate and broaden these efforts and to seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;
5. Commends the State Party on the conceptual recognition of poverty-environment linkages and its intentions of broadening stakeholder involvement, and further encourages the State Party to integrate the conservation of the property into wider development planning;
6. Reiterates its concern that the information provided on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) continues to be incompatible with the scale and complexity of the planned hydropower development that may affect the property, in particular given that additional pressure is likely to result from planned water diversion programmes;
7. Notes with concern that the increasing visual transformation of all three river valleys and the impacts of the hydropower and related infrastructure projects on connectivity between component parts of the property are likely to have a direct negative impact on the property's OUV;
8. Also reiterates its concern about the limited progress achieved with the implementation of all the recommendations of the 2013 mission, and urges again the State Party to strengthen its efforts in that regard, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and other partners as appropriate;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.



## 28. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.11**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes with appreciation the successful reduction of poaching at the property in recent years, but considers that poaching remains a significant threat to the property, which requires continued high priority attention;
4. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to boost staff morale and address shortages in front-line staff by engaging Armed Home Guards, casual labourers and service providers, and encourages the State Party to provide them with specialized training, in an effort to fill vacant positions in the long term;
5. Takes note of the report that an eviction operation was carried out peacefully in the Bhuyanpara Range and also welcomes the activities undertaken by the State Party, including in the framework of the joint IUCN-KfW (German Development Bank) funded livelihoods support programme, in an effort to reduce dependency on the property's resources, ensure the participation of women, and seek long-term solutions to encroachment;
6. Regrets that no further information was provided on the use of fire in grassland management and its potential role against the proliferation of invasive species such as *Bombax ceiba*, and reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake or commission a detailed study on this matter, in order to ensure that the use of fire does not further complicate the long-standing threat of invasive species in the property;
7. Also regrets that the State Party of Bhutan has still not provided to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Project; also reiterates its request to the State Party of Bhutan to provide a copy of this EIA as well as the information about the status of the project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*; and urges the State Party of Bhutan to consult with the State Party of India regarding an assessment of potential impacts of this project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 29. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the on-going review of the zoning system of the property and urges the State Party to ensure that it results in a simpler, more manageable zoning of the property, taking into account the traditional uses of local communities and the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Notes that large-scale poaching has not been recorded so far at the property, encourages the State Party to implement the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for patrols in the property, to ensure an efficient use of limited resources and consistent data collection to inform park management;
5. Recalling previous concerns on the potential threat posed to the property by the trade in wildlife species from Papua Province, requests the State Party to provide further information about patrolling activities, including how much of the property is covered, and which species are being monitored;
6. Also welcomes the continued research on the dieback of Nothofagus species; also notes that, while road construction is considered a potential contributing factor, the major causes for the dieback are considered to be related to impacts of climate change; and also encourages the State Party to continue monitoring Nothofagus species in order to further the understanding of their population dynamics and response to the impacts of climate change;
7. Notes with concern that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Habbema-Kenyam road has identified significant environmental impacts which may affect the property, and considers that the construction of the road represents a significant additional risk for the fragile alpine environments of the property, which may exacerbate the impacts of climate change;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess the current status of road construction and to review of the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan and its effectiveness in avoiding and mitigating impacts on the OUV;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

### 30. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.12** and **39 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation that the State Party is committed to an adaptive and precautionary approach to the culling of the endangered subspecies of Steller's Sea Lion occurring seasonally in the property, and urges the State Party to reconsider the culling of this species in light of significant data and methodological challenges in establishing reliable Annual Catch Limits;
4. Encourages the State Party to coordinate with neighbouring States Parties on the management of fisheries to ensure the protection of the Steller's Sea Lion population;
5. Notes that further discussion and analysis of options to remove persistent obstacles to salmon migration and spawning is ongoing and, recalling that the benefits of the three check dams on the Rusha River for disaster risk reduction are outweighed by their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, strongly urges the State Party to continue and strengthen its efforts to restore the property to the most natural state possible;
6. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to consider inviting an IUCN Advisory mission, possibly in conjunction with the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Salmonid Specialist Group, to provide further advice on this matter;
7. Requests the State Party to provide updated information on the revised management plans (including the Multiple Use Marine Management Plan), the management of Sika Deer, tourism, consideration of climate change and the analysis of the usefulness and feasibility of the establishment of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) in its future report to the Committee, and to submit an electronic copy of the most recent Management Plans to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

### 31. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the State Party for achieving at least four years (2011-2015) of zero rhino poaching at the property and, noting that poaching continues to be a threat, urges the State Party to uphold its current anti-poaching efforts, in collaboration with the Nepali Army, in order to ensure their continued success;
4. Welcomes the State Party's decision to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the alternative alignment of the East-West Electric Railway that avoids the property, and the initiation of an EIA for the Trivenidham-Balmikiashram suspension bridge, and requests the State Party to submit copies of these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as they are available;
5. Also requests the State Party to make an unequivocal commitment not to allow the development of the East-West Electric Railway and the Terai Hulaki Highway to proceed along their proposed alignments through the property, and not to approve any other new roads or reopening/upgrading of old roads through the property, including the proposed Dumkibas-Tribeni road, the Madi-Balmikiashram road, the State 3 and State 4 proposed China-India Trade Links, and the Tori-Malekhu road;
6. Considers that if any of the aforementioned road and railway developments were to proceed according to their proposed alignments through the property, they would represent a clear potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and a clear basis for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
7. Notes with concern that the Chitwan District Road Office has called a tender for tarmacking the Bharatpur-Thori road through the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that any upgrading of the parts of the Bharatpur-Thori road that are located inside the property, including black-topping and widening, shall not be permitted;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to undertake a thorough EIA of the proposed Thori-Birgunj road, including an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, considering that this road has the potential to increase the demand for transportation of commercial goods to destinations beyond Thori, which would generate an increase in heavy traffic through the property;
9. Regrets that the State Party did not provide further information on encroachment at Gajendra Dham and in important wildlife habitats of the property, and on progress achieved in the demarcation of the property's boundaries;
10. Taking note of the recommendations of the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, requests moreover the State Party to fully implement all these recommendations in the best delay;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including detailed information on the implementation of each of the recommendations made by the 2016 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **32. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Commends the State Party for the leadership demonstrated in strengthening international cooperation to address illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood and its efforts to halt illegal logging in the property, in collaboration with international partners, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the Action Plan to Prevent and Suppress Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex 2014-2019 (hereafter “the Action Plan”) and further strengthen international cooperation, in particular on law enforcement and prosecution of cases;
4. Considers that, following the completion of the Action Plan in 2019, an improvement in the situation regarding illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood should be convincingly demonstrated by the Committee’s 44th session in 2020, and also considers that, if at any time there is evidence that the situation deteriorates or that other valuable species start to be targeted by logging or poaching, this would represent a potential danger to the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Noting with appreciation that no new cases of resort development have been recorded inside the property since December 2014, as well as the progress reported with ongoing cases and with the restoration of encroached land, requests the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations made by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission regarding encroachment and to report specifically on progress achieved;
6. Also notes with appreciation the State Party’s commitment and efforts to avoid any negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the ongoing expansion of Highway 304 and the construction of the Huay Samong Dam;
7. Notes with concern that the expansion of Highway 348 and the construction of the Huay Satone dam within the property are still being proposed, and also requests the State Party to assess alternatives to the expansion of Highway 348 that would avoid negative impacts on OUV, and to permanently cancel plans for any construction of dams with reservoirs inside the property’s boundaries, including the Huay Satone and the Lam Prayathan dam projects;
8. Further requests the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for evaluation by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and if, in their opinion, progress is insufficient, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on progress towards achieving the targets of the Action Plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

### **33. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to enhance law enforcement, increase conservation awareness among local communities and improve the conservation of biodiversity in the property;
4. Notes that the data provided indicate that poaching and illegal logging remain on-going threats and do not enable an assessment of the effectiveness of law enforcement and the status and trends of wildlife populations, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide:
  - a) Data on the results of its law enforcement activities to address illegal logging and poaching,
  - b) Updated data on the population status of key large mammal species, including the tiger, Asiatic black bear, Asian elephant, giant muntjac, Asian wild dog, gaur and saola, and requests the State Party to include clarifications on the methods used, the frequency of patrols and the areas covered, visualized on maps;
5. Reiterates its concern about proposals to construct a cable car to provide access to the Son Doong cave within the property, and takes note of the confirmation of the State Party that it has no intention to build a cable car system, either in Son Doong Cave, or providing access to it;
6. Notes with concern that a number of other issues are affecting the property, including inadequate conservation funding, impacts of climate change and invasive species, and also requests the State Party to provide further information on the measures taken to address these issues, in particular to address the threat posed by the invasive species *Merremia boissiana*;

7. Recalling its request to the State Party to revise the property's Sustainable Tourism Development Plan in order to include the 2015 extension of the property and ensure that an integrated and environmentally sensitive approach to tourism is adopted so as to guarantee that visitor use remains compatible with the OUV of the property, further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the relevant tourism planning documents for the property;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to assess its state of conservation, the impacts of poaching, illegal logging, and invasive species, and to provide advice to the State Party regarding sustainable tourism that is compatible with the OUV, including at Son Doong cave;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at -its 43rd session in 2019.

## **MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

#### **34. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (C/N 99ter)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.34**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes with appreciation the steps taken by the State Party in relation to:
  - a) The finalization process of the Management Plan for the property, and the preparation of the Draft Plan of Integrated Protection for the Old Town Nucleus of Ohrid,
  - b) The establishment of the management committee to coordinate natural and cultural heritage activities, as a management structure to control development pressures and interventions at the property,
  - c) The development of detailed urban plans for each of the 19 complexes, which are part of the monumental ensemble, in line with the existing regulatory framework, to ensure the enforcement of provisions and the control of activities that might impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Reiterates the request to the State Party to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that comprehensively assess the cumulative impacts of all infrastructure and development plans and other major projects on the property's OUV based on the recommendations and advice provided by the 2017 mission, as well as any necessary

Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any further work is undertaken;

5. Requests the State Party to halt the construction projects of the sub-sections (a) and (e) of the A3 road and the Galičica ski resort within the property, which may have negative impacts on its OUV;
6. Also requests the State Party to urgently undertake a comprehensive comparative study of alternative routes for the railway of the Pan European Corridor VIII, including those that do not pass in close vicinity of the lakeshore, and in particular avoiding one of the last well-preserved stretches of the lakeshore on the Albanian-Macedonian border;
7. Further requests the State Party to fully implement all the recommendations of the 2017 mission;
8. Encourages the States Parties of Albania and of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to continue to cooperate in the framework of the Upstream Process towards the preparation of a transboundary extension of the property to include the Albanian part of Lake Ohrid, in order to strengthen the protection of the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity;
9. Considers that the overall state of conservation of the property is increasingly vulnerable, and if the priority recommendations are not implemented within the two-year timeframe (i.e. in 2019) suggested by the mission, the property may face potential danger, in line with paragraphs 179-180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a progress report on the implementation of the above for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and if in their assessment insufficient progress is being made, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 35. Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica) (C/N 1356rev)

#### Decision: 41 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,



2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.7**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Highly commends the State Party for the actions undertaken in response to the Committee's requests at the time of inscription regarding threats from agricultural encroachment, legal protection of the property against mining prospecting licences and/or operations, as well as integration of the "satellite sites" linked to Maroon tangible and intangible heritage into the interpretation and presentation programme of the property; and recommends that these actions be continued;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue supporting the livelihoods of local communities through initiatives related to environmentally and culturally compatible options in order to prevent any threats from human activity to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and consider developing a long-term programme to this end;
5. Requests the State Party to finalize, adopt and implement:
  - a) The amendments to the Draft National Minerals Policy so as to secure protection of sensitive cultural and natural areas sustaining the OUV of the property,
  - b) The new overarching policy and legislation for the protected areas system,
  - c) The training programme for Maroon Cultural Assistants and the Preservation Scheme for cultural heritage,
  - d) The new Management Plan 2017-2027, underpinned by adequate human and financial resources, in close coordination and cooperation between governmental actors, civil society and the Windward Maroon communities, and fully considering the factors identified by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **39 COM 8B.7** as affecting the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

### **36. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.35** and **39 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Advisory mission and previous Committee decisions,
4. Requests the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission;

5. Commends the State Party for the reinforcement of the property's Management Unit UGM (Unidad de Gestión del Santuario Histórico de Machu Picchu), which improved the governance of the property and the wider landscape, and also requests the State Party to finalize the approval of the UGM's new regulation;
6. Also commends the State Party for the strong commitment shown in the implementation of the Urban Plan of Machu Picchu district, which has achieved significant improvements in the urban landscape;
7. Takes note of the completion of carrying capacity studies, regulation for the Amazonian Access, and the development of a Public Use Plan (PUP) and Touristic Use regulations for the property; notes with concern that carrying capacity, use regulations and developments in the property are not based on the primary objective of conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and further requests the State Party to:
  - a) Review the carrying capacities on the basis of conservation needs and application of clear limits to visitors,
  - b) Develop use regulations and sanctions to other types of uses beyond tourism,
  - c) Ensure that proposed developments are rigorously assessed in terms of their impact on OUV, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties;
8. Notes the proposed development of several major infrastructure projects in the region, and requests furthermore the State Party, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on planned infrastructure transport projects in the region, that might impact the OUV, prior to their approval or implementation, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Recommends that the State Party define an overall vision for the property, based on the attributes of OUV and conservation needs, rather than primarily on tourism, and linked to an integral natural and cultural monitoring system, with defined indicators, in order to identify remaining and potential new threats in a timely and systematic manner;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## AFRICA

### **37. Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (Gabon) (C/N 1147rev)**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the State Party's decision to deflect the project for the Lastourville / Mikouyi road towards the north of the property, but requests the State Party, prior to the resumption of the project, to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the historic complexes of the property to allow for a rigorous review of the proposed options, and to submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Takes note of the completion of the optical fibre work under the supervision of the Gabon's National Parks Agency (ANPN) and in accordance with the ESIA validated by the ANPN;
5. Commends the State Party for the progress made in the conservation and management of the property in accordance with the recommendations of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring Mission, and encourages it to continue their implementation;
6. Notes with satisfaction the financial support of the European Union through the Central African World Heritage Forests Initiative (CAWHFI) project, which has made it possible to recruit an agent in charge of cultural heritage to conduct activities for the protection and enhancement of the historical and archaeological complexes, as well as new guards to reinforce the management of the property;
7. Also encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for consideration by the Advisory Bodies, the plans for the development of the historical complexes when they become available;
8. Also takes note that poaching remains relatively low and that the State Party stresses the resolution of the "human-wildlife" conflict and also requests the State Party to monitor closely the impacts of electric fencing around fields to ensure that the ecological connectivity of the property with the surrounding forests is maintained;
9. Further requests the State Party to update wildlife monitoring data in order to assess the populations and trends of key species and to better monitor and respond to the impacts of poaching, and to transmit them as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by IUCN;
10. Further encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure the conservation of the property and reminds it of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre in good time of any major development projects that could threaten the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decision is taken, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**38. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.18** and **39 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the reported progress by the States Parties on:
  - a) Preparation of a joint Fire Management Plan and an integrated Invasive and Alien Species (IAS) Management Plan,
  - b) Completion of the Sehlabathebe National Park Oral History, the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Sehlabathebe National Park and the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey of the Sehlabathebe National Park,
  - c) Progress with staff training and the development of a joint Cultural Heritage Management Plan,
  - d) Finalization of a sustainable tourism strategy and initiation of a community conservation programme;
4. Requests the States Parties to complete the above-mentioned documents through appropriate stakeholder consultations, to carefully align them with the revised Maloti-Drakensberg Joint Management Plan for the property, and to submit all documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.
5. Welcomes the continuing transnational collaboration and efforts towards establishment of a buffer zone to the south of Sehlabathebe National Park, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to continue involving the local communities, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre a minor boundary modification to recognize the buffer zones, as soon as they have been formalized;
6. Commends the State Party of Lesotho for preparing the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey and the study on the potential cultural contribution of landscape elements and also requests the State Party of Lesotho to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a programme for implementation of the recommendations of the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey;
7. Further requests the States Parties to review the findings of these surveys, with a view to refining the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property and incorporating this information into the above-mentioned revised Joint Management Plan;
8. Encourages the State Party of Lesotho to continue with and further expand the training of staff within the Sehlabathebe management base and to expedite the development of the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, and requests it furthermore to provide a copy of this Bill to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it is approved;
9. Also reiterates its request to the States Parties that the moratorium on non-urgent conservation interventions at the rock art sites is continued, pending completion of staff

training and instigation of a programme for implementation of the recommendations of the Rock Art and Baseline Archaeological Survey;

10. Also notes the State Party of South Africa's renewed commitment to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed cableway, including a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS and further reiterates its request to the State Party of South Africa to submit the completed assessments, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the cableway project on the OUV, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the State Party for achieving zero recorded elephant poaching within the property during the reporting period through the establishment of two new ranger posts in targeted poaching-prone areas, and encourages it to take an adaptive approach to anti-poaching and continue to monitor the rate of elephant population recovery;
4. Appreciates the inclusion of *Parthenium hysterophorus* in the Invasive Alien Plants Strategic Management Plan that has been implemented since 2011, and the progress reported to bring it under control inside the property;
5. Welcomes the State Party's reiteration that all development projects are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with the guidelines of IUCN and ICOMOS, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also welcomes the continuation of dialogue with the local communities, the progress made to update the General Management Plan (GMP) for the property, and the State Party's intention to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review;
7. Takes note of the strategy and the ongoing efforts in the construction of the southern Serengeti-Ngorongoro by-pass road to cater for public and commercial transportation;

8. Commends the efforts being undertaken by the State Party to currently regulate the passage of heavy commercial vehicles on the Loduare gate to Golini road and further welcomes the steps accomplished so far towards hardening of this road for improvement of visitor experience and conservation purposes in line with Decision **36 COM 7B.35**;
9. Acknowledges the submission of comprehensive ESIA/HIA report in this regard, which includes assessments of downstream impacts of opening new borrow pits and restoring wetlands, and of all known cultural/archaeological sites, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
10. Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in August 2017, in order to provide advice to the State Party on the conservation of the additional set of footprints discovered at the Laetoli site in 2014, proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum, and monitor progress on the road upgrade project and proposed tourist developments as well as review progress in balancing conservation, livelihood and development needs;
11. Also acknowledges the completion of the HIA for the proposed Laetoli Hominid Footprints Museum and associated facilities and also requests the State Party to ensure that further development of this project is postponed in order to take into account the outcomes of the Reactive Monitoring mission;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

#### **40. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to continue to improve the conservation and management of the property, notably the maintenance and restoration works carried out in 2015 and 2016, and strongly encourages the State Party to proceed with the timely adoption and implementation of the draft Law “On Cultural Heritage and Museums”;
4. Welcomes the progress made with the development of monitoring indicators related to the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) during the April 2016 workshop, and also

encourages the State Party and stakeholders to proceed with their finalization and continue monitoring and controlling development;

5. Recalling the fundamental and urgent need for an overarching Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and appropriate control mechanisms for the property and its buffer zones and beyond, regrets that, despite its repeated requests, no progress has been reported on the development of such IMP for the property and urges the State Party to develop, as a matter of priority, an overarching IMP, including a risk management component with threat mitigation measures, and to:
  - a) Develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool, based on a detailed survey and documentation of all buildings and environmental features in the urban settlement and its wider context, using if necessary the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), and ensure strong inter-institutional cooperation in particular with the entities responsible for urban planning,
  - b) Maintain the moratorium on new constructions within the property and buffer zones, until approval of the above-mentioned tools for protection and management of Berat and Gjirokastra;
6. Requests the State Party to take into consideration the review and recommendations provided by the Advisory Bodies concerning the infrastructural projects, and in particular, with regard to the Gjirokastra Bypass Road project, reassess the carrying capacity and scale in order to minimize potential adverse impacts of this development project on the OUV of property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) concerning the entirety of the rehabilitation project at Berat Castle, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further encourages the State Party to continue to provide to the World Heritage Centre any development proposals before their official approval, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **41. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Noting that the final plans concerning the proposed new development at Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz (Residential Buildings City Life Rehrlplatz) were submitted to the

World Heritage Centre, requests however the State Party to further revise these plans before approval of the project, as long as the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission remain unfulfilled;

4. Also noting that a modified version of the development project at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2 has already been built, regrets that the State Party did not provide more detailed information with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission;
5. Further noting that the construction work of a modified version of the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project has already started, also requests the State Party to provide more information on this project as well as details on the modified project of the Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad, with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any future developments regarding the halted Residential Building Priesterhausgarten;
6. Reiterates its concern about the apparent lack of adequate legislative and planning mechanisms to protect the property from the various proposed urban and infrastructure developments and further requests the State Party to:
  - a) Develop a comprehensive urban land use plan, which includes provisions for protection mechanisms and regulatory measures to ensure the adequate protection and control of the property and its landscape setting,
  - b) Strengthen legal mechanisms for the protection of monuments in their setting,
  - c) Carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for projects, which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, such as the development project at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2, the project at Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstraße / Bahnhofsvorplatz, and the Public Indoor Swimming Pool Paracelsusbad project;
7. Notes that the legal process to harmonize the boundary of the property with the Protection zone I has been completed and strongly encourages the State Party to complete the revision of the Management Plan, including provisions to ensure adequate protection and conservation of all attributes, which convey the OUV of the property, and its setting and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Urges the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.



## 42. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.94** and **40 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the concerns expressed by the 2012 mission regarding the critical level of urban development reached since inscription and its cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the need for new tools to guide the development process towards sustainable development that protects the attributes of the OUV, and the specific recommendations of the 2015 mission to the property,
4. Noting the information provided by the State Party including design changes and a Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project, the resolution of the City Council of Vienna dated 5th May 2017, the intention to analyze and review existing urban planning instruments, and the advice regarding proposed projects in the the Karlsplatz-area,
5. Welcomes the study on historic roof constructions in the Historic Centre of Vienna by the Federal Monuments Authority in collaboration with the City of Vienna, and requests the State Party to adopt a moratorium on projects that involve any modification of the roofscapes within the property, until the study has been completed;
6. Notes with regret that the changes made to the proposed Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project do not comply with the previous requests of the Committee, and that the proposed project remains inconsistent with the recommendations of the 2012 and 2015 missions and would adversely affect the OUV of the property if implemented in its current form, and therefore reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit a further revised design to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decisions are made regarding its implementation, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
7. Reiterating its concern that the High-Rise Concept abolishes exclusion zones for high-rise buildings in the Vienna urban areas, without having applied appropriate instruments of control for height, volume and urban density respecting the OUV of the property, and that the Glacis Master Plan permits the construction of buildings of a scale that would have an adverse impact on the urban form and character of the Glacis area, expresses its regret that these instruments have not been repealed or substantially amended, and therefore also reiterates its request to the State Party to facilitate the preparation of revised planning rules and guidelines, which:
  - a) Establish parameters for the urban density as well as specific standards for building height and volume for the property and buffer zone,
  - b) Safeguard the urban morphology that is an essential attribute of the property,
  - c) Encourage sustainable development in the property and its buffer zone in harmony with its OUV,

- d) Require that all high-rise projects are evaluated through a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, including reference to 3D visual simulations, so that the effects of the proposed development on the OUV of the property can be properly considered;
  - e) Incorporate the intent of the resolution of the City Council of Vienna, dated 5 May 2017 within the revised planning rules and guidelines;
8. Also requests the State Party to facilitate review of the designs for the proposed developments in the Karlsplatz-area, having particular regard to the setting of the Karlskirche, and to ensure that the proposals are evaluated through a comprehensive HIA, prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, and that comprehensive documentation, including adequate scale drawings and visualizations of the planned interventions as observed from ground level, are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before any decision is made regarding the future of these projects;
  9. Urges the State Party not to amend the current land use and development plans and to halt any further approvals for high-rise projects, pending the preparation of the revised planning rules, and submit the proposed designs and related HIAs for any future high-rise projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
  10. Regrets that the State Party has not complied with the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.49**, in particular related to the lack of change to existing planning controls and the inadequate extent of change proposed for the Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus project;
  11. Considers that the current planning controls pose serious and specific threats to the OUV of the property, such that the property is in danger, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines* and **decides to inscribe the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**;
  12. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation, and a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;
  13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

### 43. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Acknowledges that some progress has been achieved by the State Party in implementing the recommendations of the Committee and the 2010, 2012 and 2015 missions, as well as the commitment demonstrated towards the protection the property and the collaborative dialogue established with ICOMOS;
4. Welcomes that the reconstruction/enlargement plan of the existing fishing port “Severna Buna-Nessebar” was abandoned and requests the State Party to carry out a HIA for the modernization of the existing fishing port in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made;
5. Express its concern regarding proposed infrastructure projects, incompatible with the values, attributes and vulnerabilities of the property, as well as development approach based on mass tourism, which are representing potential threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to halt any unsustainable form of development, such as to open the Nessebar Port Terminal for large ships, and also requests the State Party to recover the terminal area using careful and light intervention compatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
7. Invites the State Party to devise a radically different strategy for the sustainable and compatible development of Nessebar that reduces development pressure, by relocating plans and projects for any cruise terminals, or tourist, commercial or fishing ports for large ships elsewhere along the coast outside the visibility area from Nessebar and to develop a sustainable mobility plan to ensure the smooth circulation of residents, visitors and goods;
8. Also urges that the State Party introduce all relevant provisions regarding the World Heritage into national legislation, as well as develop and adopt an OUV-based policy, appropriate regulatory instruments and mechanisms to prevent, at the planning and programming stage, inappropriate developments, which could jeopardize the property’s OUV and could represent a potential danger, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Also invites the State Party to strengthen the property’s management system, address and resolve weaknesses in management, by reinforcing existing institutional framework and establishing an all relevant high-level inter-ministerial committee, decision-making bodies and working groups that develop and adopt a vision for the future of the property, including strategic programme for its implementation;
10. Requests the State Party to adopt all relevant measures and plans (Management plan, Master Plan and Conservation Plan), as well as to enforce the protection regimes and the

conservation prescriptions, to support the appropriate implementation of its decisions in order to prevent any threats to its OUV;

11. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation and ascertain the progress made by the State Party ;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **44. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.17**, **39 COM 7A.41** and **40 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party with the implementation of the recommendations, notably improvements to the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP);
4. Also welcomes the progress made by State Party in establishing a Temporary Working Group for Urban Planning and Steering Committee;
5. Takes note of the tripartite agreement signed between the State Party and UNESCO, and the World Bank (Georgia/UNESCO Agreement,) to provide technical assistance in the elaboration of the Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta;
6. Encourages the State Party to develop a detailed operational workplan and procedures for the revision and finalisation of the ULUMP and development of the Master Plan, as well as ensuring stakeholder involvement and proceed with the finalisation and implementation of the ULUMP and Master Plan, as a matter of priority;
7. Encourages the State Party to implement the recommendations and advice of the technical assistance reports provided in the framework of the Georgia/UNESCO Agreement;
8. Requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, before any tender is launched or decision taken to implement projects;

9. Recommends that the State Party reviews the projects, such as the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) sectional replacement, the rehabilitation of the fragment of the Western Wall of the Defense Wall at Svetitskhoveli Church and the Mtskheta Archaeological Museum collection conservation and new building finalisation, according to the recommendations provided;
10. Takes note with satisfaction that the State Party has submitted the proposal for a minor boundary modification of the unified buffer zone;
11. Also takes note that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission has been invited by the State Party and also requests that it be undertaken **before 31 December 2017**;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

#### **45. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Noting the resumption of exploratory planning for a permanent river crossing, requests the State Party to closely involve the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, at the earliest possible stage, in the appraisal of options undertaken in a wide regional strategic context, and before any decisions are taken;
4. Welcoming its commitment to reduce noise levels from trains in the property, encourages the State Party to prepare and adopt relevant legal regulations for railway noise reduction;
5. Notes with concern the policies and regulations adopted concerning wind turbines within World Heritage properties and buffer zones by the Federal State of Hesse and urges the State Party to work towards common policies and regulations to exclude wind farms from World Heritage Properties and their buffer zones; and strongly encourages the State Party to develop common rules and criteria for the assessment of the impact of wind farms on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zones;
6. Also requests the State Party to halt the project for the installation of a wind farm on Ranselberg hill near Lorch, which has a very high adverse visual impact on the OUV of the property, due to its visibility from different points within the boundaries of the property;
7. Also encourages the State Party to provide revised plans for the Holiday Resort Sankt-Goar-Werlau to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and before any decisions are taken;

8. Further requests the State Party to provide the revised and consolidated Management Plan and Master Plan, prior to their consolidation into one document, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts to prevent any loss of authenticity and integrity due to the planned developments in the property or its buffer zone which could constitute a threat to the property;
4. Nonetheless express concern at the modification to the setting regulations of Budapest approved by the Municipality of Budapest in December 2016 to allow tall buildings up to 120 metre height in the 11th District, part of the wider setting of the property, which would adversely impact on World Heritage cityscape and protected views, and urges the State Party to consider how World Heritage protection can take precedent over this regulation;
5. Reiterates its request that the State Party finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, as well as a proposal for enlargement of the buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes with concern that a number of large-scale development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting which may substantially impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
7. Noting that the State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission in order to review and analyze all ongoing and planned interventions, recommends that this mission take place by end of 2017 and also urges the State Party to halt further permissions for major projects until this assessment has been undertaken;
8. Should the conclusions of the analysis by the Advisory mission indicate any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property, also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the

potential impact of the developments proposed on the OUV of the property, in light of the conclusion of the analysis by the Advisory mission;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **47. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy) (C 829)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to address the conservation and management issues that have led to substantial improvements of the state of conservation of the property;
4. Noting the improvements made to the Management Plan, requests the State Party to address the following issues, which need further clarification, detail and further improvement:
  - a) The linking of the management of the property to the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
  - b) The condition of the components and the Action Plan or programme of works,
  - c) The coordinated management between the site managers and the Great Pompei Unit and the responsibility for the implementation of the Management Plan;
5. Welcomes the prolongation of the Grande Progetto Pompei (GPP) until 2019 and the extensive financial contributions, and also requests the State Party to ensure that both human and financial resources are identified beyond 2019, to adequately deal with the continuing needs for conservation and visitor management at the property;
6. Also welcomes the consolidation and restoration works of the five threatened buildings within the GPP, and encourages the State Party to develop a programme for long-term conservation and restoration of decorative surfaces;
7. Also encourages the State Party to continue to resolve the remaining issue at Porta Nola, in order to complete the conservation of the major storage building;
8. Notes the progress reported on drainage works, and further requests the State Party to carefully monitor the mitigation measures foreseen in the Regions I, III, IX, IV and V of the archaeological site and provide results to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the design for the service building at Villa A of Torre Annunziata, as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to provide more detailed information and clarifications on the coordinated management of the Herculaneum Archaeological Park, the Great Pompei Unit and the Torre Annunziata;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination of the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **48. Venice and its lagoon (Italy) (C 394)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.27** and **40 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation that the State Party and all the institutions involved, having recognized the major risks to the property, are working collaboratively and in an engaged manner to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes that progress has been made towards the implementation of some of the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations endorsed by the Committee and reiterates its request that the State Party continue to implement all the recommendations put forward in the Decision **40 COM 7B.52**, including immediate, short, medium and long-term measures;
5. Acknowledges the drafting of the Climate Plan and encourages the State Party to take into account the “Policy on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties” in the development of the plan, considering that ‘Venice and its Lagoon’ is in a privileged position and might have the potential to influence monitoring and adaptation processes that can be applied elsewhere;
6. Welcomes the details submitted regarding the new sustainable tourism strategy that will make use of the consultative model proposed by the UNESCO Sustainable Tourism Programme;
7. Also notes that the State Party is exploring an option of using existing port channel (Canale Vittorio Emanuele III) with a view to halt the passage of large ships through the San Marco basin and the Giudecca canal, and to avoid the excavation of new ones and requests the State Party to submit detailed plans and a detailed timeframe for the implementation of the selected solution;



8. Also reiterates its request that the State Party submit, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of any newly proposed projects, together with all relevant cumulative Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), with a specific section focusing on their potential impact on the OUV of the property;
9. Also acknowledges progress made towards the completion of the MOSE defence system and also requests the State Party to provide detailed and updated information on this project, including its management and maintenance systems;
10. Further reiterates its request that the State Party update the Management Plan and revise its planning approach in order to sustain in the long term the OUV of the property, its landscape and seascape;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide a much clearer detailed road map for the way forward, with measurable benchmarks and a detailed Action Plan to deliver what is needed, commensurate with the major threats to the property;
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Committee a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a detailed road map on the way forward, by **1 December 2018** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, if adequate progress in the implementation of the above recommendations has not been made, the inscription of the property on the List of the World Heritage in Danger.**

**49. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party to address the decisions of the Committee, notably the issuing of a Decree establishing a working group in charge to progress with classification of Solovetsky archipelago and adjoining territories as Cultural Heritage objects of federal significance, namely as a religious and historical site;
4. Notes the progress with the development of the Master Plan of the Solovetsky settlement and the Management plan, and requests the State Party to pursue this work and submit these draft documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes with great concern the negative condition of the monastic irrigation system, with its lakes and canals, and also requests the State Party, as a matter of urgency, to develop a Conservation Plan for the overall property, to adequately plan and implement conservation measures, as well as to define and implement, immediately, all relevant preventive

conservation measures regarding the monastic irrigation system, as well as to secure all relevant funds for mid- and long-term conservation and maintenance measures;

6. Welcomes the assurance of the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be undertaken for all projects;
7. Notes with concern that the Solovetsky main island is currently facing many development projects related to the need to upgrade housing, education and health facilities, and tourism facilities, on the island, and also notes with concern that proposals for large building complexes are being considered in advance of the Master Plan, the Management Plan and the Conservation Plan being completed, approved and implemented; and without a formally approved Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
8. Noting that new revised plans have been submitted for the Museum Complex, recognizes the efforts taken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee and the Advisory Bodies on the Museum Complex project, and requests the State Party to report progress to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017**, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Further requests the State Party not to resume work on this project until all revised proposals and possible alternative location have been fully reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and examined by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in consultation with IUCN, in the light of the considerable challenges facing the property, which should assess the overall issues concerning the Solovetsky archipelago, consider the revised plans for the museum building and the full scope of the development that is being proposed over the next decade, to advise on whether and how this might be satisfactorily accommodated within the main island, and whether the current management structures are effective enough to ensure new development does not erode the special characteristics of the main island and impact adversely on OUV, and, if not, how these might be strengthened;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **50. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.32** and **40 COM 7B.60**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in previous Decisions, as well as the initiatives taken by the State Party to protect the property and its buffer zone and underlines the importance of preventing any further damage to the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue with work related to rehabilitation of Surici District within the buffer zone,
5. Requests the State Party to initiate the elaboration of a Master Plan for restoration and rehabilitation activities within the property, which should include information and documentation on techniques and materials;
6. Also requests the State Party, to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for urban design projects such as “Urban Design Project for Cevatpaşa Neighborhood İç Kale Valley”, which may threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite, when the situation allows, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the nature and extent of any threats and to propose appropriate measures to be taken;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, 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 43rd session in 2019.

## 51. Ephesus (Turkey) (C 1018rev)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.37** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Requests the State Party to confirm that the legislative protection sought for the entire buffer zone has been achieved;
4. Recommends that the State Party take into account the matters raised in Decision **39 COM 8B.37** in the earliest possible revision of the management plan, and also requests the State Party to confirm the planned date for completion of this revision and to submit the revised version of the management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it becomes available;
5. Further requests the State Party to submit details about the cable car project as well as the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of this project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they become available, in accordance with

Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, well before any irrevocable decisions are taken about the construction of the cable car;

6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **52. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.52**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the re-routing of the Eurasia Tunnel approach road to the south of the Marble Tower, thus reuniting it with the Land Walls;
4. Notes with concern, nonetheless, that the eight-lane Eurasia Tunnel approach road with two grade-separated interchanges at Yenikapı and Samatya, has had overall a severe impact on the southern edge of the historic peninsula, cutting off the city from the sea, and confirming the potential 'severe negative impact' assessed by the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission;
5. Notes that the Yenikapı reclamation project has significantly changed the shape of the historic peninsula; and that a large white 'Activity Tent' is in course of construction, which taken together, impact on the historic form and some views of the silhouette of the peninsula;
6. Regrets that the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for these projects and engagement with the Committee were only undertaken after approval had been given, as has been the case with all recent major infrastructure projects, since the Haliç metro bridge, thus leaving only minor opportunities for amendment;
7. Also notes that a similar situation prevails for the already approved Planetarium and Istanbul City Museum within the Topkapı Cultural Park, and the Dardanelles 1915 Museum and four-storey performance hall, that have been submitted for approval; and requests the State Party to submit full details of all these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Expresses concern that in spite of requests for action since 2004, and a request for the development of a long term conservation strategy, the corpus of Ottoman timber houses continues to deteriorate, with some being demolished as part of Urban Renewal Projects;
9. While also welcoming the revision of the Management Plan, further notes that it still needs to be supplemented with full details of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

to underpin its policies, inform the development of major projects and provide the basis of HIAs;

10. Further expresses concern that although Urban Renewal areas can provide social benefits, no reassurances have so far been provided that the many areas now being renewed will not suffer loss of historic fabric;
11. Notes furthermore that as the pace of change in the Historic Peninsula is resulting in a plethora of major projects, both for conservation and new construction that have the potential to cumulatively impact highly negatively on OUV, and considers that as an immediate, firm response is needed to these structural problems, also requests the State Party to:
  - a) Define the attributes that convey the OUV of the property in the Management Plan and where necessary survey and document these attributes, before the Plan is approved,
  - b) Commit to ensuring that all proposed or ongoing major projects which may affect the OUV of the property are subject to HIAs and notified to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before an irreversible commitment is made,
  - c) Submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, details of current major new projects for the Planetarium and Istanbul City Museum within the Topkapı Cultural Park, the Dardanelles 1915 Museum and performance hall; and for current major restoration projects, including the rehabilitation of the Land Walls, the Bucoleon Palace, the reconstruction of the Hagia Sophia medrese, and the Zeyrek and Chora mosques,
  - d) Devise an overall long-term conservation strategy for the Ottoman/vernacular timber buildings, based on documentation of what remains and an emergency plan to stem ongoing decay and loss;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

**53. Kiev: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527bis)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.53**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the measures taken by the State Party to address urban development issues, notably through amendments to legislation and ongoing revisions to the Master Plan enhancing cultural heritage protection of the property;

4. Notes the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, notably that, while the general state of conservation of the property remains satisfactory, the impact of inappropriate town planning, lack of regulations and overall strategic vision pose a threat to its visual integrity and thus to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to:
  - a) Finalize, adopt and implement the Management Plan for the property as a matter of priority,
  - b) Prepare an inventory of existing licensed constructions, and particularly approved tall buildings, in the protected area,
  - c) Carry out comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) including 3D visual simulations of all potential projects to ensure the impacts on the property and its visual integrity can be considered and avoided,
  - d) Impose a legal ban on all previously delivered and planned permits for constructions in the buffer zone of the property and its vicinity until these HIAs have been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
  - e) Facilitate urgent finalization and adoption of the Master Plan of Kyiv, which should incorporate an Urban Development Concept, and the Zoning Plan of Kyiv Central,
  - f) Impose stringent regulations to prohibit high rise buildings within the buffer zone, maintain the height of buildings undergoing renovation,
  - g) Adopt and implement the amended Law of Ukraine on the Protection of Cultural Heritage including a legal definition of World Heritage;
6. Also requests the State Party to address and resolve weaknesses in management observed by previous missions, by ensuring institutionalised coordination and cooperation in management of the property within the framework of the Management Plan;
7. Recommends the State Party to develop a long term programme applying the principles and requirements established in the Nara Document of Authenticity (1994) and the Riga Charter (2000) prior to further planned reconstruction and rehabilitation works at the Monastery of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra;
8. Also recommends monitoring mechanisms to survey stability of structures be installed at all monuments at risk;
9. Further requests the State Party to implement previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2017 mission;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.54**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Recalling the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring missions of October 2013 and January 2015, urges the State Party to complete their implementation as a priority;
4. Welcoming the State Party's efforts for improving planning tools and their implementation in order to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), commends the State Party for the progress which has occurred and requests it to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on further improvements, finalization and implementation of the planning tools and approval processes, which will contribute to preserving the OUV of the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to establish stronger protection tools and more detailed planning outlines for the 10 components of the property, in order to strengthen the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the associated improved planning processes; and that these two latter be endorsed and implemented by the two other Councils responsible for local planning in the property;
6. Welcomes the State Party's invitation for an Advisory mission to Hayle Harbour to guide the redesign of the South Quay project and invites the State Party to broaden the scope of the mission to advise on the revision of the Local Plans and proposed timeframe to define detailed planning outlines for other areas of the property;
7. Taking note of the new operator of the South Crofty Mine, Strongbow Explorations Incorporated (SEI), also welcomes the State Party's monitoring efforts and further requests it to continue to keep the site under high scrutiny and maintain dialogue with SEI, and to submit an update of the archaeological reports as well as on the agreement of details of the boundary treatment and detail planning tools and information on any future development especially regarding any surface elements at the South Crofty Mine;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that details for any substantial future projects in the property or its immediate and wider setting, together with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, if the proposed improvements to the planning tools and approval processes outlined by the State Party are not completed, endorsed and strictly implemented, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.36** and **39 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the policy and planning framework through guidance documents, but notes nevertheless that there is still an inadequate urban planning framework to manage development in the setting of the property, with the result that developments, which have been approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage, are causing cumulative negative impact on the OUV of the property;
4. Strongly regrets that the State Party did not comply with the requests made in Decision **38 COM 7B.36** to ensure that the proposal of the Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site project be revised and reconsidered, following concerns raised by English Heritage (now Historic England), and notes with concern that these projects have been built, and therefore, requests that the advice of Historic England, be given a stronger weight in determining when to call in an application for development within the property or within its setting.
5. Also notes with concern that once a local planning authority has made a planning decision, it is not possible to challenge it, unless the State Secretary calls it in, and also notes that the State Party considers the World Heritage Committee's timeline to be incompatible with applicable statutory planning timeframes and requirements.
6. Further notes that the lack of an urban planning framework creates a need to assess individual projects and requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any large-scale projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is taken or approval is issued;
7. Recommends therefore, that planning policies be reconsidered to ensure that balancing between protection of OUV and the other benefits of development projects is more strongly weighted towards the requirement to protect OUV, in accordance with the obligations of the State Party under the *World Heritage Convention*, and underlines the need to link the strategic city development vision with heritage-led regulatory planning documents in order to provide clear legal guidelines to manage all World Heritage properties in London in a consistent manner.
8. Also takes notes that major conservation works are planned as part of a Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster and also requests the State Party to submit details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, to the World Heritage



Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as these are available and before any decision is taken or approval is issued;

9. Further requests the State Party to finalize the review of the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit an electronic and three printed copies to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Taking note of the 23 recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, to identify potential courses of action to address ways of strengthening protection, including planning frameworks and management structures and limit the impacts development projects and other current planning applications on the OUV of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to expedite their implementation;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.56**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM.7B.116**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Takes note with satisfaction of the management achievements, and progress with implementation of previous Committee Decisions, to address protection and management issues identified in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property;
4. Commends the State Party for having invited two Advisory missions to advise on the process for determining and evaluating options for the proposed upgrading of the main A303 road across the property, as part of a wide major infrastructure project;
5. Expresses concern that the 2.9km Stonehenge tunnel options and their associated 2.2km of dual carriageway approach roads within the property that are under consideration, would impact adversely the OUV of the property;
6. Urges the State Party to explore further options with a view to avoiding impacts on the OUV of the property, including:
  - a) The F10 non-tunnel by-pass option to the south of the property,
  - b) Longer tunnel options to remove dual carriageway cuttings from the property and further detailed investigations regarding tunnel alignment and both east and west portal locations;

7. Encourages the State Party to address the findings and implement the recommendations of both Advisory missions and to invite further World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to continue to facilitate progress towards an optimal solution for the widening of the A303 to ensure no adverse impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to manage the timing of the consent and other statutory processes for the A303 trunk road project to ensure that the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Committee can continue to contribute to the evaluation and decision-making processes at appropriate stages;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **57. The Forth Bridge (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1485)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.57**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.33**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in responding to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations, especially:
  - a) The improvement of the protection policy by means of the identification of 10 key views of the property and associated protected view-cones,
  - b) The reinforcement of the management system by the creation of the Forth Bridge World Heritage Management Group and specialized commissions for tourism development and communication;
4. Reiterates its previous recommendations to the State Party to consider the following:
  - a) Creating key monitoring indicators that are more specific and relate more directly to the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value,
  - b) Extending the Management Plan of the property to include an interpretation and tourism plan,
  - c) Submitting plans for any proposed visitor centre at the earliest possibility to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 58. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

#### Decision: 41 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Commends the progress made in establishing institutional mechanisms for the cooperation and coordination between the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN) and the Federal District Agency for Territorial Management and Housing (SEGETH), and other parties, and that a joint Technical Support Group has been operational since 2015; and recommends that the effectiveness of this agreement be assessed after the initial three-year period in order to establish long-term mechanisms for institutional cooperation and coordination;
4. Welcomes IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 as a complement to Ordinance 314/1992 that establishes protective areas and protective zones for the World Heritage site and defines criteria for functions, density, building heights and open spaces; notes however that a number of civil and professional organizations expressed serious concerns about its impact and implications on core values and attributes of the property and therefore recommends that the State Party initiate an open debate to discuss these concerns and eventually review the Ordinance in order to strengthen it as a tool to preserve and enhance the OUV of the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia;
5. Equally welcomes IPHAN Ordinance 184 that establishes conditions for temporary use and structures on the Esplanada dos Ministérios, Praça dos Três Poderes and their surroundings, and also recommends that the State Party consider even more restrictive regulations in this respect;
6. Also notes that the process for the preparation of the Preservation Plan of Brasilia's Urban Area (PPCUB) has been restarted and that a third draft will be finalized in the course of 2017, and requests the State Party to submit the final draft of the PPCUB as soon as it becomes available to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a report on:
  - a) the alignment and interaction of the IPHAN Ordinances 166/2016, 314/1992 and the PPCUB,
  - b) the assessment of the effectiveness of the Technical Support Agreement and Technical Support Group as a mechanism of institutional cooperation and coordination,
  - c) the provisions for the review and approval of interventions in the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia as defined in Title IV of IPHAN Ordinance 166/2016 and the PPCUB;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the Advisory Bodies, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **59. Churches of Chiloe (Chile) (C 971)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.59**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of its recommendations and for the participatory approach it has taken in the definition of protective areas around the churches, as well as for concrete restoration, communication and education programmes that are under execution;
4. Urges the State Party to finalize the identification of buffer zones around all remaining churches and to proceed urgently with their submission as a minor boundary modification proposal encompassing all 16 components of the property;
5. Notes the progress made in the preparation of the Integrated Management Plan;
6. Welcomes the progress made with the construction of the by-pass in Castro and the conclusion of the traffic studies related to the shopping mall in Castro, and recommends that the State Party:
  - a) Continue to monitor the traffic flows around the church including the impact of the bus terminal north of the church,
  - b) Keep the vehicular access to the shopping mall in Calle San Martin closed,
  - c) Undertake Heritage Impact Assessments of projects in the surroundings of the church, particularly of the proposed parking garage in the buffer zone under the Plaza de Armas that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Strongly regrets that the construction of the shopping mall in Castro was completed without significant modifications to its design and that the mitigation measures that are now being considered are limited to the application of colors, texture and material on the facade facing the sea and the planting of trees; and requests the State Party to submit the designs and mitigation measures agreed between the owner of the mall, the Direction of Libraries, Archives and Museums (DIBAM) and the National Monuments Council (CMN), as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 60. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the substantive response that the State Party provided to its recommendations and for the high level of the documentation and intervention projects of elevators and other structures in the World Heritage property;
4. Notes that the implementation of the Urban Development Policy and its application in Valparaíso will take a number of years and urges the State Party to implement transitional measures to remedy weaknesses in the present mechanisms for the management and conservation of the property and in its relation to the urban development context of Valparaíso;
5. Also expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the revisions to the Puerto Baron Project and the undertaking of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and the adoption of an Archaeological Heritage Management Plan and considers that the State Party has responded in a positive and constructive manner to its recommendations;
6. Commends the use of the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties and encourages the State Party to continue using the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in the impact assessment;
7. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed about heritage impact mitigation measures and further developments regarding the Terminal 2 Project and also requests the State Party to ensure the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the mitigation measures or compensation plan that may be proposed in relation to the World Heritage property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 61. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.61**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Taking note of the information provided regarding the management structure and planning mechanisms for the historic centre of Quito, recommends that the State Party further clarify roles, responsibilities and interactions of institutions at various levels of government and requests the State Party to provide the Comprehensive Action and Management Plan as soon as it becomes available, to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Regarding the metro project and the possible location of the main station in the historic centre, regrets that the State Party has commenced the implementation of the metro station at one of the most emblematic and significant attributes of the property, the Square of San Francisco;
5. Urges the State Party to take the necessary measures to ensure the continuing urban coherence of the Square as a key attribute of Outstanding Universal Value and to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission;
6. Also requests the State Party to prepare and submit a report on the institutional and administrative arrangements that have been made regarding planning and construction of the metro line and underground station, including archaeological research, potential emergency interventions, and any changes to the paving of the square;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## 62. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.62**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Commends the State Party for the work accomplished in the clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory exercise and for the positive response it has given to the Committee's recommendations and to ICOMOS advice;
4. Welcomes the introduction of a no-fly zone over the property and the completion of mitigation and rescue measures at the Rio Amarillo airport;
5. Notes the information provided on the definition of the buffer zone and urges the State Party to finalize this process and to submit a final proposal for a buffer zone, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines* concerning minor boundary modifications;
6. Expresses its appreciation for the progress in the revision in the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, a final version of the Management Plan as soon as it becomes available;
7. Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of further developments in the design and testing results of the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway and any other development projects that may have an impact on the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**63. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790bis)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.63**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8E** and **40 COM 8B.34**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its appreciation for the commitment of the State Party to implement the Committee's recommendations;
4. Notes that the State Party is in the process of developing a proposal for a significant boundary modification for the property as recommended by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and submit this proposal by **1 February 2018**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
5. Expresses its serious concern that in spite of numerous public and private conservation initiatives, most of the factors affecting the property that were identified in earlier reports continue to exist and requests the State Party, until the significant boundary modification proposal is concluded and considered by the Committee, to take the necessary measures

to maintain the authenticity and integrity of both site components of the property, particularly in the buffer zone and wider setting of Panama Viejo;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, the designs of the Hotel Casco Viejo restoration project of the old Club Unión, together with studies on vehicular access, waste management, and other relevant aspects for assessing impacts on heritage;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **64. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.64**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.102** and **39 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party regarding the management of the property and notes with satisfaction that the State Party decided to cancel the Cable Car Project to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with regret that the High Capacity Segregated Corridor project was completed without the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) requested in past decisions and, therefore, urges the State Party to submit these assessments as soon as possible, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, and to include an analysis of the scale and a clear explanation on how to mitigate any potential impacts of the concerned stations;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize the process for updating the Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Lima and ensure its approval as soon as possible to enable the integral protection of all the components of the property;
6. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to provide technical assistance regarding the issues concerning the management and conservation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.



## 65. Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape (Uruguay) (C 1464)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.39**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the actions it has taken for the protection of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property and for the management arrangements it has put in place, particularly the creation of a multistakeholders Site Committee and the appointment of dedicated staff;
4. Welcomes the cooperation agreements with local and national institutions and the technical cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for the strategic planning and management of the City of Fray Bentos and the Industrial Landscape, and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Pay particular attention to the completion/revision of the Management Plan taking into account the specific recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List,
  - b) Submit the Management Plan and related new instruments, as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies,
  - c) Keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress and results of the technical cooperation agreement with the IADB;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above.

## AFRICA

## 66. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.66**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.37**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Noting that the State Party has made available funds for the evaluation and revision of the management plan, urges the State Party to act as soon as possible to start this process and to transmit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Takes note that the State Party has carried out renovation work on the eight huts of the Houégbadja Palace and parts of the Gbéhanzin Palace, which had been damaged by fires in 2015;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that intrusive or non-conforming construction work on the property is prevented, and that priority is given to finalizing the plan for the management of risks, disasters and other hazards to the property, including fires, and to transmit it to the World Heritage Centre, and recalls the obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, of any significant project or restoration that could modify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, or of any incident;
6. Also takes note of the feasibility studies for projects aiming to enhance Abomey as a tourism hub launched by the State Party and encourages it to develop a holistic tourism strategy in the framework of the management plan;
7. Recognizes the actions taken since the State Party's last report in 2015 but expresses its concern about the general state of conservation of the property and the insufficient progress since the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger In 2007, and requests the State Party to implement as soon as possible all the recommendations of the 2012 and 2016 Reactive Monitoring missions;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **67. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1322rev)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.67**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.17**, **37 COM 7B.37** and **39 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the implementation of the conservation and valorization measures in response to the points raised by the Committee in its previous decisions, notably Decision **39 COM 7B.38**;

4. Takes note with satisfaction of the continuation of international partnerships, in particular for training in conservation and management, as well as the involvement and mobilization of local communities and efforts to promote the property;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue to implement the specific actions requested by the Committee in its previous decisions and reflected in the Action Plan aimed at strengthening the protection and conservation of the property, further the documentary research on the property, keep the inventory up to date, and regularly verify the applicability of the regulatory texts for a sustainable and efficient conservation and management of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed of the implementation of major projects, namely the restoration in conformity with the ancient Palace of Justice, restoration of the Grand Bassam Cultural Heritage House, the development of the road network for the property, operational projects in the framework of the application of the Sanitation Master Plan, and the reopening of the river mouth, and reminds the State Party of the need to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future projects likely to affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its authenticity or integrity, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before hard-to-reverse decisions are taken;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned points.

## 68. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)

### Decision: 41 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.39** and **40 COM 7B.11** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide adequate details of the Ethiopian Sugar Development Corporation Project (Kuraz project), including clear and precise information on its scope and location as well as information on the relocation of pastoral communities, in relation to the property as a matter of urgency and by **1 December 2017**, as requested by the Committee at its 38th and 40th sessions, respectively in 2014 and 2016;
4. Whilst welcoming the commencement of the EU-funded project that will address tourism development, property boundaries, legal protection and management, including risk preparedness and community involvement, urges the State Party to give priority to delineating boundaries as the outcomes of this work are needed to underpin the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Kuraz project and the Management Plan, and to agree as soon as possible on a timeframe for the completion of the boundary work;

5. Notes the late submission of the HIA of the Kuraz project and request the State Party to liaise with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in its review to ensure that the HIA is compatible with accepted international standards and with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, and that the HIA is based on defined property boundaries and on clear and adequate and detailed information concerning the Kuraz project;
6. Also noting the scale of the ongoing Kuraz project, its potential direct and indirect impacts on the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and submit the EIA on the Kuraz project;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

#### **69. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.69**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.40** and **40 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Authority and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) according to which NMK should provide heritage advisory services to the LAPSSET project;
4. Notes that the 2011 Feasibility Study and Master Plan for the LAPSSET project are complete as well as, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) carried out in 2014 and continues to encourage the State Party to exclude the Lamu Archipelago from any LAPSSET developments, and acknowledges that whilst the LAPSSET project is ongoing, the details of the LAPSSET project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2017**;
5. Reiterates its concern that the LAPSSET project will significantly increase the development pressures for the entire region, including the Lamu Archipelago, and that consideration must be given to all potential impacts on the World Heritage property caused by such pressures;
6. Notes the late submission of the above-mentioned Strategic and Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LAPSSET project to the World Heritage Centre, but urges the State Party to revise it, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and submit this revised SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than **1 December 2017**;

7. Notes with concern that an HIA for the already completed Manda Airport upgrade has not been undertaken, although requested by the Committee, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake such an HIA as soon as possible in order to identify any adverse impacts on the property and ways to mitigate these impacts, and to submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests that the revised Management Plan, including the new chapter covering the LAPSSET development project, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and no later than **1 December 2017**;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to clarify the current scope of the LAPSSET project in relation to its actual and potential impacts on the Lamu Old Town property, to examine work already carried out for the LAPSSET project and on the Manda airport developments, and to examine the overall state of conservation of the Lamu Old Town property;
10. Acknowledges the submission of a draft SEA report and urges the State Party to continue enhancing the mitigation measures to address the identified negative impacts of the project in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **70. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in regard to the development of a conservation project for the sculptures;
4. Recognizing the vulnerabilities of the property, as identified by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, expresses its concern that the detailed recommendations of the mission were not specifically addressed in the submitted report and that no progress appears to have been made with significant mission recommendations relating to the development of defined conservation methodology, analysis of the polluted river water, over-commercialization of the Festival, support of the Festival for on-going conservation work, community engagement, lack of resources for professional staff, fencing the buffer zone and plans for a proposed new road and bridge;
5. Considers that more clearly-defined progress is needed across a wide range of activities in order to put the management of the property onto a more sustainable basis;

6. Urges the State Party to address, as a matter of urgency, the detailed recommendations of the mission, in particular the review of the Conservation Management Plan, with, if necessary, advice from ICOMOS, and to halt further conservation work until a conservation methodology has been developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **71. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.71**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes the recent measures taken by the State Party to strengthen and adapt the governance of the property and deal with the issues to conserve its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular:
  - a) The creation of a single Regional Committee responsible for the authorization of the constructions and work concerning the property,
  - b) The creation of a specialised police unit installed at Saint Louis for surveillance and ground soil conservation activities,
  - c) The announcement of the establishment of an inventory of the most threatened public and private buildings and a plan for priority restoration to be conducted with support from a dedicated financial fund,
  - d) The proposal to recruit an architect-urbanist for the project;
4. Commends the consistent mobilization of the local communities (Associations, District Councils, etc.) and the effective involvement of the private partners in the safeguarding actions for the property;
5. Notes nevertheless, that the property remains vulnerable because the earlier deterioration was not halted and urges the State Party to pursue its efforts to improve the management and governance of the property, and to put in place the following measures:
  - a) Revitalize the management structure of the property and clarify the role of the many bodies involved in the current management of the property and their coordination,
  - b) Confirm the preparation of a documented technical inventory (database) of the endangered buildings to envisage their maintenance and appropriate restoration, and to achieve this, to implement the following points:
    - (i) The Commission for the authorization of work must have the resources to monitor their implementation and intervene in the event of non-conformity,

- (ii) Planning with a timetable of priority work to be urgently conducted and in the medium-term to rehabilitate the most dilapidated or threatened historic buildings,
  - (iii) The effective establishment of the public and private fund to guarantee the implementation of these works, and its operating methods,
  - (iv) The confirmation of the recruitment of an architect town planner specialized in the technical and architectural direction of a plan for the restoration of historic buildings expressing an Outstanding Universal Value,
  - (v) The development of a permanent team to prescribe good practices and technical intervention for conservation, in support of the architect-urbanist to be made available to the project,
  - (vi) The development and implementation of a monitoring system to record building conditions over time,
- c) Develop a communication strategy aimed at sharing the values of the property with the inhabitants, in particular through the establishment of the Heritage House,
  - d) Establish monitoring of the geomorphological evolution of the mouth of the Senegal River to assess the potential or possible threats to the conservation of the physical integrity of the soil supporting the property;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **72. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.72**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes that the water monitoring programme has been effective in confirming that the main areas of high water pollution are located in the south west part of the property, but expresses concern that the polluted effluent from the current water treatment plant continues to present a high risk to fossil sites;
4. Also notes the arrangements for water management within the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide more detailed information on:
  - a) Water quality targets,
  - b) The overall management framework of the property, including an update on the State Party's engagement with stakeholders;
5. Requests the State Party to prepare a risk prevention strategy for the vulnerable fossil sites and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Welcomes the approval in principle given in May 2016 for the development of the second phase of the Western Basin treatment work project, which will improve the quality of water effluent, thus reducing the threat to the fossil remains, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the design specifications for the project and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they are available, and by **1 December 2017** at the latest, and before the parameters of the project have been determined and a construction contract awarded, in order that the review can inform the project;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## ARAB STATES

### 73. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

#### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.73**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.46**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Takes note of the continuing efforts of the State Party and its commitment to improve the management and state of conservation of the property but, noting the increasing deterioration, urges the State Party to deploy all necessary efforts to ensure the protection;
4. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to adopt an integrated approach to the management and conservation of the property, focusing on the historic urban landscape to define a comprehensive framework for the effective implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS), and the conduct of all other actions to improve the state of conservation of the property;
5. Noting further that an expert meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers will be organized before the end of 2017, strongly recommends that all the issues raised in this report on the state of conservation of the property are addressed within the framework of the approach described in paragraph 4 of the present Decision;
6. Commends the State Party for the results of the preventive excavation carried out in connection with the proposed Place des Martyrs metro station, aimed at reconciling the imperatives of urban development with the need to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;



7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, the final report on the preventive excavation operation carried out in connection with the Place des Martyrs metro station project, for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **74. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.74**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in the regular monitoring of the state of conservation of the property and its promotion to the general public, and the transmission to the World Heritage Centre of the first version of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project for the enhancement of the port of Tipasa;
4. Encourages the State Party to pursue the implementation of the Plan for the Protection and Development of Tipasa Archaeological Sites (PPVMSA) and the guidelines for monitoring the urban development around the property, including the impact on the visual integrity of the property;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the updated Management Plan, when finalized, to the World Heritage Centre for examination by ICOMOS;
6. Expresses its concern about the possible negative effect of rainwater runoff and its stagnation on the archaeological structures, and urges the State Party to consider the solution proposed by the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission of April 2017 concerning the conduct of archaeological surveys to identify and operationalize the old rainwater drainage systems;
7. Requests the State Party to take into account the recommendations of the 2017 advisory mission and in particular:
  - a) Continue the HIA of the port enhancement project on the basis of the Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties drawn up by ICOMOS in 2011, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies,
  - b) Suspend the placing at the foot of the cliff of an embankment wall composed of geo-synthetic inclusions pending further reflection in order to find a more suitable solution from a technical and landscape point of view, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies,

- c) Integrate the landscaping of the jetty built between 2006 and 2009 with the port enhancement project in order to mitigate the jetty's visual impact and integrate it into the landscape,
  - d) Consider extending the buffer zone to maritime space to prevent future interventions likely to have an impact on the visual integrity of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value,
  - e) Organize an expert meeting to examine experiences at other World Heritage sites where issues similar to those of Tipasa have been addressed and satisfactory solutions envisaged;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **75. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1192ter)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.75**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes the progress achieved by the State Party in the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (2008-2013);
4. Also notes with satisfaction that the tunnel has been adopted as the only feasible option for the road connectivity development for Nurana Island;
5. Further notes that the revision of the Heritage Law is still under revision and invites the State Party to consider this revision as a priority, particularly to enable the signature of memoranda of understanding with the owners of lands located within the area designated for the extension of the property, in order to improve its management and conservation;
6. Urges the State Party to implement fully the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and to include within it the proposals developed by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) for a vision document, new zoning codes, and requirements for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
7. Encourages the State Party to pursue the use of the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape as well as the urban study carried out by the Directorate of Urban Planning at national level in order to conduct a wider reflection on the stakes related to the urban development of the areas surrounding the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as they are available:

- a) The results of the updated HIA carried out by the developer of the the road connectivity development for Nurana Island, in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties,
  - b) The results of the consultation based on the proposal elaborated by BACA aiming at reinforcing the protection of the property's attributes, including a vision document for the integrated management of the property and its buffer zone, a new zoning code, specific requirements at the parcel level and a call for HIA for big scale projects around the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of the first review of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan as soon as it has taken place;
  10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **76. Ancient Thebes and its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.76**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.48** and **39 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the physical conservation works, including cleaning of inscriptions, masonry repair and stabilization, which has occurred at the Karnak, Luxor and Madamud temples, and the works undertaken and proposed for the Avenue of the Sphinx;
4. Also notes the conclusions and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission undertaken in April 2017 and urges the State Party to implement the mission report recommendations;
5. Regrets that the State Party has not fully complied with the requests expressed by the Committee in Decisions **37 COM 7B.48** and **39 COM 7B.49**, and considers that the continuing absence of the Management Plan, the lack of adequate human and technical resources and the growing number of development projects at the property are exerting a growing impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Expresses concern with regard to the over-emphasis on tourism in the overall management of the property, and the resulting destruction or neglect of attributes that do not belong to the period of Pharaonic Egypt;
7. Also urges the State Party to revise the 2030 Masterplan for the property to integrate the conservation of the OUV across all projects within the property;

8. Further urges the State Party to expedite the preparation of the previously-requested Management Plan, incorporating a conservation plan which establishes priorities, needs and harmonized approaches, and a tourism control strategy and comprehensive tourism management plan;
9. Requests the State Party to invite representatives from the UNESCO Office in Cairo to visit the property at the earliest opportunity in order to inspect the Tomb of Seti, the Shrine of Hatshepsut, the closed tombs in the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens and the Gournas site of the Noble tombs;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit a revised Statement of OUV, which incorporates newly-discovered archaeological remains within the property and its buffer zone;
11. Encourages the UNESCO Office in Cairo to conduct capacity-building workshops, which may improve the management of the property;
12. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to provide, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, detailed information on the planning and design of proposed and on-going projects, in particular those related to infrastructure development and the programme of works, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) where appropriate, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to approval and implementation;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit the following documentation, which was not available to the 2017 mission experts, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
  - a) A report on the documentation process followed in the conservation of the noble tombs TT.112 and TT.131 including the basis on which the methods of intervention were decided,
  - b) Comprehensive documentation on the project of lighting and security cameras with details regarding its implementation,
  - c) A report on the underground water project design and implementation,
  - d) A complete report on the flood channeling and the Flood Emergency Plan established for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **77. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.77**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Notes the progress that has been made by the State Party in conformity with the recommendations of the Committee and of the 2014 Advisory mission in terms of putting in place both short and long term measures to address the urgent problems facing the urban fabric of the Old City and its socio-economic structures;
4. Also notes the immediate measures on the control of conservation and demolition of structures, on urban regeneration strategies for specific areas, and on awareness raising, as well as the revival of work on major conservation projects, and the planning of new ones;
5. Welcomes the steps that have been taken to start and plan a major Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo Project (URHC), under the control of the Ministry of Antiquities, and the scope of its urban, cultural, economic and social goals aimed at revitalising the Old City structures, and a one year work programme to undertake studies and define an overall Master Plan;
6. Given the challenges to be faced to halt and reverse the decline of the property, urges the State Party to take all needed measures to halt the rapid deterioration observed at the property, while the new administrative and management measures are being put in place, and closely monitor the situation;
7. Encourages the State Party to give high priority to the work of the newly-established URHC project; and requests the State Party to submit the draft Master Plan and established benchmarks in order that progress can be monitored and defined over time;
8. Also welcomes proposals for a new management structure that envisage a legally appointed body that could be instrumental in driving the URHC project forward and also requests the State Party to provide further details about this structure;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to consider the progress with the development of the Master Plan and the impact of the new policy and recent administrative measures;
10. Recalls that the State Party needs to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, including for the planned al-Azhar pedestrians' crossing bridge;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.78**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.22, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016)**,
3. Welcomes the engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the development of proposals for a Cairo Ring Road tunnel across the Giza Plateau, and takes note the two Advisory missions that have been invited by the State Party and which were undertaken in 2015 and early 2017;
4. Notes that the planned Ring Road of 1995 had been partially constructed across a 5km stretch of the Giza Plateau, impacting adversely on the landscape and that the abandoned road has facilitated dumping, waste incineration, and large-scale sand extraction;
5. Also notes the recommendation of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission that, in advance of developing a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Ring road tunnel, the State Party should develop, as effectively as possible, three technical reports on traffic management, archaeology and design details, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Takes also note of the submission by the State Party, of, the requested technical reports on traffic management and design details, and notes furthermore that the State Party is currently working on the archaeological remote sensing survey and research of the area potentially impacted by the proposed tunnel;
7. Requests the State Party to submit an HIA for the proposed tunnel scheme based on the combined technical reports for subsequent review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Also requests that work for the construction of the tunnel should only be progressed once all the requested technical reports and the subsequent HIA have been positively evaluated by the Advisory Bodies and any appropriate mitigation measures and procedures for monitoring have been agreed;
9. Further requests the State Party to strengthen the protection and management of the property and encourages it to:
  - a) Finalize a single enforceable Management Plan for the property as a priority, based on the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value to be approved,
  - b) Reinforce the overall co-ordination and management of the World Heritage property, and reinforce the management and conservation of the property by the Ministry of Antiquities,
  - c) Investigate national legislation specific to World Heritage properties,
  - d) Define a buffer zone and submit a Minor Boundary Modification request accordingly;
10. Urges the State Party to stop immediately illegal activities in the property associated with dumping, waste incineration and sand extraction, and all encroachment, including through physical barriers and boundary' protection, as well as proactive enforcement mechanisms, and to activate immediate measures, as highlighted by previous missions, for the removal of illegally dumped fill material from the World Heritage property and for the necessary repair and reinstatement of the landscape;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

**79. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.79**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.10** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively;
3. Commends the State Party on the revisions of the management plan in response to the Committee’s recommendations;
4. Requests the State Party to supplement the disaster response guidance in the management plan regarding earthquakes, in particular to address specific response actions to protect the property in the event of an earthquake;
5. Also requests the State Party to consider supplementing the design and construction guidelines for the Churches which are to be constructed in the buffer zone to address construction regulations, visual impact, as well as the need for overall master planning for the buffer zone to manage developments in the landscape, and to submit all construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
6. Reiterates the need to ensure the protection of the western banks of the Jordan River to preserve important vistas and sightlines of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**80. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.80**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the Management Plan has not been finalized yet and expresses concern that a number of major projects foreseen in the planned buffer zone have reached an advanced level of development prior to their submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by ICOMOS, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

4. Also regrets the decision of the State Party not to submit a minor boundary modification proposal towards the adoption of the boundaries of the planned buffer zone and considers that nonetheless the setting of the property must be adequately protected and requests it to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone including its zoning as a matter of urgency, in the context of the development of an overall Master Plan;
5. Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, with additional fields of expertise as needed, to assess the situation at the property and in the planned buffer zone, particularly those where the development projects are located or foreseen and to discuss the development of a Master Plan;
6. Urges the State Party to put the ongoing or planned development projects on hold and to control urban development in the planned buffer zone, until the Reactive Monitoring mission has visited the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, detailed information on each of the development projects implemented or foreseen in the vicinity of the property, prior to the mission, for review by ICOMOS;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

#### **81. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.81**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the Management Plan, which must include a comprehensive Conservation Plan and archaeological research policy, and integrate a Public Use Plan;
5. Requests the State Party to report on the implementation of the conservation measures at the Stylite Tower before detailed work is planned;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.



**82. Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.82**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the Action Plan approved by the concerned parties and urges the State Party to implement it as soon as possible;
4. Notes that a project financed by the Italian Agency Development Cooperation foresees support in the implementation of the Action Plan, notably through the rehabilitation of pedestrian trails, training activities and conservation and by the restoration of a certain number of historic and religious structures;
5. Requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre more information on the socio-economic development projects proposed to the local communities and to ensure that these projects present no negative impact on the integrity of the property;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a clarification of the boundaries of the property and the buffer zones in response to the retrospective inventory and as recommended by the Reactive Monitoring mission of 2012;
7. Reminds the State Party the need to inform the World Heritage Centre, in due course, of any major development project that might threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decision is taken, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**83. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.83**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.45** and **39 COM 7B.54**, adopted respectively at the 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions,

3. Takes note of the progress made in the preparation of the Management Plan for the property and the conservation works concerning some zones of the site (including those containing the mosaics), vegetation control, fire prevention and the establishment of the maritime protection zone, encourages the State Party to continue this work and requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the Management Plan, completing it based on the advice and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as soon as it is finalized;
4. Regrets that the State Party has undertaken work that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular in the El Bass zone without having informed the World Heritage Centre in advance, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Also regrets that the State Party has not taken into account in the parking project the ICOMOS comments of September 2016 and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the work undertaken and envisaged, for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further regrets that the State Party has not yet responded to certain requests contained in Decision **39 COM 7B.54** and urges it to undertake the following actions:
  - a) Ensure that the management structure becomes fully operational by securing adequate resources for all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring,
  - b) Improve the current maintenance practices concerning drainage and sewage control through the establishment of appropriate preventive measures,
  - c) Establish a safeguarding programme for detached mosaics and ensure their protection until a decision is taken on their conservation and restoration;
7. Also urges the State Party to continue the implementation of the following:
  - a) Continue the work to ensure the establishment of a maritime protection zone surrounding the seashores of Tyre,
  - b) Monitor conservation interventions to assess their efficacy and use the monitor results to document the development of the conservation strategy,
  - c) Continue to develop and implement the framework for coordination of the Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project (BTAP) and strengthen cooperation between the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA), the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development project (CHUD), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to effectively monitor the design and implementation of the project,
  - d) Submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated Action Plan;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate an in-depth study of the circulation, indicating all the urban and roundabout road network projects, as well as Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the South motorway and its Tel el-Maachouk interchange, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify the necessary measures to improve the state of conservation of the property and its management;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the

implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **84. Ksar Ait Ben Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.84**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Encourages the State Party to continue the finalization of the management plan and the timetable for its implementation and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Noting with concern that restoration works have been carried out in the property since September 2016, with no details having been provided to the World Heritage Centre in advance, requests the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to provide further details on the restoration work undertaken since 2016 and to transmit the technical details of the work planned for the second and third phases of this project prior to their implementation for consideration by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide additional information on the special financial account for the conservation of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on the commissioning of the bridge between the two banks of Wadi el-Maleh within the property, accompanied by a heritage impact assessment, for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to adopt an integrated approach focusing on the historic urban landscape as an additional tool for sustainable management of the property;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## 85. Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia) (C 1472)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.11** and **40 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively;
3. Welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee;
4. Requests the State Party to clarify whether there are any impediments to formalizing an extended buffer zone of 1 to 1.5 km, as originally recommended by the Committee;
5. Also requests the State Party to specifically consider in the management plan for the property the success of the masking work, the visitor infrastructure work, and the proposed monitoring;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

## 86. The Great Wall (China) (C 438)

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.86**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Commends the State Party for its efforts towards the protection and conservation of this vast cultural property, especially with regard to the systematic cataloguing of all elements of the Great Wall and the introduction, revision and/or implementation of national and provincial legal frameworks, and encourages the State Party to proceed with the adoption of all provincial programmes for the protection of the Great Wall as soon as possible;
3. Takes note of the information provided on the proposed high-speed railway line linking Beijing and Zhangjiakou, which is to pass underneath the property via an underground tunnel and foresees the construction of an underground station and a ground building at Guntiangu, within the boundaries of the property, and urges the State Party to submit to

the World Heritage Centre a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), to be prepared in line with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, for review by the Advisory Bodies; and to ensure that the HIA includes consideration of all potential impacts on the integrity and authenticity of the property, along with appropriate mitigation strategies, including:

- a) Physical impacts from tunnelling and construction activity,
  - b) Visual impacts on sightlines and views, and
  - c) Alternative options which can reduce such impacts;
4. Notes with concern that the State Party has not indicated how the proposed new station may influence the already high number of visitors, or what preventive measures have been introduced to address this issue and also urges the State Party to:
- a) Ensure that the potential impacts arising from increased visitation are also addressed in the HIA,
  - b) Take all necessary measures to mitigate the impacts of mass tourism on the property, and
  - c) Take all necessary measures to minimize the cumulative impacts of tourism infrastructure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, especially with regard to sight lines to and from the Great Wall;
5. Requests that the State Party ensure that the construction of the aforementioned high-speed railway line and the proposed station at Guntianguo does not proceed to a point where it is no longer possible to implement changes recommended through the HIA process;
6. Also takes note of the information provided on the works carried out at the Damao Mountain Section of the Great Wall in Suizhong County, Liaoning Province, and also encourages the State Party to continue its regular conservation and protection efforts to ensure the structural stability of all extant sections of the Great Wall;
7. Also notes with concern that some of the works were carried out using unsuitable methods, leading to results which are incompatible with the fabric and appearance of the adjoining sections of the Great Wall;
8. Also requests the State Party to ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with international conservation standards, and that no irreversible damage is done to the fabric of the property and reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decision is made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **87. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.87**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),
3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to further strengthen the protection of the property through the Cultural Heritage Protection Law and the Urban Planning Law, both adopted in 2014;
4. Regrets the lack of progress with the completion of the Management Plan, which was due for submission by 1 February 2015, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to complete this Management Plan as a matter of priority, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review prior to its adoption;
5. Expresses concern over possible future development projects involving reclaimed land and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Master Plan for Land Reclamation (MPLR) before it is approved, along with details of all current proposals for land reclamation, e.g. for Zone B, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also notes that a holistic Urban Master Plan is foreseen to be launched in the next three to five years, to be followed by a detailed plan that aims to control and regulate urban development in a scientific and transparent manner, and also requests the State Party to provide details of the draft Urban Master Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies, as well as information on how it relates to the MPLR;
7. Further requests the State Party to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments for future and planned development projects, focusing on the potential impact of new construction projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decision is made;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **88. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China / Kazakhstan / Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.88**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.34** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the November 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission to the eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan;
4. Expresses its deep concern that the component site of Talgar has been impacted so adversely in a comparatively short amount of time since the time of inscription that its state of conservation is now a potential threat to the integrity of the overall serial transnational property;
5. Notes that significant infrastructural road construction at the Talgar component site was halted in October 2016, after serious damage to the historic structures and archaeological layers of the site and its overall morphology; also notes that five options for the revised line of the Birlik-Almalyk-Kazstroy-Ryskulov-Ak-Bulak road were put forward by the State Party of Kazakhstan in January 2017, cross the Buffer Zone; and therefore requests the State Party of Kazakhstan to develop new options for an alternative route outside of the territory of the component site and its Buffer Zone, in line with the request of the Committee, and to dismantle the half-built road bridge;
6. Also requests the State Party of Kazakhstan to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017** a detailed report on reconstruction work at the Talgar component site, both planned and undertaken, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Notes that the Talgar site has been affected by rural residential development in the Buffer Zone, and further requests that this be halted and strict control over this process be ensured;
8. Also expresses its concern that local paved roads are planned or under construction at Akyrtyas; and deeply regrets that the World Heritage Centre was not informed about this project beforehand, which goes against Paragraph 172 of *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Further expresses its deep concern about the adverse impacts of urban development on the perception of the sites in relation to the Silk Roads and their settings, and requests furthermore the State Party of Kazakhstan to strengthen the legal mechanisms to control environmental impacts of urban growth over the component sites as a matter of priority;
10. Requests moreover the State Party of to clarify the boundaries of the component sites, and to ensure that all sites benefit from the highest national protection in their boundaries and Buffer Zones as it was submitted at the time of inscription;
11. Reiterates its request that Management Plans for all eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan and their landscape settings be revised taking into consideration the results of Reactive Monitoring mission assessment as a matter of priority and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2018** at the latest, along with an update on progress by **1 December 2017**;
12. Requests in addition the States Parties of China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to develop effective coordination for the management of the overall serial property through the existing Coordinating Committee on the World Heritage Serial Nomination of the Silk Road and its Secretariat based at ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an;
13. Finally requests the State Party of Kazakhstan, in close consultation with the States Parties of China and Kyrgyzstan, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, a joint 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 42nd session in 2018.

**89. Historic Monuments and Sites in Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (C 1278rev)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.89**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes the efforts of the State Party to complete the Tourism Management Plan (including the Interpretation Plans) and encourages its timely adoption and implementation;
4. Requests the State Party to report on the tangible results achieved on the further development of the monitoring system at the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.90**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party, especially with regard to progress with the implementation of the Action Plans of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), the strengthened protection in newly designated areas of ecological importance, the Conservation Plan for the Virupaksha Bazaar, and the Circulation Plan and bypass road to divert traffic away from the property;
4. Notes the State Party's commitment to update Sectoral Plans, which underpin the IMP, and requests the State Party to provide a timetable for the completion of this work;
5. Acknowledges the progress made with the conservation of a number of monuments, including the Virupaksha Bazaar area, the Hanuman Shrine, the Pushkarani Temple, and monuments located in the buffer zone;
6. Notes with concern the information received on proposals for widening of a road near the Kamalapur tank area, which may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and urges the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the



*Operational Guidelines*, to provide detailed information concerning this project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

## **91. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.91**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.14** and **39 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing the Committee's previous decisions and the recommendations of the 2015 Advisory mission, which align with the commitments made at the time of inscription to ensure effective management as a means of protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Welcomes the establishment of the Coordination Forum for the management of the Cultural Landscape of Bali Province, the preparation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and other measures to reduce the threat posed by land conversion pressures;
5. Also welcomes the initiation of programmes which provide income and financial incentives for local farmers, including land and building tax relief, grants and other assistance and concessions, but requests the State Party to make these initiatives available to all of the Subaks within the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to closely monitor the Coordination Forum, including participation rates by local farmers and province and regency governments, any emerging issues, and the timeliness and effectiveness of responses and outcomes;
7. Takes note of the continued need for a catchment management approach to water quality, forest management and natural resources, as part of strategic planning to safeguard the water catchment, and further requests the State Party:
  - a) To take all necessary steps to ensure that the property is designated as a National Strategic Area, with special provisions that can deliver natural resource management within the protected zones and buffer zones of water catchments and cultural properties, and
  - b) To finalize the proposed presidential decree;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and/or Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are carried out for new developments in the property and its setting, particularly at Jatiluwih, in conformity with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments and/or the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for cultural World Heritage properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the projects on the OUV of the property, and to ensure that the EIA/HIA documentation is provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **92. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 115)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.92**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to shift the routing of Metro Line 2 outside the property and requests the State Party to ensure that all mitigation measures and the investigation and monitoring of monuments continue to be part of the tunnelling activities, in order to ensure that these works do not cause any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the draft Conservation and Management Plan prior to its finalization, for review by the Advisory Bodies, to carry out an assessment of the property's vulnerability to disasters such as earthquakes or fires, and to develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and integrate it into the Conservation and Management Plan;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and before any further works:
  - a) Information on the development of the spatial structure for the pedestrian roadways for visitors to the property,
  - b) Detailed information on the reorganization of the sewage system within the property and its buffer zone;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**93. Susa (Iran (Islamic Republic of)) (C 1455)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.93**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 8B.13**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes with appreciation the initiatives undertaken by the State Party to strengthen the protection of the archaeological remains and sites contained within the buffer and landscape zones, and encourages the State Party to continue its work in order to finalize the updated mapping of archaeological sites within the two zones and provide them with the necessary protection measures;
4. Requests the State Party to continue harmonizing existing territorial and urban planning instruments by integrating the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the regulations related to the property and the buffer and landscape zones;
5. Encourages the State Party to:
  - a) Continue defining indicators to measure the effectiveness of the inter-institutional agreement,
  - b) Address risk preparedness and integrate the necessary measures in the Susa Development Plan and in the Management framework;
6. Also request the State Party to continue with the implementation of the recommendations adopted in Decision **39 COM 8B.13**;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated, detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**94. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)**

**Decision: 41 COM 7B.94**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.68** adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, especially with the development and adoption of a road network and management scheme, the Monument Zoning Plan together with construction and zoning regulations, and the completion of the Champasak Cultural Landscape Master Plan;
4. Regrets that the State Party has not finalized the Management Plan and requests the State Party to finalize it, as a matter of priority, and to provide a final draft to the World Heritage Centre, along with the new Monument Zone Plan resulting from the recent landscape study, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Acknowledges the adoption of the Champasak Cultural Landscape Master Plan, which addresses recommendations made by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission and by the Committee, and also requests the State Party to:
  - a) Monitor and report on progress made with the implementation of the road network and traffic management scheme,
  - b) Ensure that the revised building and other regulations are enforced effectively to prevent new construction along the section of Route 14A from km29 to km34,
  - c) Monitor and report on the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination and cooperation;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **95. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.95**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the strong commitment of the State Party and work that it has undertaken for the recovery of the property, particularly by salvaging important elements, its capacity-building efforts and the six-year plan for the recovery of the monuments damaged by the earthquake;
4. Takes note of the report of March 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;
5. Also acknowledges the scale and scope of the disaster, as described by the 2017 mission and the continuing, serious deterioration of the property's architectural and town-planning coherence resulting from the immediate impacts of the earthquakes;
6. Recognizes that the pace of recovery and the damaging restoration work on some monuments appears to reflect the current need for improvement in management capacity

across the property, to undertake the necessary documentation, research and analyses that should underpin all recovery work;

7. Considers that the potential and ascertained threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are so considerable that the recovery process needs to be quickened and made more effective, and that the scale and scope of the disaster and the response required goes well beyond the capacity and resources of the Department of Archaeology (DoA), and also considers that much greater input, collaboration and coordination of support from the international community could likely help to achieve this shift;
8. Requests the State Party to fully commit to use appropriate methods and materials in recovery works;
9. Reiterates its request that the State Party integrate the Recovery Master Plan (RMP) within an overall socio-economic revitalization programme for urban communities, encourage residents and local businesses to engage in the recovery process and ensure that it delivers wide-ranging social and economic benefits;
10. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party's urgent recovery work through financial, technical or expert assistance;
11. Strongly encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to ascertain the progress accomplished by the State Party in implementation of six-year RMP and to give guidance on reviewing it;
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **96. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.96**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes that the Reactive Monitoring mission will be invited immediately after the decision of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan is announced;
4. Also notes that the State Party is undertaking measures to control and monitor urban encroachments and stresses upon the need to expedite this process as far as possible and requests the State Party to further improve the collaboration with related national and local authorities in implementation of the Management Plan;
5. Requests the State Party:

- a) to urgently complete and share with the World Heritage Centre the Visual Impact Study as decided by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session as soon as possible, and at the latest on **1 December 2017**;
  - b) to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property immediately after the announcement of the decision of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan, to examine the Orange Line Metro Train project and to discuss the same with the relevant Government authorities and to review the management and protection arrangements of the property;
6. Considers that the highest priority must be given to considering how the Shalamar Gardens and their spiritual associations can be sustained alongside any necessary measures to satisfy the needs of a growing city, by setting out the precise and detailed nature of the potential impacts of the Orange Line Metro project on the OUV of the property, and whether and how mitigation measures can be undertaken;
  7. Reiterates the great need to adequately manage and effectively control encroachment and urban development in and around the property, and therefore further requests the State Party to immediately undertake setting studies and procedures in this regard, which will be taken into account when proposing an enlargement of the property's buffer zone;
  8. Notes the conservation work that has been undertaken at Lahore Fort and is in progress at the Shalamar Gardens, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that all such work is documented, together with any necessary archaeological inputs;
  9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **97. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.97**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.44** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the significant efforts expended by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the property by regularly removing litter, graffiti and vegetation from the property, hiring security guards, and documenting/storing displaced original architectural elements;
4. Notes however that important requests made by the Committee are yet to be addressed or fully implemented, including the completion of the barrier wall, the encroachment of contemporary burials on the property, the stabilisation of important monuments, and the finalization of the Management Plan;
5. Requests the State Party to:

- a) Submit, at its earliest convenience, details of the inventory system for displaced architectural elements and documentation on the remaining architectural surface decoration, and especially glazed tiles, which constitute an important part of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - b) Ensure that programmes to record and analyse data from weather stations and crack monitors are implemented and that the results contribute directly to the management and conservation of the property and its monuments,
  - c) Finalize the Management Plan for the property, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, together with a regulatory plan for the buffer zone of the necropolis, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Urges the State Party to:
- a) Continue the stabilization of all elements in danger of collapse, in order of priority, particularly the Jamia Majid and the Jam Nizzamuddin Mausoleum and several other monuments groups, and produce the necessary preliminary assessments and studies, as requested by Decision **40 COM.7B.44**,
  - b) Determine the most appropriate way of accommodating new burials, notably by considering the allocation of an area outside of the property's boundaries to this use, set up a mechanism for civilians to obtain burial authorisation, and ensure that the Management Plan acknowledges and addresses the living heritage values of the property and institutionalizes consultation with local communities,
  - c) Consult with local communities regarding new burial arrangements and residential relocation and seek to incorporate programmes for education and outreach, making sure that changes do not create further risks of vandalism or damage,
  - d) Establish clear standards and mechanisms for the continued supervision of all interventions carried out at the property, whether by the Sindh Government's staff or by third parties, ensure that all regulations are followed and that proposals for works are submitted, reviewed, and approved before any work is undertaken on site,
  - e) Develop a process for the prioritization of work and any related budgetary allocation to ensure that the most critical needs are met first. Priorities should be determined according to the significance and condition of the monuments, such that the most significant monuments in the worst condition are treated before those of lesser significance and/or in a less degraded state of conservation,
  - f) For each major monument, create an extensive baseline photographic documentation that can be used to monitor visible structural changes (e.g. loss of material, cracks, discoloration and biological growth). All photographs should include size and colour scales for reference;
7. Encourages the State Party to provide short- and mid-term training programmes for the staff of the Department of Archaeology, to hire experts whenever necessary, and to develop a detailed list of responsibilities and a schedule of activities for each member of staff;
8. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in the first half of 2018, in order to:
- a) Review the progress accomplished with the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Committee at its 40th and present sessions, as well as the recommendations made by the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, and in particular:
    - (i) the development of the Management Plan,

- (ii) the overall management of the property (e.g. litter collection, site security, contemporary burials encroachment),
  - (iii) conservation works carried out on site,
  - (iv) the mechanism established for physical interventions, including the prioritisation of interventions,
  - (v) the establishment of documentation/inventory and monitoring systems;
- b) Review the factors that constitute a threat to the property and consider whether there is still an ascertained or potential danger to the OUV of the property,
  - c) Advise the State Party on the issues related to the boundaries and buffer zone of the property as well as the completion and implementation of the Management Plan;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress in the implementation of the above mentioned issues, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **98. Historic City of Ayutthaya (Thailand) (C 576)**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.98**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the capacities of local craftspeople who undertake conservation activities via a training curriculum based on scientific conservation principles and the use of traditional material and skills;
4. Notes with satisfaction the information provided by the State Party on the organization of the international symposium on brick monuments and on the revision of the Master Plan for Conservation and Development, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts towards developing a comprehensive plan for conservation and utilization, as requested in Decision **39 COM 7B.71**, with the assistance of experts and specialists from different disciplines;
5. Recommends that the State Party carry out an assessment study of the vulnerability of the property against disasters, develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and integrate it into the Master Plan;
6. Also notes with appreciation that the State Party has been eager to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property by controlling development within the property and by preparing an announcement on additional regulations;



7. Requests the State Party to provide further information on the revised construction projects for the university and the hospital to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV of the property, and encourages the State Party to take all necessary steps to finalize the announcement restricting buildings within the property, submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and revise the document according to their feedback prior to its adoption;
8. Invites the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with updates on the progress achieved with the approval and implementation of the Master Plan for Conservation and Development, including the restoration projects and post-flood interventions at the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

## **99. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis)**

### **Decision: 41 COM 7B.99**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **39 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),
3. Notes the conclusions and recommendations of the March 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;
4. Welcomes progress with the development of the Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the final text of the Management Plan, completed in conjunction with the new Master Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara and in close consultation with the local communities, as suggested by the 2016 mission;
5. Notes with appreciation that a Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) workshop was held in 2016, with the support of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust;
6. Expresses serious concern that neither the report of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission nor any follow-up on its recommendations were mentioned in the State Party's report; and that no details have been provided to address the concerns raised by the mission regarding the degradation of traditional houses, the lack of guidelines for the rehabilitation of housing and structural restoration projects, the use of new materials and techniques, inadequate documentation of major historic buildings and urban fabric, and the need for stronger protection, planning tools, documentation and a Conservation Plan, many of which were already raised in the 2010 mission report;
7. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission relating to strengthening protection, planning, conservation guidelines,

documentation, management systems and capacity building, in order to address the governance weaknesses identified by the mission, with particular attention to the following:

- a) Establish the Bukhara World Heritage Unit (BWHU) and/or Steering Committee with legal authority for the implementation of the Management Plan, to ensure better protection and management of the property,
  - b) Develop and consolidate a coordinated conservation plan as well as guidelines for the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the Historic Centre of Bukhara, so as to bring together key conservation activities for the improved protection of the property,
  - c) Enhance national heritage legislation by establishing bylaws/regulations/guidelines for town planning, the rehabilitation of housing and historical urban areas, the design of new constructions, tourist services, heritage presentation amongst others, in order to guarantee the legal protection framework for the property;
8. Reiterates its concern at the high vulnerability of the property, particularly in relation to the impact of incremental change on the ensemble of traditional buildings, which constitutes a potential threat to key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2017, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE *OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES***

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8A,
2. Stressing the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool for regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and long-term planning of its development,
3. Encourages States Parties to seek as early as possible upstream advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during the development or revision of their Tentative Lists as appropriate;
4. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document.

## 8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### I. NOMINATIONS TO BE PROCESSED ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add.2 and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2,
2. Taking note that on 30 January 2017 the World Heritage Centre received a request by the Permanent Delegation of Palestine to process the nomination of Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town for inscription on the World Heritage List in compliance with the standard procedure and that by letter dated 9 March 2017 the Permanent Delegation of Palestine requested to process this nomination on an emergency basis,
3. Taking also note of the provisions under Paragraph 161 of the *Operational Guidelines* concerning nominations to be processed on an emergency basis, which are to “constitute an emergency situation for which an immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure their safeguarding” and to “unquestionably justify Outstanding Universal Value”,
4. Acknowledging that in its evaluation report of the nomination, ICOMOS states that “the necessary permissions were not forthcoming for travel and access to the Hebron H2 zone, which is under Israel military control, and within which lies the nominated property” and that “in view of the lack of a Field Visit, ICOMOS has not been able to fully evaluate whether the property unquestionably justifies some criteria, conditions of authenticity and integrity and management requirements nor whether recent incidents have drastically increased the level of threats to a degree that the situation may be considered an emergency for which an immediate action by the World Heritage Committee is needed”,
5. Regrets that Israel, the Occupying Power, did not give the necessary permissions for ICOMOS to undertake a Field Visit to the site in order to evaluate the Outstanding Universal Value, the conditions of integrity and authenticity and management requirements of the property;
6. Considers that the nominated property unquestionably justifies criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi) as well as conditions of integrity and authenticity;
7. Also considers that the property is faced with serious threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics and for which an immediate action by the World Heritage Committee is needed;
8. Inscribes Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi)**;
9. Also inscribes Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town on the World Heritage List in Danger.

## II. NOMINATIONS

### A. NATURAL SITES

#### A.1. AFRICA

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.2**

The nomination of **Mole National Park, Ghana**, has been withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of the **W National Park of Niger, Niger**, to become the **W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

##### **Brief synthesis**

The W-Arly-Pendjari Complex is a transnational property shared between the Republic of Niger, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Benin in West Africa. Located in the transition zone between the savannas of the Sudanese region and the forested Guinean region, the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex lies at the heart of the most extensive protected area block in the West African Woodlands/Savanna Biogeographical Province and includes the largest and most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the West African savanna belt. The property encompasses 1,714,831 ha and is a contiguous mosaic of nine protected areas. It includes the trinational complex of W Regional Park (shared between Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger), Arly National Park (Burkina Faso), Pendjari National Park (Benin) and the hunting zones of Koakrana and Kourtiagou (Burkina Faso) and Konkombri and Mékrou (Benin).

**Criterion (ix):** Stretching across three countries, W-Arly-Pendjari Complex is the largest and most important continuum of terrestrial, semi-aquatic and aquatic ecosystems in the West African savanna belt. Situated within the Volta River basin it comprises a dynamic system, where the ebb and flow of water with alternating wet and dry seasons creates a rich variety of plant communities and associated fauna. The Complex is a major expanse of intact Sudano-Sahelian savanna, with numerous and diverse types of vegetation such as grassland, shrub, wooded savannah, open forests and extensive gallery and riparian forests as well as the rare semi-deciduous forest of Bondjagou within Pendjari National Park. The long-term effects of fire linked to human occupation, perhaps dating back some 50,000 years, have shaped the vegetation of the property, and the continued traditional use of fire maintains the diversity of vegetation types, which in turn provide habitat for the property's characteristic wildlife.

**Criterion (x):** The property and the broader landscape are a refuge for species of fauna that have disappeared or are highly threatened in most of the rest of West Africa. The W-Arly-

Pendjari Complex is particularly crucial to the conservation of the last healthy populations of mammals belonging to the Sahelian and Sudanian domains. The Complex includes the largest and most ecologically secure elephant population in West Africa, representing 85% of the region's savanna elephants. It also protects almost the complete assemblage of characteristic flora and fauna, providing crucial habitat for most of the large mammal species typical of West Africa, such as African Manatee, Cheetah, Lion, Leopard, African Wild Dog and Topi Antelope. It harbours the only viable population of lion in the area and probably the only population of cheetah in West Africa. The site exhibits particularly high levels of endemism among fish species and is home to seven of the nine endemic fish species reported in the Volta Basin.

### **Integrity**

The W-Arly-Pendjari Complex is of sufficient size to permit unimpeded ecological function and the overall integrity of the system is good amongst protected areas in West Africa, many of which have suffered significant degradation from anthropogenic pressures. Covering a comparatively large area of 1,714,831 ha, the trinational property contains a representative suite of Sudano-Sahelian ecosystems that are in good condition. It includes a large variety of habitats indispensable for the survival of characteristic species and is large enough to support the healthy populations of large mammal species such as elephant and lion which range over wide territories.

The W National Park and the Arly-Pendjari Regional Park complexes are connected through the four hunting reserves, allowing for connectivity across the property and free movements of animals in the complex. Hunting within the hunting reserves has, to date, been sustainably managed and these reserves include natural systems and habitat that are regarded as being of a similar quality to that within the national parks, thereby enhancing resilience. The hunting reserves would be considered equivalent to IUCN Category VI and the activity, at the time of inscription, does not appear to be negatively impacting on the property's Outstanding Universal Value as a whole.

The buffer zone of W-Arly-Pendjari Complex consists of areas of different protection status (hunting reserves, wildlife reserves, and special legally designated buffer zones) all established by national laws and covers a total area of 1,101,221 ha. The buffer zones are designed to strengthen integrity and are managed as to mitigate impacts from surrounding human activities.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property benefits from long-term legal protection through national laws and receives financial and technical support from the States and some development partners. Five of the protected areas making up the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex are protected as national parks (managed as IUCN Category II). The four hunting reserves within Benin and Burkina Faso are also managed under the same regime as national parks, noting that sustainable hunting is permitted. The hunting in these reserves is regulated through annual quotas, closely monitored and aimed at generating benefits for local communities and conservation of nature.

Although the boundaries of the property are clearly defined, known by the surrounding population and regulated, there are threats such as poaching, illegal grazing and encroachment of agricultural land which persist. Adequate measures must be undertaken to address these threats including working closely with agricultural development sectors to regulate, incentivize and raise awareness among communities surrounding the property. Monitoring of the scale of transhumance activities, which are a long-standing use, is important to ensure so that it remains sustainable in relation to the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The property is managed in Benin by the Centre National de Gestion des Réserves de Faune (CENAGREF); in Burkina Faso, Arly National Park is managed by the Office National

des Aires Protégées (OFINAP) and W National Park, Burkina Faso is managed by the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts (DGEF). The W National Park, Niger is managed by the Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts (DGEF) / Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD). The multi-agency responsibilities across the three States Parties require considerable and sustained effort to ensure effective coordination and harmonization of protected area policies and practice. All national parks in the Complex have a 10-year management plan all following a joint "Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement du complexe" to foster coordination. A workable system of transboundary governance is in place under a tripartite management agreement (now quadripartite with the integration of the State Party of Togo). However, ongoing efforts are needed to improve the levels of transnational cooperation for the property.

Ongoing attention is needed to ensure that the traditional application of fire continues to support fire regimes which maintain Outstanding Universal Value, particularly under the influence of climate change. Similarly the three States Parties should work cooperatively with UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) to plan, monitor and act such that transhumance movements taking place in the property and its buffer zones do not adversely impact on the Outstanding Universal Value.

There is also a need to sustain long-term adequate funding for the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex. The States Parties should ensure that adequate government funding is provided to manage the Complex and the necessary coordination. The West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA) created in 2012 is an endowment fund which requires further investment to ensure sustainability. It is critical that the FSOA becomes a source of funding for the entire Complex and continues to be supported and grow. Furthermore, it is important that all protected areas within the Complex are eligible to access this endowment fund.

4. Recommends that the States Parties within their adopted joint management framework:
  - a) Continue to strengthen and coordinate measures to control the threat of wildlife poaching and other illegal activities including through the provision of adequate equipment and training of rangers and patrols,
  - b) Monitor the impacts of climate change on the ecosystems of the property, in particular to understand and anticipate any changes to the ecological outcomes resulting from the traditional application of fire and to ensure that the use of fire is based on robust ecologically-based conservation objectives,
  - c) Improve institutional coordination between the agencies in charge of the management of the property and the administrations responsible for agricultural development, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
  - d) Develop a long-term strategy for the sustainable financing of the property including strengthening the viability of the Fondation des savanes ouest-africaines (FSOA) and ensuring that all the protected areas within the property are eligible to access the funding of the FSOA,
  - e) Work closely with UEMOA (Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine) to plan, monitor and implement activities as described in the property's management plan concerning transhumance taking place within the property and its buffer zones, in order to support these activities at sustainable levels and to ensure that they are not negatively impacting the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Requests the States Parties of Benin and Burkina Faso to submit a new map of the buffer zone boundaries at 1:50,000 scale to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019**;
6. Also recommends the State Party of Niger to consider designating the buffer zones which exist for the W National Park, Niger as formal World Heritage buffer zones through the

submission of a Minor Boundary Modification in order to provide a consistent approach to buffer zones across the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex as a whole;

7. Commends the efforts of the States Parties, working with partners, for the high quality of conservation management that has been achieved in the protected areas of the Complex, and encourages these efforts to continue to improve the conservation of the property.

## A.2. ASIA - PACIFIC

### Decision: 41 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Qinghai Hoh Xil, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Qinghai Hoh Xil is located in the northeast corner of the vast Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, the largest, highest and youngest plateau in the world. The property covers 3,735,632 ha with a 2,290,904 ha buffer zone and encompasses an extensive area of alpine mountains and steppe systems at elevations of over 4,500 m above sea level. Sometimes referred to as the world's "Third Pole", Hoh Xil has a frigid plateau climate, with sub-zero average year-round temperatures and the lowest temperature occasionally reaching -45°C. With its ongoing processes of geological formation, the property includes a large planation surface and basin on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. It is the area with the highest concentration of lakes on the Plateau, exhibiting an exceptional diversity of lake basins and inland lacustrine landscapes at high altitude. With its sweeping vistas and stunning visual impact, this harsh and uninhabited wild landscape seems like a place frozen in time. Yet it is a place that illustrates continually changing geomorphological and ecological systems.

The unique geographical formation and climatic conditions of the property nurture a similarly unique biodiversity. More than one third of the plant species, and all the herbivorous mammals dependent on them are endemic to the plateau, and 60% of the mammal species as a whole are plateau endemics. The frigid alpine grasslands and meadows surrounding Hoh Xil's lake basins are the main calving grounds for populations of Tibetan antelope from across the plateau and support critical migration patterns. The property includes a complete migration route from Sanjiangyuan to Hoh Xil. This route, despite being challenged by crossing the Qinghai-Tibet Highway and Railway, is the best protected among all migration routes of Tibetan antelope known today.

Inaccessibility and the harsh climate have combined to keep the property free from modern human influences and development while at the same time supporting a long-standing traditional grazing regime that coexists with the conservation of nature. Nevertheless, this "Third Pole" of the world appears to be suffering from the impact of global climate change with disproportionately warming temperatures and changing precipitation patterns. The ecosystems and geographic landscapes are extremely sensitive to such a change and external threats need to be controlled to allow ecosystems to adapt to environmental change.

**Criterion (vii):** Qinghai Hoh Xil is situated on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, the world's largest, highest, and youngest plateau. The property is a place of extraordinary beauty at a scale that dwarfs the human dimension, and which embraces all the senses. The contrast of scale is a recurring theme in Hoh Xil as high plateau systems function unimpeded on a grand scale, wildlife is vividly juxtaposed against vast treeless backdrops and tiny cushion plants contrast against towering snow covered mountains. In the summer, the tiny cushion plants form a sea of vegetation, which when blooming creates waves of different colours. Around the hot springs at the foot of towering snow covered mountains, the smells of dust, ash and sulphur combine with the sharp cold wind from the glacier. Glacial melt waters create numerous braided rivers which are woven into huge wetland systems forming tens of thousands of lakes of all colours and shapes. The lake basins comprise flat, open terrain incorporating the best preserved planation surface on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau as well as an unparalleled concentration of lakes. The lakes display a full spectrum of succession stages, forming an important catchment at the source of the Yangtze River and a spectacular landscape. The lake basins also provide the major calving grounds of the Tibetan antelope. In early summer each year, tens of thousands of female Tibetan antelopes migrate for hundreds of kilometres from wintering areas in Changtang in the west, the Altun Mountains in the north and Sanjiangyuan in the east to Hoh Xil's lake basins to calve. The property secures the complete antelope migratory route between Sanjiangyuan and Hoh Xil, supporting the unimpeded migration of Tibetan antelope, one of the endangered large mammal species endemic to the Plateau.

**Criterion (x):** High levels of endemism within the flora of the property are associated with high altitudes and cold climate and contribute to similarly high levels of endemism within the fauna. Alpine grasslands make up 45% of the total vegetation in the property dominated by the grass *Stipa purpurea*. Other vegetation types include alpine meadows and alpine talus. Over one third of the higher plants found in the property are endemic to the Plateau and all of the herbivorous mammals that feed on these plants are also Plateau endemics. There are 74 species of vertebrates in Hoh Xil, including 19 mammals, 48 birds, six fish, and one reptile (*Phrynocephalus vliangalii*). The property is home to Tibetan antelope, wild yak, Tibetan wild ass, Tibetan gazelle, wolf and brown bear, all of which are frequently seen. Large numbers of wild ungulates depend on the property including almost 40% of the world's Tibetan antelope and up to 50% of the world's wild yak. Hoh Xil conserves the habitats and natural processes of a complete life cycle of the Tibetan antelope, including the phenomenon of congregating females giving birth after a long migration. The calving grounds in Hoh Xil support up to 30,000 animals each year and include almost 80% of the identified birth congregation areas in the entire antelope range. During the winter, some 40,000 Tibetan antelopes remain in the property, accounting for 20-40% of the global population.

### **Integrity**

Qinghai Hoh Xil covers an extensive area which is virtually free of modern human impact. The extreme climatic conditions coupled with its inaccessibility combine to protect what is the last refuge for many globally significant plateau-dependent species. The design of the property accommodates the distribution ranges of large mammals and it is of a size that has a better than normal chance of buffering ecosystem changes due to global climate change. The property supports a large part of the total extent of the life cycle and migration routes of the Tibetan antelope. Despite the very large size there are opportunities to further extend the property, to encompass additional significant natural areas. There is no buffer zone established to the west and north of the property because the property is adjacent to three existing well protected areas in Qinghai Province, the Tibetan Autonomous Region and in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, but this implies the need for these adjacent areas to remain effectively conserved in view of their direct link to the conservation of the property.

The west section of the property, the Hoh Xii National Nature Reserve, is completely uninhabited and thus remains in a pristine state; the east section, the Soja-Qumar River



sub-zone of Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve, is also in near pristine state. This area supports the traditional nomadic lifestyles of Tibetan pastoralists who have coexisted with its conservation for a long time, and these communities have demonstrated a strong commitment through various initiatives to participate in conservation efforts. A few self-guided tourists (mostly in summer) along the Qinghai-Tibet highway do not significantly affect the integrity of the property. In addition, with strict enforcement by the authorities, the number of large poaching and illegal mining incidents has been substantially halted.

A notable challenge in the protection of the property is the highway and a railway that connect Qinghai and Tibet, and which pass through the eastern section of the property from the north to the south. Animal migration in this area is facilitated via the construction of corridors and active management of the transport corridor during the migration season. These measures have helped Tibetan antelope and other species adapt to the changes quickly and there is no evidence that the migratory patterns have been adversely disrupted.

Climate change presents a potential threat to the integrity of the property's endemic species and ecosystems. The site's vastness and marked elevation gradients should contribute substantial resilience to ensure the impact from human activity and invasive species can be well managed, nevertheless records show a notable rise in average temperature in the 60 years prior to inscription on the World Heritage List. As a consequence, the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau ecosystem is facing significant change for example the melting of permafrost and glaciers, encroachment of alpine shrub into the alpine meadows, and desertification of grassland. In the meantime, numerous new hot springs and faults are being formed following earthquakes. Glacial melting and increased precipitation have flooded one natural lake shore and formed new lakes downstream creating habitats in a state of dynamic flux. These geological and ecological dynamics offer a rare opportunity for scientific observations and long-term research. Warming temperatures may lead to species from lower altitudes moving up into new habitat refugia on the Plateau. Warmer conditions may also trigger greater pressure from human settlements moving into previously inhospitable areas.

### **Protection and management requirements**

All areas within the property are state-owned and are protected areas at the national-level. A management system and a coordination mechanism have been established to ensure human and financial resources by engaging the support of central and local governments, communities, NGOs, and research institutions. Concerted efforts from these stakeholders, plus central and local legal protection, have effectively maintained the natural state of wilderness in the property and have ensured the ongoing survival of its resident species.

The conservation and management of the property will be guided by the Qinghai Hoh Xil Property Management Plan. This plan specifies a vision and objectives to maintain and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as well as a series of management activities aimed at improving protection. The plan recognizes and actively involves local Tibetan herders living in the property and buffer zone in conservation, management, and educational efforts. The plan addresses a range of issues concerning monitoring, public promotion, sustainable tourism development and, importantly, long term management along the transport corridor that crosses the property and its buffer zones.

The property benefits from an integrated management agency that coordinates efforts from central, provincial, municipal, and local authorities. Sufficient staff with multiple background and relevant experience will be provided to guarantee the conservation and management of the property. It will be of great importance that the responsible national and provincial authorities ensure that any development and changes to the transport corridors are fully assessed prior to implementation to protect the integrity of the property, including the migration routes that cross these transport routes.

4. Notes that the maintenance of the integrity of the wildlife migratory routes that cross the property is of central importance to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Closely monitor the effectiveness of measures to facilitate migratory patterns across the corridor and adapt management interventions accordingly,
  - b) Ensure that any proposed developments and/or changes to the management within the transport corridor, in both the property and the areas designated as buffer zones, are subject to rigorous prior planning and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment so as to ensure migratory patterns function unimpeded, and
  - c) Consider the future addition into the inscribed property of areas of the transport corridor currently designated as buffer zones, if warranted, to provide additional protection to migratory patterns;
5. Requests the State Party to focus monitoring and management actions on threats with a high potential to impact Outstanding Universal Value such as climate change, wildlife poaching and the inappropriate poisoning of the Pika population;
6. Commends the State Party and all stakeholders involved for their commitment to the protection of the large-scale conservation values of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau including the integration of traditional nomadic pastoralists into conservation efforts and welcomes the commitment made by the State Party that no forced relocation or exclusion of the traditional users of the property will be undertaken or pursued;
7. Encourages the State Party to expand collaboration within the 2010 cooperative framework established between Hoh Xil National Nature Reserve and Sanjiangyuan National Nature Reserve in Qinghai, Changtang National Nature Reserve in Tibet and Altun Mountains National Nature Reserve in Xinjiang, and to consider progressive additions to the inscribed property from these protected areas to add attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and/or improve integrity, protection and management.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Decides not to inscribe the **Bhitarkanika Conservation Area, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of natural criteria;
3. Recommends that the State Party:
  - a) Ensures adequate human, material and financial resources to support the effective management of the Bhitarkanika Conservation Area, and in particular to provide adequate resources for the management of the Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, including year-round patrolling to prevent illegal fishing by commercial fishing vessels,
  - b) Implements additional protection for the two additional mass Olive Ridley Turtle nesting beaches on the Odisha Coast;
4. Thanks the State Party for its continued efforts to protect and conserve the values of the nominated property, including previous efforts to re-establish the Saltwater Crocodile

population and to protect the Olive Ridley Turtle population and the nesting beach on the Gahirmatha Coast.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.6**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Inscribes the **Landscapes of Dauria, Mongolia, Russian Federation**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix) and (x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Shared by Mongolia and the Russian Federation, the Landscapes of Dauria is a transboundary serial World Heritage property of four component parts. It is an outstanding example of the Daurian steppe ecosystem, which covers over 1 million square kilometers, extending from Eastern Mongolia to Russian Siberia and into North-Eastern China. The serial property covers a total of 912,624 ha and comprises several protected areas in the northern part of the Daurian steppe ecoregion which occupy large areas of the transition from taiga to desert, including various steppe ecosystems. The inscribed property includes the nationally designated core and buffer zones of most of the Daurian State Nature Biosphere Reserve and the Valley of Dzeren Federal Nature Refuge (Russian Federation), as well as the core zone and a large part of the buffer zone of the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area and the Ugtam Nature Refuge (Mongolia). Most of this property is surrounded by a World Heritage buffer zone of 307,317 ha, which overlaps with Ramsar sites and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in both countries (Mongol Daguur in Mongolia and Torrey Lakes in the Russian Federation).

The main natural value of the property resides in its intact steppe systems (including forest steppe), interspersed with wet meadows and floodplains, at the convergence of three floristic provinces belonging to three floristic regions. This exceptional ecological context results in a diverse combination of ecological complexes which derive from the cyclic climatic and hydrological variations over the year. The property provides key habitats for rare fauna species such as White-naped Crane, Great Bustard and millions of migratory birds of other species, including vulnerable, endangered or threatened species. The property is also an important area of the migration routes of the Mongolian Gazelle (Dzeren) and the major known place where this species breeds in the Russian Federation at the present time. The property also provides sanctuary to endangered Mongolian Marmots (Tarbagan), as well as to the near-threatened Pallas Cat.

The property provides key habitats for rare fauna species such as the White-naped Crane, the Great Bustard and millions of other vulnerable, endangered or threatened species of migratory birds. The property is also an important area on the migration route of the Mongolian Gazelle (Dzeren) and the only place where this species is known to breed in the Russian Federation. The property also provides sanctuary to both endangered Tabagan and Mongolian Marmots, as well as to the near-threatened Pallas Cat.

**Criterion (ix):** The Landscapes of Dauria contains substantial and relatively undisturbed areas of different types of steppe, ranging from grassland to forest, as well as many lakes and wetlands. All these habitats host a diversity of species and communities characteristic of the northern part of the vast Daurian Steppe ecoregion. Cyclic climate changes with

distinct wet and dry periods lead to high species and ecosystem diversity which is globally significant and offers outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and evolutionary processes. The property also includes key natural habitats for many animal species during their annual migration, some of which also breed in the area. The high diversity of ecosystems, biotopes and their transition-zones in the property is indicative of the many evolutionary adaptive processes undergone by species living in this unique area.

**Criterion (x):** The transboundary serial property conserves an excellent example of Daurian steppe and its characteristic wildlife including a number of globally threatened bird species (White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane, Swan Goose, Relict Gull, Great Bustard and Saker Falcon) as well as the endangered Tarbagan Marmot. It also provides essential breeding and resting habitat for birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, with up to 3 million birds in spring and 6 million in autumn using the area during migration. The property also provides critical winter grounds and seasonal transboundary migration routes of the emblematic Mongolian Gazelle.

### **Integrity**

The property contains grassland and forest steppe landscapes which have suffered little from human disturbance. It includes intact breeding and resting grounds for migratory bird species of international importance as well as significant parts of Mongolian Gazelle migration routes. The selection of component parts provides an appropriate representation of the scope of biodiversity of the Daurian Steppe, although there is potential to further extend the series to include other significant protected areas. The property is in a good condition thanks to its size, low human pressure and the absence of impacting uses and activities, such as mining. While grazing, as well as poaching and fire to some extent, could potentially affect the integrity of the property, current practice at the time of inscription is consistent with the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The States Parties should, however, strengthen their action and cooperation in the future, in order to maintain the long term integrity of the property and minimize threats.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property is under the highest level of protection afforded by the national laws of both countries, on Special Protected Areas (1994) and on Buffer Zones (1998) in the case of Mongolia, and on Special Protected Areas (1995) in the Russian Federation. The legal status of all types of protected area making up the property provides, in principle, an appropriate conservation regime of this unique ecosystem complex.

The property is also a good example of transboundary ecosystem cooperation, shared between governmental, scientific and non-governmental institutions. It has, since 1994, operated under the framework of the China-Mongolia-Russian International Protected Area Agreement (DIPA). This agreement provides a forum for the States Parties to discuss, on a regular basis, all issues in relation to the preservation of the property and its management, at both political and operational levels.

Regarding hunting and poaching which may potentially impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, the States Parties have committed to set up additional "zones of peace" and to reduce the hunting season in the surroundings of the property. They also regularly adopt joint working plans in order to minimize fire and poaching risks and have increased their capacities with external support from international NGOs and foreign countries. Both countries develop joint monitoring activities for Mongolian Gazelle and migratory birds, through the DIPA process, to improve their knowledge and optimize the management of natural resources which are key attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value. There is a commitment to full protection of the property from possible threats from mining and other extractive industries which will be important to maintain into the future. The law in Mongolia does not prohibit mining in the protective zones of Special Protected Areas, however, the State Party of Mongolia has committed to ban mining inside

the World Heritage property on the basis of the primacy of international agreements and designations.

Whilst protection and management measures are seen as meeting World Heritage requirements at the time of inscription, it is critical that both States Parties continue and strengthen their efforts in the long-term, in order to prevent impact on the property from significant threats such as changes to hydrology, climate change, illegal hunting, grazing pressure and fire damage. They should also develop coordinated management plans at the property level, with special emphasis on the buffer zones, focused on addressing the main risks to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

4. Requests the State Party of Mongolia, in line with the position of the World Heritage Committee on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage site status, to ensure that no mining exploration and exploitation activities take place within the inscribed property;
5. Encourages both States Parties to strengthen their coordination in the transboundary management of wildlife populations, such as Mongolian Gazelles and migratory birds which depend on ecological continuity between the protected areas making up the property, and to improve their coordinated capacities to prevent and minimize the effects of hunting, poaching and other threats to the integrity of the property;
6. Also encourages both States Parties, and in particular the State Party of Mongolia, to strengthen its resources and capacities allocated to the management of the protected areas in the World Heritage property;
7. Commends both States Parties for their commitment to the protection of the wider Daurian Steppe ecosystems and further encourages them to consider, possibly jointly with China, future expansion of the transboundary World Heritage property in order to cover additional areas of forest steppe as well as critical habitats for migratory birds and those associated with the migration of the Mongolian Gazelle.

### A.3. EUROPE - NORTH AMERICA

#### Decision: 41 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the extension of **Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine and Germany**, to become **Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine**, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe” are a serial property comprising 77 component parts in total. They represent an outstanding example of anthropogenically undisturbed, complex temperate forests and exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions. They contain an invaluable

genetic reservoir of beech and many species associated and dependent on these forest habitats.

**Criterion (ix):** The “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and other Regions of Europe” are indispensable to understand the history and evolution of the genus *Fagus* which, given its wide distribution in the Northern Hemisphere and its ecological importance, is globally significant. These undisturbed, complex temperate forests exhibit the most complete and comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech across a variety of environmental conditions, such as climatic and geological conditions, throughout all relevant European Beech Forest Regions. They comprise all altitudinal zones from the coast up to the forest line in the mountains and, furthermore, include the best remaining examples of the outer boundaries of the European beech forest range. Beech is one of the most important elements of forests in the Temperate Broadleaf Forest Biome and represents an outstanding example of the re-colonization and development of terrestrial ecosystems and communities since the last Ice Age. The continuing northern and westward expansion of beech from its original glacial refuge areas in the eastern and southern parts of Europe can be tracked along natural corridors and stepping stones spanning the continent. More recent changes in the distribution pattern of this species relate to direct influences of human disturbance and the more complex effects of anthropogenically induced climate change. Both historic and present serial patterns of distribution represent natural evolutionary strategies for adapting and surviving environmental change. The dominance of beech across extensive areas of Europe is a living testimony of the tree’s genetic adaptability.

### **Integrity**

The selected beech forest sites not only represent the full serial diversity found across Europe, they are also of sufficient size to maintain natural processes necessary for the long-term ecological viability of the wider ecosystem. Buffer zones including surrounding protected areas (nature parks, biosphere reserves) are managed sympathetically to ensure the long-term conservation of the particular character of the designated beech forests together with its inherent attributes. Next to criteria such as the extent of the forest area and the presence of an effective buffer zone, key characteristics, which were also used in the site selecting process included the average age of the forest stand and the period since it was last managed or actively disturbed. The evaluation criteria used in the selection process helped to describe the degree of naturalness of a forest, but also provide some indication of the inherent functional capacity of the ecosystem. Finally, where appropriate, special emphasis was given to connectivity between beech forests and the surrounding complementary habitats as a perceived prerequisite for ecosystem functioning and adaptation to environmental change.

### **Protection and management requirements**

Long-term protection and management is ensured through national legal protection as national parks, core areas of a biosphere reserve or other types of protected areas. Effective implementation of an integrated management plan and a multilateral integrated management system is required to guide the planning and management of this serial property. Key management issues include forest fire control and conservation of monumental old trees, conservation and management of mountain meadows, river corridors and freshwater ecosystems, tourism management, research and monitoring. Cooperative management agreements with local groups and tourism agencies can enhance the achievement of management goals and ensure local community engagement in the component parts.

4. Takes note of the outcome of the screening process as a proposal for the finite series in this nomination process, based on a strictly scientific selection. The defined statement of Outstanding Universal Value and the amended property name should be coherent with the

current inscribed property and will ensure that possible future extensions will be clearly and consistently configured;

5. Thanks the States Parties for their cooperation in developing this nomination;
6. Requests the States Parties to consider the future enlargement of components in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to at least the established minimum size of 50 ha, and to strengthen the protection level within buffer zones and the improvement of ecological connectivity especially between component parts, and further recommends interested States Parties to ensure that component parts included in any future extensions exceed minimum requirements to fully meet integrity, protection and management requirements;
7. Also requests the States Parties to ensure that committed funding arrangements are able to safeguard consistent site management at the component level as well as coordinated management across the transnational serial property;
8. Further requests that special emphasis shall be given to appropriate buffer zone management in order to support undisturbed natural processes with special emphasis on dead and decaying wood, including ongoing monitoring of threats and risks, making effective use of the expertise and institutional capacity in management of the property;
9. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2018** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

#### **A.4. LATIN AMERICA - CARIBBEAN**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.8**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Los Alerces National Park, Argentina**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (x)**, taking note that the adopted boundary includes only the formally gazetted Los Alerces National Park, and includes the Los Alerces National Reserve within the buffer zone to the inscribed area;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

##### **Brief synthesis**

Los Alerces National Park is located within the Andes of Northern Patagonia and the property's western boundary coincides with the Chilean border. The property coincides with the formally gazetted Los Alerces National Park covering 188,379 ha and has a buffer zone of 207,313 ha comprising the contiguous Los Alerces National Reserve (71,443 ha) plus an additional area (135,870 ha) which forms a 10 km wide band around the property except where it borders Chile.

The landscape in this region is moulded by successive glaciations creating a scenically spectacular variety of geomorphic features such as moraines, glacial river and lake deposits, glacial cirques, chain-like lagoons, clear-water lakes, hanging valleys, sheepback

rocks and U-shaped valleys. The Park is located on the Futaleufú River basin which encompasses a complex system of rivers and chained lakes, regulating the drainage of the abundant snow and rain precipitation. The property is dominated by the presence of Patagonian Forest which occupies part of southern Chile and Argentina. This forest is one of the five temperate forest types in the world, and the only ecoregion of temperate forests in Latin America and the Caribbean. The property is vital for the protection of some of the last portions of continuous Patagonian Forest in almost a pristine state and it is the habitat for a number of endemic and threatened species of flora and fauna including the longest-living population of Alerce trees (*Fitzroya cupressoides*), a conifer endemic to South America.

**Criterion (vii):** The property conserves a variety of landscapes and scenery. It contains an extensive system of interconnected, natural clear-water lakes and rivers. These waters display spectacular colours with shifting hues of green, blue and turquoise according to the intensity of sunlight and the time of the year. Crystal-clear rivers and lakes are surrounded by lush temperate Valdivian forests in an environment of mountain ranges, glaciers and snow-capped peaks. The Alerce forest is a celebrated feature of this majestic landscape; the forest is particularly remarkable in the north arm of Lake Menéndez which contains the Millennial Alerce Forest, located amidst a rainforest environment of ferns, moss, lichens, vines and bamboo, and with the largest and oldest tree being nearly 60 metres tall and approximately 2,600 years old. The Los Alerces National Park retains a high degree of naturalness providing a profound visitor experience.

**Criterion (x):** The property contains globally important undisturbed areas of Patagonian Forest, influenced by elements of Valdivian Temperate Forest, which is a priority ecoregion for biodiversity conservation worldwide. The Valdivian ecoregion has developed in marked biogeographic insularity, in which important speciation processes have taken place. This is evidenced by the presence of relict genera and even taxonomic orders, as well as numerous endemic and threatened species: 34% of woody plant genera are endemic, from which 80% are known from only one species, and some are relict having survived periods of glaciation. The globally threatened Alerce tree is the second longest living tree species in the world (> 3,600 years). Unlike many other Alerce forests, which show signs of alteration due to exploitation, livestock farming or fire, the Alerce forest in the property is in an excellent state of conservation, which contributes to the long-term viability of the species' natural populations.

### **Integrity**

The inscribed area corresponds to the Los Alerces National Park, a legally protected area equivalent to IUCN Category II. The property is uninhabited and road less; it contains significant strictly protected zones (equivalent of IUCN Category I). These include an "Intangible Area" (comparable to IUCN Category Ib) and a "Strict Nature Reserve" (Category Ia) adding up to 125,463 ha or two-thirds of the property. In addition, some of the forests in the property have a very high degree of natural protection due to their remoteness and rugged terrain, combined with a longstanding formal conservation history and are therefore exceptionally intact. The property contains the most intact and least vulnerable Valdivian Temperate Forest stands in Argentina and is of sufficient size to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value. Other areas in Argentina and neighbouring Chile also offer the potential for the future expansion of this property.

The contiguous 71,443 ha Los Alerces National Reserve forms part of the property's buffer zone and is also a protected area equivalent to IUCN Category VI; thus allowing sustainable use of its resources. The National Reserve is inhabited by a small number of rural settlers and is subject to grazing. It is the focus on most tourism activity and contains the main visitor infrastructure and services. The National Reserve is also the location of the 1970s Futaleufú Dam, reservoir and associated hydropower infrastructure. The reservoir created by the dam extends into areas of the property. One of the most striking values of the property is its



impressive scenic beauty. The ensemble of majestic, partially glaciated mountains transitioning into dense and largely intact forests across most of the property, interrupted only by the countless crystal-clear lakes, rivers and creeks, is visually stunning. The dam is a major non-natural landscape element that is a long-standing and permanent damaging feature in the natural landscape.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The property is part of the National System of Protected Areas in Argentina (SNAP - Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas de la Argentina), which is under the jurisdiction of the National Parks Administration (APN), a self-governed body created by Law No. 12,103 in 1934, regulated by National Law No. 22,351 of 1980. The overarching legal objective of the property is protection and conservation for scientific research, education and enjoyment of the present and future generations. All land is in the public domain in accordance with the legal provisions.

Long-standing conflicts exist in the National Reserve, which forms part of the buffer zone, concerning land tenure rights on private property. Private land only occurs over a small area however, use rights extend to much wider areas of the National Reserve. It is important to seek a satisfactory resolution through working with local communities to limit impacts and optimize the benefits of World Heritage listing for stakeholders.

The property has a management plan which was legally adopted in 1997 and will be revised and updated when required, including provisions to enhance participatory approaches to management. The property benefits from adequate human and financial resources for its management and has a highly professional ranger corps responsible for on-ground control and law enforcement. However, operational resources are very limited and should be improved.

As one of the key values of the property is its high degree of naturalness, it is therefore imperative to avoid any further developments that could lead to fragmentation of the property. The impacts of the Futaleufú Dam, reservoir and associated infrastructure should be carefully monitored to mitigate against legacy, current and possible future impacts. Any major upgrades of this infrastructure should be avoided. Any ongoing routine maintenance or unavoidable upgrades should be subject to rigorous environmental impact assessment to safeguard against impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

Provision of sustainable tourism and recreation is an important management objective and subject to major spatial and management restrictions through zoning. In spite of these measures there are concerns about growing tourism and recreation driven by growing local demand from nearby towns. Such demand could increase with the World Heritage designation of the park. Invasive alien species, which is a key threat throughout the region, requires effective control measures particularly to avoid impacts to the fragile freshwater ecosystems that are present in the property.

4. Requests the State Party to submit a new map of the inscribed property and of the buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017**;
5. Also requests the State Party to carefully monitor the operations and impact of the Futaleufú Dam, reservoir and associated infrastructure to avoid, and/or mitigate adverse impacts on Outstanding Universal Value, and to ensure that ongoing routine maintenance or any planned upgrades are subject to rigorous prior environmental and social impact assessment;
6. Further requests the State Party, in cooperation with the State Party of Chile as appropriate, to consider the potential future extension of the property to include additional areas along the ecoregional corridor of the Andino Norpatagonica Biosphere Reserve that would

enhance the conservation of the natural values of the Valdivian Temperate Forests and associated habitats of the ecoregion as a whole;

7. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to reduce habitat fragmentation and mitigate climate change impacts through the Global Environment Facility project and the Biosphere Reserve Initiative that are currently being implemented within the region where the property is located, and recommends the State Party carefully consider the results and recommendations from this project and initiative when preparing a potential extension of the property as recommended above;
8. Encourages the State Party, with the support of IUCN if requested, to work towards resolving the relationships with private land owners in the buffer zone, capitalizing on the lessons learned in other World Heritage properties on access and benefit sharing to improve relationships and foster local community stewardship.

## **B. MIXED SITES**

### **B.1. LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.9**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B, WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Refers the mixed nomination of **Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley: originary habitat of Mesoamerica, Mexico**, back to the State Party, in order to clarify:
  - a) In relation to cultural criteria, a revised approach focusing on the chronological development of the property, starting with the prehistorical sites, preclassical villages, classical cities, postclassical kingdoms, and early colonial settlements, based on irrigated agriculture; associated industries, techniques and practices; and aspects of ancestral religious expressions that emphasise the cultural dimension of the nominated property,
  - b) Regarding the natural criterion, clarify and clearly demonstrate that all natural attributes contributing to the potential Outstanding Universal Value are included within the serial components and boundaries of the nominated property within Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve;
3. Recommends that the State Party give additional consideration to the following:
  - a) Undertake an augmented comparative analysis of sites with evidence for irrigation within Mesoamerica to justify the complexity of the systems compared to others,
  - b) Consider including criterion (ix) in a revised nomination, in view of the global ecological significance of the region within which the nominated property is located,
  - c) Finalise the specific plan for the management and protection of the archaeological sites within the nominated property, and link it to the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve Management Programme to cover the conservation aspects of archaeological sites in their natural context,
  - d) Provide evidence of institutional coordination for sustainable funding and appropriately skilled staff for holistic, integrated management of natural and cultural

heritage values within the nominated property; and strengthen the overall human and financial resources for management of cultural assets within the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve,

- e) Develop a visitor management strategy for the nominated property that is based on a holistic approach;
4. Encourages the State Party to expedite its plans to update the Nature Tourism Strategy for the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Biosphere Reserve (2010-2015) to improve visitor management strategies including defining carrying capacities; to identify suitable private-sector tourism partners; to define appropriate tourism infrastructure; and to build sustainable development capacities of local communities and other sectors to handle increasing tourism interest in the nominated property;
5. Also encourages the State Party to refine the governance structure of the nominated property to involve more effective participation of local communities in co-management and decision-making, and ensure the economic needs and sustainable development aspirations of these communities are appropriately addressed.

## C. CULTURAL SITES

### C.1. AFRICA

#### Decision: 41 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Mbanza Kongo, Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo, Angola**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

The town of Mbanza Kongo was the political and spiritual capital of the Kingdom of Kongo, one of the largest constituted states of Southern Africa, which was active from the 14th to the 19th century. Located on a plateau at an altitude of 570 metres, it was prosperous when the Portuguese arrived in the 15th century. To the large existing urban conurbation built in local materials, the Portuguese added and substituted stone buildings constructed in accordance with European construction methods, including several churches. The town then experienced the expansion of Christianity with the Westernisation of the local elites, without however renouncing its culture. In its built structure and archaeological vestiges, the town retains the traces of its customary, colonial and religious past, of which it is an eminent place of remembrance. The Kingdom of Kongo was at the centre of the most important route for the trade in enslaved persons, who were deported to the Americas and the Caribbean. No material vestige attesting to the slave trade has been found up to now.

**Criterion (iii):** The contribution of the Kingdom of Kongo to the history of the African continent is attested and undeniable, thanks to the documentation available covering five centuries (from 1483 to the present day) and to the archaeological findings. Its capital has retained the ritual and symbolic powers embodied in the brotherhood of the Leopard Ngo. After the arrival of the Portuguese, the Kingdom adopted Christianity, while however

retaining elements of pre-existing Kongo customs. The vestiges of Mbanza Kongo thus evoke the political and symbolic importance of the Kingdom in its territory and its role as a gateway enabling the Christian world to enter the African continent.

**Criterion (iv):** The political and religious centre of Mbanza Kongo is an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates, as nowhere else can in sub-Saharan Africa, the profound changes that emanated from the introduction of Christianity and the arrival of the Portuguese into Central Africa in the 15th century, events that influenced, not only religion but also trade, learning and contact between Central Africa and Europe, particularly Italy and Portugal. The Cathedral was standing when in 1608, the Pope accredited in Rome the first ambassador of a sub-Saharan African state to the Vatican. The Jesuit College reflects the status given to Mbanza Kongo as a seat of learning and is the place where in 1624 the first catechism was written in the Kikongo language to be used to spread Christianity across the Kingdom. The city was at the heart of the vast Kongo Kingdom that in turn was linked to a vast intercontinental network.

### **Integrity**

All the attributes that express the property's Outstanding Universal Value are included inside the property boundaries. The property illustrates the political and religious functions as they were exercised in the heart of the former Kingdom of Kongo. The property includes a set of vestiges that evoke pre-colonial society, and the survival of the Kingdom over several centuries, and the many churches and the military and civil buildings left by the Portuguese. The state of these vestiges is generally satisfactory, but there are problems, some of which are serious, such as the insalubrity of the springs. Several excavations have begun to exploit the archaeological potential of a rich subsurface.

The conditions of visual integrity of the property are fragile, particularly because of the presence of telecommunications antennae (currently being dismantled) and the airstrip, located in the buffer zone, built by the Portuguese in the interwar years. The demolition of the airstrip, which is hardly used nowadays, has been confirmed by the State Party, and a new airport site has been chosen outside the town.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the property stems from the fact that since its foundation it has continuously maintained its sacred and symbolic function. The guardians of the tradition transmit the prestige on which the earlier kings relied: the customary court, which manages conflicts, has been reinstated after four decades of war, as a cultural and political link with a living tradition. The occupation of the urban space has been known since the 16th century, as reflected in the accounts written by Portuguese travellers. A certain degree of continuity has been maintained in this historic urban fabric, despite the orthogonal street pattern introduced by the Europeans, although the main street has retained its ancient trace. The many churches and convents contributed to stability, and it is quite remarkable that the passing of centuries has not led to any encroachment on the royal space, which is still clearly identifiable as the spiritual centre of the community.

### **Protection and management requirements**

Since the Angolan constitution was established in 2010, the heritage of Mbanza Kongo has been preserved by a set of legal texts that delineate the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone (executive decree of July 2014), and lists the protected places (decree of January 2015).

A participative management committee was set up by presidential decree in September 2015. The committee coordinates the action of the entities in charge of managing the site (Ministry of Culture, Governorate of Zaire province, Municipality, Customary authorities). The participation of the customary authorities is a convincing indicator of local involvement. Two urban infrastructure development plans (water, energy, etc.) are scheduled to end in 2017; they must be extended. The Management Plan 2016-2020 has defined tools to ensure

the property's security and enhance its appearance. Conservation and restoration measures, particularly for the former cathedral (Kulumbimbi), have been scheduled over the next five years. The National Cultural Heritage institute provides a frame of reference for these works, for their technical coordination and for funding. Documentary, archaeological and historic research about the property must however be continued and extended. A tourism management strategy will have to be developed. The civil protection services ensure the surveillance of the property. An urban regulation plan for the historic centre of Mbanza Kongo is also in preparation, while a provincial decree of August 2013 makes a prior building permit compulsory for any intervention inside the property boundaries and in the buffer zone.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Completing the dismantling of the telecommunications antennae as announced,
  - b) Ensuring that the airport runway is removed after the new airport is constructed and is operational, and thereafter undertake detailed archaeological investigations to identify the location of graves, former churches and other remains linked to the historic centre,
  - c) Confirming that the transversal management system is functioning, specifying the human and material resources made available to those in charge of the system,
  - d) Providing details of actions, persons responsible, and funding of the conservation intervention system,
  - e) Finalising the urbanism regulations (PREGU) as announced,
  - f) Devising a tourism management strategy,
  - g) Drawing up specific monitoring indicators based on Outstanding Universal Value;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2020** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;
6. Also recommends to foster collaboration with other countries on research into sites in the former Kongo Kingdom to explore whether other places and dimensions of this Kingdom could have the potential to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, to reflect, for example, its involvement in the Slave Trade or its extensive trading activities.

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Asmara: Africa's Modernist City, Eritrea**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Located on an highland plateau at the centre of Eritrea, Asmara, a Modernist city of Africa is the capital of the country and is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a colonial planned city, which resulted from the subsequent phases of planning between 1893 and 1941, under the Italian colonial occupation. Its urban layout is based mainly on an

orthogonal grid which later integrated elements of a radial system. Asmara preserves an unusually intact human scale, featuring eclectic and rationalist built forms, well-defined open spaces, and public and private buildings, including cinemas, shops, banks, religious structures, public and private offices, industrial facilities, and residences. Altogether, Asmara's urban-scape outstandingly conveys how colonial planning, based on functional and racial segregation principles, was applied and adapted to the local geographical conditions to achieve symbolic meaning and functional requirements. The town has come to be associated with the struggle of the Eritrean people for self-determination, which was pursued whilst embracing the tangible, yet exceptional, evidence of their colonial past.

Asmara's urban character and strong urban form exhibits a human scale in the relationship between buildings, streets, open spaces, and related activities adapted to the local conditions, which embodies both colonial and post-colonial African life, with its public spaces, mixed-use fabric and place-based material culture. These spaces and use patterns also bear witness to interchange and cultural assimilation of successive encounters with different cultures as well as to the role played by Asmara in building a collective identity that was later instrumental in motivating early efforts for its preservation. Asmara's urban layout with its different patterns associated to the planning phases, illustrates the adaptation of the modern urban planning and architectural models to local cultural and geographical conditions. The ensembles attesting to the colonial power and to the presence of a strong and religiously diverse local civic society, with its institutional and religious places, the elements of the urban architecture (Harnet et Sematat avenues; Mai Jah Jah park; the walking paths; the old plaques with traces of the street names), the buildings, complexes and facilities resulting from the 1930s programmes (the post office building at Segeneyti Street), the cinemas (Impero, Roma, Odeon, Capitol, Hamasien), the schools, the sport facilities, the garages, the residential complexes and buildings, the villas, the commercial buildings, the factories; the cores of the community quarters (e.g. the Italian quarter and market square and mosque square); the major religious buildings, marking the landscape with bell-towers, spires, and minarets, and the civil and military cemeteries which illustrate the diversity of the populations and of their rituals.

**Criterion (ii):** Asmara, a Modernist City of Africa, represents an outstanding example of the transposition and materialization of ideas about planning in an African context and were used for functional and segregation purposes. The adaptation to the local context is reflected in the urban layout and functional zoning, and in the architectural forms, which, although expressing a modernist and rationalist idiom, and exploiting modern materials and techniques, also relied on and borrowed heavily from local morphologies, construction methods, materials, skills and labour. Asmara's creation and development contributed significantly to Eritrea's particular response to the tangible legacies of its colonial past. Despite the evidence of its colonial imprint, Asmara has been incorporated into the Eritrean identity, acquiring important meaning during the struggle for self-determination that motivated early efforts for its protection.

**Criterion (iv):** Asmara's urban layout and character, in combining the orthogonal grid with radial street patterns, and picturesque elements integrating topographical features, taking into account local cultural conditions created by different ethnic and religious groups, and using the principle of zoning for achieving racial segregation and functional organisation, bears exceptional witness to the development of the new discipline of urban planning at the beginning of the 20th century and its application in an African context, to serve the Italian colonial agenda. This hybrid plan, that combined the functional approach of the grid with the picturesque and the creation of scenic spaces, vistas, civic plaza and monumental places, served the functional, civic and symbolic requirements for a colonial capital. The architecture of Asmara complements the plan and forms a coherent whole, although reflecting eclecticism and Rationalist idioms, and is one of the most complete and intact collections of modernist/rationalist architecture in the world.

## **Integrity**

All the significant architectural structures and the original urban layout, including most of the characteristic features and public spaces, have been retained in their entirety. The site has also preserved its historical, cultural, functional and architectural integrity with its elements largely intact and generally in relatively acceptable condition, although a number of buildings suffer from lack of maintenance. Limited negative impacts have been the occasional inappropriate restoration of older structures and the construction of some buildings in the late 20th century that are inappropriate in size, scale or character. Despite continuing developmental pressures, the establishment of the 'Historic Perimeter' around the centre of the city since 2001 and a moratorium on new construction within this perimeter by the municipal authorities have safeguarded the site's integrity.

The integrity of the intangible attributes associated with the local community that has inhabited parts of the site for centuries has been maintained through a process of cultural continuity that, despite successive waves of foreign influence, has been successfully assimilated into a modern national consciousness and a national capital.

## **Authenticity**

Asmara's combination of innovative town planning and modernist architecture in an African context represents important and early developmental phases of town planning and architectural modernism that are still fully reflected in its layout, urban character and architecture.

Climatic, cultural, economic and political conditions over subsequent decades have favoured the retention of the artistic, material and functional attributes of the city's architectural elements to an almost unique degree of intactness, which allows also for future research on the history of construction of its buildings.

The authenticity of local intangible attributes manifested in language, cultural practices, identity, and sense of place have been retained through Asmara's evolution from an indigenous centre of economy and administration, through a colonial capital, to a modern African capital.

## **Protection and management requirements**

The protection of Asmara has been granted by the Regolamento Edilizio 1938, issued at the time of Cafiero's plan, and by the moratorium on new construction issued in 2001. The Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation 2015 provides conditions for the legal protection of the property through ad-hoc designations. The Asmara Heritage Project and the Department of Public Works Development hold responsibilities for issuing building permits and granting permission for maintenance works in compliance with existing regulations. Planning instruments at different scales are crucial in complementing the legal protection of Asmara and its setting and in guaranteeing its effective management: the Urban Conservation Master Plan and the related Asmara Planning Norms and Technical Regulations under development are key tools in this regard. Both need to ensure that the intactness of Asmara's urban and built fabric, its human scale and specific modernist yet African character, are preserved, though favouring proactive maintenance, conservation and rehabilitation of its urban fabric and spaces. Given the several administrative/technical structures and instruments already in place, the envisaged management framework needs to build on existing experiences and structures and ensure coordination and clear mandates, which avoid duplication.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Issuing the specific protective designations for the property as per the provisions of the Cultural and Natural Heritage Proclamation 2015 and developing an implementation calendar to monitor advancements in this regard,

- b) Finalising the Urban Conservation Master Plan and the Asmara Planning Norms and Technical Regulations, making consistent the zoning in the relevant plan and regulations, taking into account the 15 zones of the urban analysis, and developing action plans with clear priorities for conservation intervention and budget proposals,
  - c) Developing strategies to ensure a steady influx of financial resources, including loans and tax reduction or exemption measures, substantial qualified human resources, and considerable institutional and technical capacity,
  - d) Setting up the central management body envisaged by the Integrated Management Plan, based on the existing capacities and functioning structures, and giving it the function to coordinate all relevant stakeholders, both public and private, acting within the property and its buffer zone and providing it with the necessary technical and financial means and adequate human resources;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2018** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
  6. Decides that the name of the property be changed to **Asmara: a Modernist City of Africa**.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.12**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **#Khomani Cultural Landscape, South Africa**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (v) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis:**

The #Khomani and related San people are unique in that they descend directly from an ancient population that existed in the southern African region some 150,000 years ago, the ancestors of the entire human race. The red dunes of the #Khomani Cultural Landscape are strongly associated with this unique culture stretching from the Stone Age to the present, a landscape that has changed little from a time long ago when all humans were hunter gatherers.

The remarkable in situ biological, if not broad cultural continuity, renders the #Khomani Cultural Landscape a unique and outstanding associative cultural landscape. The #Khomani are a living example of the unique technology and way of life that the San have developed to survive in this desert landscape. The #Khomani did not make rock art because there are no suitable rock formations in their territory, yet their culture represents a living link to the magnificent artistic legacy of the San in southern Africa. The expulsion of the #Khomani in 1931, from what became the KGNP, their diaspora, and life on commercial farms, led to large-scale language and other cultural losses. Yet, the success of their land claims have enabled them to return and to take steps to preserve what remains of their language and living culture. Of enormous significance is the survival of the last speakers of the !Ui-Taa languages in the #Khomani community. The #Khomani are actively reclaiming cultural knowledge, practices and traditions, bringing to life a rich associative landscape. The ethos of living softly on the land and seeing themselves as part of nature, in a landscape



where there is a respectful relationship between humans, plants and animals, links them to this land in a unique way that epitomises sustainability.

**Criterion (v):** The #Khomani Cultural Landscape is uniquely expressive of the hunting and gathering way of life practised by the ancestors of all modern human beings; so are the simple, yet highly sophisticated technologies which they used to exploit scarce resources such as water, find plant foods in an extremely hostile environment, and deal with natural phenomena such as drought and predators.

**Criterion (vi):** Of enormous significance is the survival of the last speakers of the !Ui-Taa languages in the #Khomani community. Their ethnobotanical knowledge and memories of a virtually extinct way of life and beliefs can be linked directly with the vast archival records of the closely related |Xam further to the south, and the even vaster southern African treasure house of Bushman rock art.

### **Integrity**

As an associated landscape, the Nominated Property comprising the #Khomani Cultural Landscape is a vast area on the South African side of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP), which is large enough to accommodate a reasonably complete representation of the landscape values, features and processes which convey the special way in which the people were linked with the land. It is also sufficiently large to accommodate the tangible elements of landscape and culture, such as the wide and open dunes, examples of Bushman architecture and the 'lightness' of being in the desert. The archaeological sites in the dunes remain largely intact and the names of important places have been recorded and mapped. More vulnerable are the languages spoken by the #Khomani, which are being promoted through joint activities between the community and supportive Non- Governmental Organisations (NGO). In the areas outside the Nominated Property there are a number of settlements and sites that play a role in the cultural memory of the #Khomani and its diaspora.

Residential development, commercial farming and the state-run National Park have changed the cultural landscape over the past century, resulting in severe disruptions of the living traditions of the #Khomani San and related families. However, links to the landscape persist and are being re-established since the land claim success. The South African San Institute (SASI) and other institutions have been working with the #Khomani to record knowledge systems, language, and oral history through stories. The Imbewu bush camp is situated deep in the dunes of the !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage Park which lies in the southern part of the KGNP and belongs to the #Khomani and Mier communities. Here the tradition of 'veldskool' (meaning 'field or bush school') is regularly practised, affording young people from the community the opportunity to learn from the elders about the plants, animals, and ecological interrelationships as well as the spiritual world.

The nominated property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is enhanced through its association with the wider territory over which the #Khomani families migrated on a seasonal basis, and shared with the !Kung in the south of Botswana.

### **Authenticity**

A core group of #Khomani San who consider themselves "traditionalists" have retained strong cultural links with their land, which they are now transferring to the younger generation. The persistence and simultaneous vulnerability of #Khomani culture is also reflected by the persistence of linguistic memory, supported now by NGOs and academics who are documenting language and culture in accessible ways. The proposed Nominated Property of the #Khomani Cultural Landscape is wholly protected within a National Park. The #Khomani have regained symbolic and cultural rights to that land, including resource use and traditional hunting rights in a large part of the park. This helps to ensure the authenticity of the #Khomani's cultural renaissance and ensures that it would not become a "museum culture". An important element of this is the wider ecological and ultimately even

social connectivity made possible by the KTP, including the revival of old social networks to communities in Botswana. However, while some feel that #Khomani identity, knowledge and practices have been “thoroughly hybridised” (Robins 1999; Robins 2001; Sharp 1996) and #Khomani identity cannot be described as archetypally “ancient”, local community members contend that ‘even though I do not wear skins and carry a bow and arrows, does not mean that I am not ‘boesman’ (bushman). The #Khomani will not revert to a “genuine” transhumant hunter-gatherer existence. Yet, the continued existence of Bush craft and tracking skills, the persistence of cultural practices like dancing, healing, singing and storytelling, cannot be denied, neither can the indefinable spirit of “Boesman wees” (‘being a Bushman’), a very particular perspective on the world and one’s place in it. Authenticity is further enhanced through the wider context of the #Khomani Cultural Landscape as part of the broader |Xam and #Khomani Heartland Cultural Landscape. This links the #Khomani Cultural Landscape with the undeniably authentic archaeological and written records of the |Xam. Note: Evidentiary data and elaboration of the basis for OUV, the Justification for Criteria, the Statement of Integrity, and the Statement of Authenticity are presented in Appendices 2 – 6.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The #Khomani Cultural Landscape falls wholly inside the KGNP of which it forms the overriding cultural component, the Kalahari being a place that has almost become synonymous with the San. The overarching management framework of the Park provides a well-entrenched set of legal mechanisms relating to heritage, conservation and environmental protection that applies to all National Parks in South Africa, and which is currently being strengthened by a new initiative under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs. The KGNP Management Plan is currently under review and the provisions there-in for cultural heritage will be in compliance with the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage to which South Africa is a signatory. The protection of cultural heritage is further dealt with in the Integrated Development Plan of the KTP and the !Ae!Hai Kalahari Heritage Park management plans (hereafter simply referred as the ‘Heritage Park’), which falls wholly inside the KGNP. The KGNP, acting in collaboration with the Joint Management Board of the Heritage Park and a number of NGOs, provides the necessary institutional capacity needed for the protection of the WHS. A government initiative, in which NGOs are also participating, is underway to strengthen the #Khomani San Communal Property Association (CPA). Another pre-requisite which relates to the Johannesburg Declaration on World Heritage in Africa and Sustainable Development of 2002, and the UNESCO Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region, is the improvement of the social and economic development of the #Khomani as a community that should benefit directly from the World Heritage Site (WHS). Socio-economic development is a slow process, but a start has already been made and there have been many improvements in the welfare of the local community over the last two decades. Improved conditions will also make it easier for its members to focus energies on the protection and promotion of intangible heritage elements that contribute to the OUV of the WHS. The !Xaus community game lodge operations already generates moderate resources for investment in community development projects (or further businesses) and this will undoubtedly be supported by inscription of the proposed area as a WHS. The growing benefits to the local communities in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a WHS in South Africa, are well known. The property management is guided by various management plans (Appendix 8). The management plans of the Heritage Park and the KGNP will guide appropriate tourism development within the property. On the Botswana side, the WHS is flanked entirely by the Gemsbok National Park, which also forms the Botswana component of the KTP. Beyond the borders of the KGNP on the South African side there is communal land of the Mier community and private farms. It is envisaged that any development there would require consultation to ensure that no negative impact on the OUV. However, a variety of development frameworks can be used to ensure that principles compatible with World Heritage Sites guide development in the region. These frameworks typically include the

municipal (local and district level) IDP, the EMF and the SDF that are government requirements under different sets of legislation (Appendix 9). The property will not have a separate management plan from the KGNP; instead, it is believed that the management plan of the KGNP makes adequate provision for the protection of the OUV and the integrity and authenticity of the property. Through the use of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, as well as stringent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA criteria, under South African law, the development of tourism related facilities and amenities within, and adjacent to, the property, will not have negative impacts on the OUVs of the proposed WHS. The management plan of the KGNP should further prevent any potential impacts by tourists.

## C.2. ARAB STATES

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **As-Salt Eclectic Architecture (1865-1925), Origins and Evolution of an Architectural Language in the Levant, Jordan**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if requested, to:
  - a) Develop a comparative analysis including similar properties in the Levant and in the area of influence of the Ottoman Empire,
  - b) Redefine the criteria, in order to demonstrate what makes this architectural heritage important or exceptional among other historic cities in the region, as the cradle of a new amalgamated expression of different styles,
  - c) Modify the boundaries of the nominated property, in order to be read as parts of a coherent whole,
  - d) Further elaborate on the definition of the Outstanding Universal Value of this architectural heritage, in order to be considered an exceptional case in the process of modernisation;
3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;
4. Encourages the State Party to consider seeking ICOMOS' advice to address the above-mentioned recommendations.

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **Khor Dubai, a Traditional Merchants' Harbour, United Arab Emirates**, back to the State Party in order to further clarify:

- a) The attributes that justify the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property,
  - b) The ongoing revitalization plan in Shindagha,
  - c) The nominated property limits in Shindagha;
3. Encourages the State Party and ICOMOS to develop a coordination mechanism by which they ensure regular consultation in the preparation of the additional documentation to be presented for the next World Heritage Committee;
  4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    - a) Focus on monitoring and management action on threats with a high risk of impacting the potential Outstanding Universal Value,
    - b) Keep the World Heritage Committee updated about all modifications to the immediate setting of the nominated property that could impact on it,
    - c) Implement the monitoring procedures presented in the nomination.

### C.3. ASIA-PACIFIC

#### Decision: 41 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura, Cambodia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:  
[Text available only in French]
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, an updated map of the boundaries of the inscribed property and the buffer zone;
5. Recommends the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
  - a) Clarify the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value with regards to the boundaries of the temples zone and the buffer zone,
  - b) Augment the Conservation Plan with a conservation manual to set out the parameters within which conservation is carried out and develop details of necessary resources to address the urgent conservation of the temple buildings that are in danger of collapse,
  - c) Refine the Management Plan by addressing more effectively the need for a Risk Response and Management Plan and by identifying adequate resources for all planned actions,

- d) Revise the Tourism Management Plan by using a more dynamic and efficient approach that includes weather conditions, seasonal industry variations and monument conditions and their carrying capacities,
  - e) Consider extending the property once the wider property has been better studied, documented and assessed;
6. Further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Preparing and implementing a visitor code of conduct,
  - b) Funding research and preparing an interpretation and presentation plan for the Kampon Thom Museum,
  - c) Researching ways to avoid herbicides in fighting weeds and replace them by masonry- and environment-friendly methods,
  - d) Designing and implementing better signage in the property,
  - e) Improving the visitor display and interpretation information at the Sambor Prei Kuk Visitor Centre,
  - f) Continuing careful looting control, and implementing the theft alarms plan mentioned in the Management Plan,
  - g) Complementing the monitoring program by regular reports on the conservation and restoration works, and the monitoring of risks data, the settlement pattern, the ancient hydraulic structures, visitor satisfaction, community involvement, and relevant broader environmental indicators;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Kulangsu, a Historic International Settlement, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Kulangsu Island is located on the estuary of Chiu-lung River facing the city of Xiamen across the 600-meter-wide Lujiang Strait. With the opening of Xiamen as a commercial port in 1843, and Kulangsu as an international settlement in 1903, the island of the southern coastal areas of the Chinese empire suddenly became an important window for Sino-foreign exchanges. Its heritage reflects the composite nature of a modern settlement composed of 931 historical buildings of a variety of local and international architectural styles, natural sceneries, a historic network of roads and historic gardens.

Through the concerted endeavour of local Chinese, returned overseas Chinese, and foreign residents from many countries, Kulangsu developed into an international settlement with outstanding cultural diversity and modern living quality. It also became an ideal dwelling

place for the overseas Chinese and elites who were active in East Asia and South-eastern Asia as well as an embodiment of modern habitat concepts of the period between mid-19th and mid-20th century.

Kulangsu is an exceptional example of the cultural fusion, which emerged from these exchanges, which remain legible in an organic urban fabric formed over decades constantly integrating more diverse cultural references. Most exceptional testimony of the fusion of various stylistic influences is a genuinely new architectural movement the Amoy Deco Style, which emerged from the island.

**Criterion (ii):** Kulangsu Island exhibits in its architectural features and styles the interchange of Chinese, South East Asian and European architectural and cultural values and traditions produced in this variety by foreign residents or returned overseas Chinese who settled on the island. The settlement created did not only mirror the various influences settlers brought with them from their places of origin or previous residence but it synthesized a new hybrid style – the so-called Amoy Deco Style, which developed in Kulangsu and exerted influences over a far wider region in South-east Asian coastal areas and beyond. In this, the settlement illustrates the encounters, interactions and fusion of diverse values during an early Asian globalization stage.

**Criterion (iv):** Kulangsu is the origin and best representation of the Amoy Deco Style. Named after Xiamen's local Hokkien dialect name Amoy, Amoy Deco Style refers to an architectural style and typology, which first occurred in Kulangsu and illustrates the fusion of inspirations drawn from local building traditions, early western and in particular modernist influences as well as the southern Fujian Migrant culture. Based on these the Amoy Deco Style shows a transformation of traditional building typology towards new forms, which were later referenced throughout South-East Asia and became popular in the wider region.

### **Integrity**

The integrity of the historic landscape has been maintained, primarily as result of consistent conservation of historic architectural structures and effective development controls regarding height, volume and form of new buildings. The historic relationship of built up and green spaces also contributes to the overall landscape integrity which includes the preserved natural sceneries of cliffs and rocks and the historic gardens, both affiliated courtyard and independent private gardens.

The completeness of the property is demonstrated in the delimitation of the entire island including its surrounding coastal water until the edge of the reef, which underpins that the built structures and the natural setting of the island form one harmonious whole. The early recognition of the harmony has prevented extensive development in the waters surrounding the island, which can be witnesses on other islands or the nearby mainland. Essential for the recognition of the value of the island is that it was never connected to Xiamen via traffic infrastructure and remains solely accessible by ferry. Today, this restriction constitutes and essential element of visitor management processes ensuring the continued intactness of the island.

Tourism pressures are a concern that could affect the integrity of the island and hence require strict controls. A maximum number of 35,000 visitors per day will be allowed to access Kulangsu, a number that will require close monitoring to ensure it suffices to prevent negative impacts of large visitor flows.

### **Authenticity**

Kulangsu Island has retained its authenticity in form and design, location and setting and in many elements of the island material and substance as well as – to a lower extent – use and function. Both the urban settlement patterns as well as the architectural structures have retain their characteristic layout and stylistic features. The latter remain credible representations of the various architectural styles the island unites as well as the Amoy Deco Style it created.

Kulangsu retains its original location and natural landscape setting and has preserved the atmospheric qualities of an ideal residential settlement with a wide range of public services, which continue to serve their original function. The urban structures remain protected by the original legal context, which was created for the establishment of the international settlement in 1903 and remains valid until present. The various spatial contexts of the island, both natural and built-up retain their original links and relations including road connections and sight relations.

#### **Protection and management requirements**

Kulangsu was recognized by the State Council as a National Scenic Area in 1988 under the National Scenic Area framework. Fifty-one representative historic buildings, gardens, structures and cultural sites are included in Heritage lists: nineteen as National Heritage Sites, eight as Provincial Heritage Sites, and twenty-four as County Heritage Sites. Moreover, all the provincial and county protected sites will be added to the 8th Tranche of the National Heritage List.

The Conservation and Management Plan for Kulangsu Cultural Heritage was officially adopted 2011 and is being implemented by the Government since 2014. The plan establishes management strategies and actions based on an extensive analysis of the property's conditions and threats. The strategic documents also integrate the provisions of all other plans and protective regulations into a comprehensive management system institutionalizing the cooperation between all concerned management stakeholders. Indicated as a necessity, the Conservation and Management Plan is supported by Guidelines on Control of Commercial Activities on Kulangsu, which have been adopted in 2014. These guide scale and quality assurance measures for commercial services on the island, in particular those in the tourism sector.

Following the 2017 Capacity Calculation Report of Kulangsu Scenic Zone, the optimum number of people on the island is set at 25,000 while the absolute maximum lies at 50,000 people per day. Since this number includes the residents and commuters to the island, the effective maximum number of visitors is now controlled at 35,000 visitors, including on peak days.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Submitting an assessment report of the visitor controls to be implemented from June 2017 onwards to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies after a trial period of 2 years,
  - b) Monitoring of visitor controls and periodic update of studies on the limits of acceptable change with regard to visitation of the island to confirm that the current cut-off numbers are sufficient to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value,
  - c) Developing and implementing a seismic retrofitting plan for brick and stone historic buildings,
  - d) Extending the focus of conservation measures to also include the interior of buildings.

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Historic City of Ahmadabad, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(v)**;
3. Takes note of the provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief Synthesis**

The entire walled city is taken into consideration in the preparation of the nomination due to its potential outstanding universal value to humanity. The old city is considered as an archaeological entity with its plotting which has largely survived over centuries. Its urban archaeology strengthens its historic significance on the basis of remains from the Pre-Sultanate and Sultanate periods. The urban structure of the historic city as represented by its discrete plots of land is also proposed to be protected, since this records its heritage in the form of the medieval town plan and its settlement patterns.

The architecture of the Sultanate period monuments exhibits a unique fusion of the multicultural character of the historic city. This heritage is of great national importance and is associated with the complementary traditions embodied in other religious buildings and the old city's very rich domestic wooden architecture so as to illustrate the World Heritage significance of Ahmedabad. The settlement architecture of the historic city, with its distinctive pur (neighbourhoods), pol (residential main streets), and khadki (inner entrances to the pol) as the main constituents, which have been documented in detail, are similarly presented as an expression of community organizational network, since this also constitutes an integral component of its urban heritage.

The timber-based architecture of the historic city is of exceptional significance and is the most unique aspect of its heritage and demonstrates its significant contribution to cultural traditions, to arts and crafts, to the design of structures and the selection of materials, and to its links with myths and symbolism that emphasized its cultural connections with the occupants. The typology of the city's domestic architecture, which has been systematically documented, is presented and interpreted as an important example of regional architecture with a community-specific function and a family lifestyle that forms an important part of its heritage. The presence of institutions belonging to many religions (Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, etc.) makes the historic urban structure of the city an exceptional and even unique example of multicultural coexistence. This is another demonstration of a unique outstanding heritage that is acknowledged as being of primary importance in evaluating the heritage of the historic city.

**Criterion (ii):** The historic architecture of the city of the 15th century Sultanate period exhibited an important interchange of human values over its span of time which truly reflected the culture of the ruling migrant communities which were the important inhabitants of the city. Its settlement planning based on the respective tenets of human values and mutually accepted norms of communal living and sharing exhibited a great sense of settlement planning which is unique for the historic city. Its monumental buildings representative of the religious philosophy exemplified the best of the crafts and technology which actually saw growth of an important regional Sultanate architectural expression which is unparalleled in India. In order to establish their dominance in the region the Sultanate rulers recycled the parts and elements of local religious buildings to reassemble those into building of mosques in the city. Many new ones were also built in the manner of smaller edifices with maximum use of local craftsmen and masons allowing them the full freedom to employ their indigenous craftsmanship in a way that the resultant architecture developed a unique Sultanate idiom unknown in other part of the subcontinent where local traditions and crafts were accepted in religious buildings of Islam, even if they did not strictly follow the tenets for religious buildings in Islam. The monuments of Sultanate period thus provide a unique phase of development of architecture and technology for monumental arts during the 15th century period of history of western India.



**Criterion (v):** Ahmadabad city's settlement planning in a hierarchy of living environment with street as also a community space is representative of the local wisdom and sense of strong community bondage. The house as a self-sufficient unit with its own provisions for water, sanitation and climatic control (the court yard as the focus) as a functional unit and its image and conception with religious symbolism expressed through wood carving and canonical bearings is the most ingenious example of habitat. This when adopted by the community as an acceptable agreeable form, generated an entire settlement pattern with once again community needs expressed in its public spaces at the settlement level. These in terms of a gate with community control, a religious place and a bird-feeder and a community well were constituents of the self-sufficient settlement of 'pol'. Thus Ahmadabad's settlement patterns of neighbouring close-packed pol provide an outstanding example of human habitation.

### **Integrity**

Integrity is a measure of wholeness or intactness of the cultural heritage and its attributes. The city has evolved over a period of six centuries and has as mentioned earlier gone through successive periods of cyclic decay and growth and has survived the pressures and influences of various factors that affect a city in history. The successive phases have retained its historic character in spite of the changes, and the integrity is retained. By and large the city still exudes wholeness and intactness in its fabric and urbanity and has absorbed changes and growth with its traditional resilience.

Conditions of integrity in the historic city including topography, geomorphology, are still retained to a large degree, The hydrology and natural features have been subjected to changes due to progressive implementation of infrastructure by the local authorities. Its built environment, both historic and contemporary has been also subjected to the changes and growth in terms of city's population and community aspirations. Its infrastructure above and below ground also has been successively added and or expanded as the need grew. Its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization have largely remained unchanged as the footprints of earlier times have not been changed very much, perceptions and visual relationships (both internal and external); building heights and massing as well as all other elements of the urban character, fabric and structure have undergone change in most cases fitting within the existing historic limits and massing although some aberrations have occurred over a process of time.

### **Authenticity**

The settlement architecture of Ahmedabad represented, as mentioned earlier a strong sense of character of its conception through domestic buildings. The wooden architecture so prominently preferred is unique to the city. The entire settlement form is very 'organic' in its function considering its climatic response for year round comforts for the inhabitants.

The construction of the fort, the three gates at the end of the Maidan-e-Shahi and the Jama Masjid, with a large maidan on its north and south, were the first acts of Sultan Ahmed Shah to establish this Islamic town. On either side of the Maidan-e-Shahi and on the periphery around the Jama Masjid, the 'pur' or suburbs came up in succeeding phases of development.

The material used in construction of domestic building for all communities is composite with timber and brick masonry. Timber also provided a very good climatic comfort and humane quality in its usage. It also was a great unifying effect in developing harmonious living environment with significant elemental control of sizes in its building elements offering this harmonious quality.

The house form exhibited a very strong sense of an accepted type for organising the plan with a central courtyard within the house irrespective of its overall size. The functions within were always typically organised around the court or along it depending on the size of the house. This was essentially similar in all communities.

The cultural trait was an authentic foundation on which the concept of 'Mahajan' (nobility-guild) where all the people irrespective of their religious beliefs joined and a culture of society developed where there was a great sense of social wellbeing and of sharing. This was also observed in other prominent communities of Islam and Hindu-Jain followers. The community bondage was the intrinsic duty of all people as a response to healthy co-existence. Markets were organized on this basis and all the merchants and traders became a part of this where individual interests were considered subsidiary to the collective ethics and morality. The culture shared thus also became an important source for encouraging exemplary enterprises in the city which helped progressively evolve a city into a formidable place with industry and trade positioning it globally as a major Centre.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The city's efforts at conservation and sustainable management of its cultural heritage are a response to the current scenario and a step towards preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value. The proposed Heritage Management Plan is an important tool for the purpose. The aim of the management plan is to ensure protection and enhancement of the Outstanding Universal Value of Historic City of Ahmadabad while promoting sustainable development using the Historic urban landscape approach. It aims at integrating cultural heritage conservation and sustainable urban development of historic areas as a key component of all decision making processes at the city, agglomeration and larger territorial level.

The Heritage Department, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, as the nodal agency for heritage management in Ahmadabad plays a leading role in the preparation of the Heritage Management Plan of the city. It has the support from all relevant administrative wings in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, as well as authorities like the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority as well as Archaeological Survey of India, Gujarat State Department of Archaeology, and National Monuments Authority.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Conduct comprehensive and accurate documentation of the historic buildings of the property, particularly the privately owned timber houses, according to accepted international standards of documentation of historic buildings for conservation and management purposes,
  - b) Conduct a detailed assessment of the extent and impact of the new constructions and development projects on the western section of the property and its buffer zone,
  - c) Ensure the effective implementation of the Heritage Management Plan and the finalisation, ratification and implementation of the modification and additions to the development control regulations,
  - d) Complete and implement the Local Area-Heritage Plan as a part of the Heritage Conservation Plan, with a special focus on conservation of wooden historic houses,
  - e) Prepare, approve and implement a visitor management plan for the property to complement the Heritage Management Plan and ensure an informed and sensitive development of tourism for the site,
  - f) Enrich the Heritage Department at Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation with capacity building and technical capacity relevant to the challenging size and extent of responsibilities of the documentation, conservation and monitoring of the property and its buffer zone;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.18**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Historic City of Yazd, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(v)**:
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The City of Yazd is located in the deserts of Iran close to the Spice and Silk Roads. It is a living testimony to intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal centre. Buildings are built of earth. The use of earth in buildings includes walls, and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate. Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities. It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples and the historic garden of Dolatabad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism.

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

The historic city of Yazd bears witness to an exceptionally elaborate construction system in earthen architecture and the adaption of the ways of living to hostile environment for several millennia. Yazd is associated with the continuity of traditions that cover social organization these include Waqf (endowment) benefitting public buildings, such as water cisterns, mosques, hammams, qanats, etc. as well as developed intangible and multi-cultural, commercial and handicrafts tradition, as one of the richest cities of the world entirely built of earthen material; a quality which contributes to the creation of an environment-friendly microclimate. It reflects diverse cultures related to various religions in the city including Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism, which are still living peacefully together and having a combination of buildings including houses, mosques, fire temples, synagogues, mausoleums, hammams, water cisterns, madrasehs, bazaars, etc. as it can be seen in their traditional crafts and festivities.

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

Yazd is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of the interaction of man and nature in a desert environment that results from the optimal use and clever management of the limited resources that are available in such an arid setting.

## **Integrity**

From the 1930s onwards, several policies were established to modernize the city. That led to the creation of a few wide commercial streets and provision of easy access to “modern” housing. This happened mostly outside the historic city. Contrary to some intentions including those belonging to higher classes, the populations of Yazd, as well as the city decision-makers have managed to maintain large zones of the historic city intact, including possible restoration and conservation for a number of large houses.

Today, Yazd possesses a large number of excellent examples of traditional desert architecture with a range of houses from modest ones to very large and highly decorated properties. In addition to the main mosque and bazaar which are in a very good state, each district of the historic city still has all its specific features such as water cisterns, hammams, tekies, mosques, mausoleums, etc. In the core zone, there are still many streets and alleys which have kept their original pattern, having also many sabats, i.e. partially or entirely covered alleys, and series of arches crossing them for protection from the sun. The skyline of the city punctuated with wind catchers, minarets and domes of the monuments and mosques offer an outstanding panorama visible from far away, from inside and outside the historic city.

## **Authenticity**

Being a living dynamic city, Yazd has evolved gradually with some inevitable changes. However, there are still many qualities which allow Yazd to meet conditions of authenticity, including those related to the continuity of its intangible heritage.

Yazd is recognized as the place where religious festivals and pilgrimages have a special dimension. There is also a lively network of social organizations (Waqf) that still play a strong role at district level, besides those represented by the municipality and the government. In terms of use and function, mention must be made to the religious activities said above. Bazaar is still in function, with addition of a few shops specifically addressing the tourist market. Also a large part of the historic city is still inhabited (with a rate of 80% private ownership). On the other hand, some elements have lost their original use but there are new ideas for their adaptive re-use. A part of the University of Yazd has been established in the historic city. There are also some hotels and restaurants that are operating within some of the existing structures which have been rehabilitated and restored by keeping their main physical elements and minimizing the interventions.

This has had a positive influence in terms of authenticity linked to location, setting, form, design and materials. Apart from the changes that have occurred throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the nominated core zone boasts plenty of well-preserved buildings and public spaces. In all interventions, priority has always been given to traditional techniques whenever restoration works were needed.

## **Protection and management requirements**

As a living city, a fact that needs to be maintained, adaptations will still need to be made so as to respond to the legitimate expectations and desires of its inhabitants and users.

Besides that, as the values of Yazd are interesting sources of inspiration to solve some of the most important problems of the contemporary world (culture of peace, sustainable development, bio and cultural diversity, etc.), the city should be prepared to welcome more visitors. For all these reasons, the past and present efforts which have been made by the local population itself, in some instances under the districts organizations and social structure of Waqf (endowment), as well as efforts by Yazd Municipality, ICHHTO, and local representatives of the Government of Iran (Ministries of education, health, ...) have to be still promoted. To that end, all these partners have joined an effort to elaborate a new management mechanism that will allow directing their capacities towards common goals. This has concretized with the creation of a steering committee in charge of defining general orientations for the management and conservation of the historic city. As a first important

decision, this committee has officially adopted specific and clear rules and regulations for the both nominated core and buffer zones.

A technical committee has also been composed with representatives of the major stakeholders, who will work under the direction of specialized working groups to identify, study, and monitor different kinds of projects.

As the national body responsible for World Heritage properties, including reporting to UNESCO World Heritage Committee, ICHHTO has decided to establish a specific office (Base) that will have the responsibility to coordinate the meetings of these two committees and to organize the monitoring of the historic city regarding its state of conservation.

Within the next ten years, it is expected that the living conditions in the historic city be improved, poverty eradicated, and the number of national and foreign visitors to be increased so that the cultural values of Yazd can be presented and globally appreciated.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Undertaking analytical studies of the Historic City of Yazd, elaborating the relationships between the intangible aspects of each district (including social, cultural and religious dimensions) and the tangible aspects (such as the qanats, water cisterns and religious structures),
  - b) Conducting research on risk preparedness for the site with regards to earthquakes,
  - c) Developing guidelines for the use, maintenance and conservation of earthen historic buildings, with attention to interiors, that will assist private owners of historic buildings,
  - d) Continue training ICHHTO staff on relevant conservation philosophies, and the impacts of different interventions on the integrity and authenticity of the property,
  - e) Continue further studies and documentation in relation to the justification of criteria (iii) and (v).

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.19**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region, Japan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Located 60 km off the western coast of Kyushu Island, the Island of Okinoshima is an exceptional repository of records of early ritual sites, bearing witness to early worship practices associated with maritime safety, which emerged in the 4th century AD and continued until the end of the 9th century AD, at a time of intense exchanges between the polities in the Japanese Archipelago, in the Korean Peninsula, and on the Asian continent. Incorporated into the Munakata Grand Shrine (Munakata Taisha), the Island of Okinoshima continued to be regarded as sacred in the following centuries up until today.

The entirety of the Island of Okinoshima, with its geomorphological features, the ritual sites with the rich archaeological deposits, and the wealth of votive offerings, in their original distribution, credibly reflect 500 years of ritual practices held on the Island; the primeval

forest, the attendant islets of Koyajima, Mikadobashira and Tenguwa, along with the documented votive practices and the taboos associated with the Island, the open views from Kyushu and Oshima towards the Island, altogether credibly reflect that the worship of the Island, although changed in its practices and meanings over the centuries, due to external exchanges and indigenisation, has retained the sacred status of Okinoshima.

Munakata Taisha is a shrine that consists of three distinct worship sites – Okitsu-miya on Okinoshima, Nakatsu-miya on Oshima, and Hetsu-miya on the main island of Kyushu, all of which are located within an area that measures some 60 kilometers in breadth. These are the living places of worship that are linked to ancient ritual sites. The form of worshipping the Three Female Deities of Munakata has been passed down to the present day in rituals conducted mainly at the shrine buildings. Okitsu-miya Yohaisho, built on the northern shore of Oshima, has functioned as a hall for worshipping the sacred island from afar. The Shimbaru-Nuyama Mounded Tomb Group, located on a plateau overlooking the sea that stretches out towards Okinoshima, is composed of both large and small burial mounds, bearing witness to the lives of members of the Munakata clan, who nurtured a tradition of worshipping Okinoshima.

**Criterion (ii):** The Sacred Island of Okinoshima Island exhibits important interchanges and exchanges amongst the different polities in East Asia between the 4th and the 9th centuries, which is evident from the abundant finds and objects with a variety of origins deposited at sites on the Island where rituals for safe navigation were performed. The changes, in object distribution and site organisation, attest to the changes in rituals, which in turn reflect the nature of the process of dynamic exchanges that took place in those centuries, when polities based on the Asian mainland, the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago, were developing a sense of identity and that substantially contributed to the formation of Japanese culture.

**Criterion (iii):** The Sacred Island of Okinoshima is an exceptional example of the cultural tradition of worshipping a sacred island, as it has evolved and been passed down from ancient times to the present. Remarkably, archaeological sites that have been preserved on the Island are virtually intact, and provide a chronological record of how the rituals performed there changed over a period of some five hundred years, from the latter half of the 4th to the end of the 9th centuries. In these rituals, vast quantities of precious votive objects were deposited as offerings at different sites on the Island, attesting to changes in rituals. While direct offerings on Okinoshima Island ceased in the 9th century AD, members of the Munakata clan played an instrumental role in establishing and safeguarding the worship of the Island in the form of worshipping the Three Female Deities of Munakata at three distinct worship sites of Munakata Taisha – Okitsu-miya on Okinoshima, Nakatsu-miya on Oshima, and Hetsu-miya, along with “distant worship” exemplified by the open views from Oshima and the main island of Kyushu toward Okinoshima.

### **Integrity**

The sacred Island of Okinoshima, with the other seven components, comprise all attributes necessary to illustrate the values and processes expressing its Outstanding Universal Value. The property ensures the complete representation of the features illustrating the property as a testimony to a worshipping tradition of a sacred Island for safe navigation, emerging in a period of intense maritime exchanges and continuing in the form of worshipping the Three Female Deities of Munakata established by members of the Munakata clan. This has passed down to this day, through changes in ritual practices and meanings but whilst still retaining the sacred status of Okinoshima. The property is in good condition; it does not suffer from neglect and is properly managed, although careful consideration of potential impacts from off-shore infrastructure and increased cruise ship traffic is needed.

## **Authenticity**

A substantial body of archaeological investigation and research on the Island of Okinoshima bears credible witness to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; the unchanged location of the ritual sites, their distribution, and the still-abundant undisturbed deposits of votive offerings provide opportunities for future research and increased understanding of the values of the property. Existing restrictions and taboos contribute to maintaining the aura of the island as a sacred place.

## **Protection and management requirements**

The property enjoys legal protection at the national level under several laws, designations and planning instruments; protection is also guaranteed by traditional practices, in the form of restriction of use and taboos that have proven effective over time until the present day.

The management system envisages an overarching management body, the Preservation and Utilization Council, which includes the representatives of Munakata City and Fukutsu City and Fukuoka Prefecture. The Council is tasked with coordination of and responsibility for the implementation of the “Preservation and Management Plan”, which incorporates four individual management plans covering different parts of the property as well as the buffer zone. To ensure full coordination and implementation of the management tasks, the owners of the property need to be involved in the Council; the representatives of the residents in the buffer zone and of the local businesses will coordinate and collaborate with the Preservation and Utilization Council. The National Agency for Cultural Affairs provides guidance and advice as well as an ad-hoc Advisory Committee. Minor repairs and everyday maintenance are carried out by craftsmen from the local community, using methods passed down from generation to generation.

4. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:
  - a) Establishing the Preservation and Utilization Council and including within it representatives of the owners of the property,
  - b) Clarifying the role of the other stakeholders and the mechanisms to ensure their effective cooperation in managing the property,
  - c) Stating that the construction of wind turbines, offshore or on land, will not only be “appropriately restricted” but will be totally forbidden within the entire property limits, including the buffer zone, as well as in areas outside the property where it would affect the visual integrity of the components,
  - d) Setting up mechanisms to integrate a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) approach into the management system,
  - e) Developing specific HIAs for planned projects that may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and the attributes of the property, and submitting their results to the World Heritage Committee and ICOMOS for review before any final decision is taken with regard to their approval and implementation,
  - f) Confirming that the limit at the top of the mountain marking the south-eastern corner of the buffer zone incorporates entirely the summit,
  - g) Giving due consideration to the potential threats by increased unregulated visitation and cruise ships,
  - h) Continuing and expanding research programmes on maritime exchanges, navigation and related cultural and ritual practices within the State Party and its neighbouring countries.

#### C.4. EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.20**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of the **Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace, Azerbaijan**, back to the State Party in order to further advance conservation and preservation mechanisms with a view for their better implementation;
3. Recommends the State Party to prepare the Action Plan for conservation and preservation of the nominated property in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
4. Invites the State Party to give consideration to the following:
  - a) to strengthen the mandate and resources of the management team, and to revise and adopt the management plan for its further proper implementation,
  - b) to strengthen protective measures for the buffer zone to ensure the long-term protection of the wider landscape setting,
  - c) to prepare conservation guidelines to ensure future restorations are undertaken utilizing adequate materials and expertise,
  - d) to consider the increase of the role of traditional governance structures such as the Council of Elders and the neighbourhood representatives in decision-making and management processes,
  - e) to develop a monitoring system focused on both the state of conservation of the nominated property and the implementation of the management plan.

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.21**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries: *Stato da Terra – western Stato da Mar, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro***, namely six of the fifteen nominated serial components: the Fortified City of Bergamo, the Fortified City of Peschiera del Garda and the City Fortress of Palmanova (Italy), the Defensive System of Zadar and the Fort of St Nikola at Šibenik-Knin County (Croatia), and the City of Kotor (Montenegro), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:  
**Brief Synthesis**

The Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th centuries: *Stato da Terra – western Stato da Mar* consists of six components located in Italy, Croatia and Montenegro and spanning more than 1000 km between the Lombard region of Italy and the eastern



Adriatic Coast. Together, they represent the defensive works of the *Serenissima* between the 16th and 17th centuries, the most significant period of the longer history of the Venetian Republic; and demonstrate the designs, adaptations and operations of *alla moderna* defences, which were to feature throughout Europe.

The introduction of gunpowder led to significant shifts in military techniques and architecture that are reflected in the design of fortifications – termed *alla moderna*. The organisation and defences of the *Stato da Terra* (protecting the Republic from other European powers to the northwest) and the *Stato da Mar* (protecting the sea routes and ports in the Adriatic Sea to the Levant) were needed to sustain the expansion and power of the Republic of Venice.

The expansive territory of the *Serenissima* was indisputably the near-exclusive setting of the genesis of the *alla moderna* or bastioned system during the Renaissance; and the extensive and innovative defensive networks established by the Republic of Venice are of exceptional historical, architectural and technological significance. The attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value include earthworks and structures of fortification and defence from the Venetian Republic in the 16th and 17th centuries. Strongly contributory to these are the landscape settings, and which strengthen the visual qualities of the six components, as well as urban and defensive structures from both earlier (Medieval) and more recent periods of history (such as the Napoleonic and Ottoman period modifications and additions) that allow the serial components to be truthfully presented and the tactical coherence of each military site in its final state to be recognised.

**Criterion (iii):** The Venetian Works of Defence provide an exceptional testimony of the *alla moderna* military culture, which evolved within the Republic of Venice in the 16th and 17th centuries, involving vast territories and interactions. Together the components demonstrate a defensive network or system for the *Stato da Terra* and the western *Stato da Mar* centred in the Adriatic Sea or Golfo di Venezia, which had civil, military, urban dimensions that extended further, traversing the Mediterranean region to the Levant.

**Criterion (iv):** The Venetian Works of Defence present the characteristics of the *alla moderna* fortified system (bastioned system) built by the Republic of Venice following changes that were introduced following the increased use of firearms. Together the six components demonstrate in an exceptional way the characteristics of the *alla moderna* system including its technical and logistic abilities, modern fighting strategies and new architectural requirements within the *Stato da Terra* and the western portions of the *Stato da Mar*.

### **Integrity**

Together, the six components of Venetian Works of Defence within *Stato da Terra* and the western portions of the *Stato da Mar* exhibit the needed attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of this transnational heritage, including their typological variety, visual integrity and state of conservation. This serial property leaves open the potential for a future nomination of examples that can represent in an exceptional and complementary way, the applications of the *alla moderna* technologies through the extent of the Venetian Republic in this period of history in the eastern or Levante *Stato da Mar*. The state of conservation of the individual components is generally good, although their integrity is variable, and in some cases vulnerable, due to past and present development and tourism pressures. Although some further expansions could be made to the buffer zones (particularly for the components in Zadar and Kotor), the boundaries of the six components are appropriate.

### **Authenticity**

The Venetian Works of Defence within *Stato da Terra* and the western portions of the *Stato da Mar* and the phenomenon of *alla moderna* military architecture have been extensively studied, supported by extensive archival materials, documents, architectural drawings, maps and models. Because of their purposes and locations, many changes have occurred

to the selected components, including damage through different periods of conflict from the Napoleonic, Austrian and Ottoman periods and the 20th century.

### **Protection and management requirements**

Legal protection of the components of the Venetian Works of Defence within the *Stato da Terra* and the western portions of the *Stato da Mar* has been established at national and regional/local levels in each of the three States Parties. The frameworks for legal protection include cultural heritage and environmental protection laws. In Italy, the three components are protected by the 'Cultural and Landscape Heritage Code' (2004) which establishes the national regulation framework for conservation works, including the protection of significant landscape elements; and each is further protected by regional and municipal Territorial Plans and local protection measures that regulate urban transformations. In Croatia, the two components are protected by the 'Act on the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Property', and inscription in the Register of Cultural properties; as well as local protection measures that regulate urban transformations. In Montenegro, the selected component is protected by the 'Law on the Protection of Cultural Property' and subordinate ordinances; and the 'Law on Spatial Planning and Construction' and local protection measures that regulate urban transformations.

Management of the transnational serial property is organised at transnational, national and local levels of responsibility and activity. A transnational Memorandum of Understanding (December 2015) provides coordination between the three States Parties and establishes the International Coordination Team responsible for coordination, implementation and regular updating of the Transnational Management Plan. Shared heritage management objectives, a framework for heritage impact assessment, and a summary of current projects are provided by the Transnational Management Plan. Risk Preparedness is established by the States Parties for the risks of relevant natural disasters, including earthquakes, forest fires and sea level rise. Due to the complex pressures and high levels of tourism at some of the components of this serial property, site-level Conservation and Management Plans are needed, including visitor management plans and tourism carrying capacity studies.

The International Coordination Team is supported by National Coordination Groups in each country, made up of relevant national and local authorities. The financial resources and the sources of expertise and training for the conservation of the components of this serial property have been outlined. An overarching system of monitoring has been established, but could be expanded by the work of the International Coordinating Team, particularly in relation to visitor pressures.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:
  - a) Developing and implementing the framework for 'Heritage Impact Assessment' as a matter of urgency for development proposals (including those related to tourism management and access),
  - b) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the series are communicated to the World Heritage Committee in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
  - c) Ensuring that conservation planning for each component retains evidence of the modifications to the fortifications in all historical periods, rather than removing evidence unrelated to the Venetian Republic,
  - d) Reviewing and modifying the buffer zones to integrate later period fortifications in order to recognise the tactical coherence of each military site in its final state (particularly for Peschiera del Garda and Kotor) and to support the future valorisation of a military pedagogy at the serial components,
  - e) Expanding the buffer zone protection of the component at Zadar in light of the potential impacts of nearby developments,

- f) Expanding the buffer zone protection for Kotor in order to incorporate an area of sea water,
  - g) Developing and implementing management plans for each component based clearly on the Outstanding Universal Value of the transnational serial property,
  - h) Continuing efforts to relocate intrusive and redundant elements within the serial components, such as the intrusive car parking (Zadar); and visually intrusive urban and industrial developments (Kotor). These objectives should be included in the site management plans, subjected to Heritage Impact Assessments and monitored,
  - i) Developing and implementing the proposed Tourism Carrying Capacity study as an urgent priority,
  - j) Developing as an urgent priority visitor management plans that allow sustainable tourism and high-quality visitor experience,
  - k) Developing a transnational values-based conservation strategy, based on specialist expertise in Venetian alla moderna defensive structures as a tool to assist the National and International Coordination Teams,
  - l) Continuing to develop monitoring arrangements through the work of the International Coordinating Team;
5. Requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;
  6. Decides that the name of the serial transnational property be changed to **Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar**,
  7. Also recommends that the Forte Mare of Herceg Novi, Montenegro, be considered in the future as an extension of the current property when the studies and conservation works to address the impacts on the authenticity of this component caused by poorly sited tourism facilities will be completed;
  8. Encourages the States Parties to consider seeking ICOMOS' advice to address the above recommendations.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap, Denmark**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (v)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap is located in the municipality of Kujalleq in South Greenland. The nominated property is made up of five component parts which together represent the demographic and administrative core of two

diachronic farming cultures: the Norse Greenlanders of the late 10th to mid-15th centuries AD and the Inuit farmers of Kujataa from the 1780s to the present day.

Although these two cultures are distinct, they also share several unique traits: they are both pastoral farming cultures situated on the Arctic margins of viable agriculture; they are both confined to small landscape niches – the only area in Greenland to provide the required Subarctic environmental conditions – surrounded by wide-ranging and often inaccessible mountain pastures; a demanding landscape setting which has compelled both Norse and Inuit to combine animal husbandry with extensive marine mammal hunting. Finally, the two farming traditions are tied together by links of history, the enterprise of the Norse pioneers literally laying the cultural and physical foundations for Inuit renewal of farming in Greenland.

The overall landscape of pastures, fields, ruins and present-day buildings is an outstanding example of a human settlement and land use in the Arctic, which represents unique farming cultures converging through margins set by a niche environment. Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap set the scene for the first European settlement in the New World and the earliest introduction of farming to the Arctic.

The resulting cultural landscape, shaped by grazing both in medieval and modern times, is composed of grassy slopes and willow copses surrounding dispersed farmsteads sitting on small cultivated infields. The landscape of Kujataa presents an exceptionally comprehensive and complete preservation of a medieval Northern European culture. The five component parts contain a full range of features relating to Norse Greenlandic culture including complete examples of monumental architecture as well as key sites illustrative of the adaptation of the Inuit to a farming way of life from the 18th century onwards.

**Criterion (v):** Kujataa is an outstanding example of human settlement, where unique farming traditions have developed in southern Greenland. Although marginal for farming, the relatively mild climate of Kujataa has allowed the development of settlements based on farming and hunting during two major historical periods (including the present period), resulting in a distinctive and vulnerable cultural landscape.

Norse Greenlandic and Inuit farming settlement have resulted in a remarkable and distinctive cultural landscape based on land use practices within a specific ecological niche that could support farming and pastoralism when complemented with the hunting of marine mammals. The specific climatic conditions that allowed two different cultural traditions to develop land use, settlement and subsistence within this extreme setting have allowed the Inuit farming landscape to reveal and visualize the earlier Norse settlements in an exceptional way.

### **Integrity**

The integrity of the nominated property is based on the inclusion of a range of farming landscape elements that ensure that the property contains all the elements necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value.

The components of the serial nomination include key attributes of the Norse and Inuit farming systems, and each also illustrates different facets of farm types, land use patterns, landforms and cultural histories. In some places modern Inuit farms juxtapose relict Norse farms (eg. Igaliku), while others are undisturbed archaeological landscapes where current sheep grazing maintains the pastoral character of the abandoned Norse farm sites (eg. Hvalsey).

The nominated property encompasses both landscape and archaeological attributes carrying the Outstanding Universal Value, and processes associated with Norse settlement and modern farming are exhibited within the boundaries of the five components. The components are able to sustain continued agricultural uses without compromising the OUV's

The condition of the attributes is satisfactory, and while there are potential threats, these are adequately managed at present. The range and scale of proposed mineral resource activity, energy and infrastructure development projects in this area of southern Greenland will be addressed by the Government of Greenland to secure the future integrity of the property.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the nominated property is based on the pastoral character of the landscape, introduced from the 10th century AD. The archaeological evidence of Norse Greenlandic settlement and farming are found at a substantial number of heritage sites within the components; and the form, materials and design of farm buildings and monumental architecture are from both historical periods. The settlement patterns of the Norse landscape are legible in and between the selected components.

Conservation of architectural attributes has aimed to ensure their structural stability; and most archaeological sites have not been modified by human activity since their abandonment. Detailed historical documentation supports the authenticity of many attributes.

### **Protection and management requirements**

As land is not privately owned in Greenland, activities and constructions require land use concessions from the Kujalleq Municipality or the Government of Greenland. The Greenland National Museum and Archives is one of the authorities responsible for reviewing land use applications as relating to protected heritage values; and the Greenland National Museum and Archives function as advisory consultant in land use project developments, as well as monitoring of heritage values. Any disturbance and demolition of heritage sites is prohibited and punishable by law.

A number of legal protection mechanisms apply to the property: The Heritage Protection Act (Act no. 11, 19 May 2010) on Cultural Heritage Protection and Conservation; Executive Order on Cultural Heritage Protection (approved in July 2016, and entered into force on 1 August 2016); the Museum Act (Inatsisartut Act no. 8, 3 June 2015); and the Planning Act (Act no. 17, 17 November 2010). In addition to protection of material cultural heritage, the Museum Act protects immaterial (intangible) culture heritage in accordance with the 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ratified by Denmark in 2009).

Approvals for activities related to mineral resources are subject to strict legal requirements through the Mineral Resources Act (7 December 2009). Exploitation license applications are subject to for example Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment (each with public hearing and consultation requirements); and must have an impact mitigation plan. The Greenland National Museum and Archives can require archaeological investigations.

The Government of Greenland is considering the development and implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment as a new tool in land use management.

The Heritage Protection Act creates protection for ancient monuments, historic buildings and historical areas. All ancient monuments in the property are protected by the Greenland Parliament Act on Cultural Heritage Protection and Conservation. Listed buildings within the property are protected by Greenland laws and municipal planning.

Protection of the landscape and natural attributes is provided by a wide range of laws and planning regulations, including the Acts on Preservation of Natural Amenities, Environmental Protection and Catchment and Hunting as well as laws pertaining to the different land uses within and outside the nominated property, and the Executive Order on Cultural Heritage Protection (July 2016) The Nature Protection Act (Act no. 29, 18 December 2003) provides for the management of landscape values and the sustainable use of natural

resources, including agriculture. The Executive Order on Cultural Heritage Protection (July 2016) provides the essential overall protection for the cultural heritage and attributes of the proposed World Heritage property.

The property is governed and managed by a steering group with representatives from the Government of Greenland, the Greenland National Museum and Archives, Kujalleq Municipality, village councils, farmers, the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces and the tourism industry.

A management system is documented in a management plan, to be implemented from public financial commitments upon inscription on the World Heritage List. The management plan, in which priorities are defined, such as sustainable tourism, local and indigenous ownership, engagement and sustainable development, has been approved by the Government of Greenland and Kujalleq Municipality. The day to day management will be carried out by a local secretariat headed by a site manager and field staff consisting of one or more park rangers working in close collaboration with the authorities represented in the steering group. The Greenland National Museum & Archives monitors and manages protected heritage features and attributes.

4. Recommends that the State Party further clarify the permitted land uses and provide specific protective mechanisms in the buffer zones (including protection from mining exploration and exploitation in these areas);
5. Also recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Developing and implementing 'Heritage Impact Assessment' as a matter of urgency for development proposals (including mining exploration and exploitation), and changes to agricultural land uses (such as moves to larger farms and changes to farming practices and crops),
  - b) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the series are communicated to the World Heritage Committee in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
  - c) Continuing to improve the understanding of the different cultural/historical periods of settlement and use of this area by improving the mapping of hunting resources; survey, archaeological research and documentation of Palaeo-Eskimo and Thule Inuit sites; inventorying of historic landscape features; and enhanced recognition and presentation of intangible cultural heritage of the area,
  - d) Further developing the management system to address the ways in which changing agricultural land uses can ensure the conservation of the agricultural and pastoral landscape attributes of the serial property,
  - e) Developing and implementing mechanisms for direct engagement with authorities responsible for mining approvals and monitoring in the management system for the serial property,
  - f) Incorporating important geological heritage values of the property into the interpretation and management system,
  - g) Further developing tourism management planning for the property;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2018**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

## **Decision: 41 COM 8B.23**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes Taputapuātea, France, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

Taputapuātea is a cultural landscape and seascape on Raiatea Island. Raiatea is at the centre of the “Polynesian Triangle,” a vast section of the Pacific Ocean dotted with islands, the last part of the globe to be settled by humans. At the heart of the property is the Taputapuātea *marae* complex, a political, ceremonial, funerary and religious centre. The complex is positioned between the land and sea on the end of a peninsula that juts into the lagoon surrounding the island. *Marae* are sacred ceremonial and social spaces that are found throughout Polynesia. In the Society Islands, *marae* have developed into quadrilateral paved courtyards with a rectangular platform at one end, called an *ahu*. They have many simultaneous functions.

At the centre of the Taputapuātea *marae* complex is *marae* Taputapuātea itself, dedicated to the god ‘Oro and the place where the world of the living (Te Ao) intersects the world of the ancestors and gods (Te Po). It also expresses political power and relationships. The rise in the importance of Taputapuātea among the *marae* on Raiatea and in the wider region is linked to the line of Tamatoa *ari’i* (chiefs) and the expansion of their power. Taputapuātea was the centre of a political alliance that brought together two widespread regions encompassing most of Polynesia. The alliance was maintained by regular gatherings of chiefs, warriors and priests who came from the other islands to meet at Taputapuātea. The building of outrigger canoes and ocean navigation were key skills in maintaining this network.

A traditional landscape surrounds both sides of the Taputapuātea *marae* complex. The *marae* complex looks out to Te Ava Mo’a, a sacred pass in the reef that bounds the lagoon. Atāra *motu* is an islet in the reef and a habitat for seabirds. Ocean-going arrivals waited here before being led through the sacred pass and formally welcomed at Taputapuātea. On the landward side, ‘Ōpo’a and Hotopu’u are forested valleys ringed by ridges and the sacred mountain of Tea’etapu. The upland portions of the valleys feature older *marae*, such as *marae* Vaeāra’i and *marae* Taumariari, agricultural terraces, archaeological traces of habitations and named features related to traditions of gods and ancestors. Vegetation in the valleys is a mix of species, some endemic to Raiatea, some common to other Polynesian islands and some imported food species brought by ancient Polynesians for cultivation. Together, the attributes of the property form an outstanding relict and associative cultural landscape and seascape.

**Criterion (iii):** Taputapuātea illustrates in an exceptional way 1000 years of *mā’ohi* civilisation. This history is represented by the *marae* complex of Taputapuātea at the seashore and the variety of archaeological sites in the upland valleys. It reflects social organization with farmers who lived in the uplands and warriors, priests and kings settled near the sea. It also testifies to their skill in sailing outrigger canoes across long stretches of ocean, navigation by observation of natural phenomena, and transformation of newly settled islands into places that provided for the needs of their people.

**Criterion (iv):** Taputapuātea provides eminent examples of *marae*: temples with cult and social functions built by the *mā’ohi* people from the 14th to the 18th century. *Marae* were the points of intersection between the world of the living and that of the ancestors. Their

monumental form reflects competition for prestige and power among the *ari'i* chiefs. *Marae* Taputapuātea itself is a concrete expression of the paramount alliance formed by its line of chiefs and the cult of worship associated with it, as stones were transported to other islands to found other *marae* with the same name.

**Criterion (vi):** As the ancestral homeland of Polynesian culture, Taputapuātea is of outstanding significance for people throughout the whole of Polynesia, for the way it symbolises their origins, connects them with ancestors and as an expression of their spirituality. These living ideas and knowledge are embedded in the landscapes and seascapes of Raiatea and particularly in the *marae* for the central roles that they once performed.

### **Integrity**

The property is a relict and associative cultural landscape with attributes that are tangible (archaeological sites, places associated with oral tradition, *marae*) and intangible (origin stories, ceremonies and traditional knowledge). It is an exceptional example of the juxtaposition and continuity of the ancient (traditional) and modern (contemporary) values of the *mā'ohi* people and their relationship with the natural landscape. It contains all the elements necessary to express Outstanding Universal Value. The buffer zone is adequate and does not contain any elements that should be in the property.

### **Authenticity**

Credible and objective information confirms authenticity of the major physical attributes of the property. Intangible sources and oral traditions of the *mā'ohi* people are both diverse and mutually supportive. There is a convergence between the oral knowledge and documentary sources based on testimonies left by early explorers and missionaries. In sum, these factors provide evidence that the information is genuine. Efforts by the community to gather knowledge related to the property and to transmit traditional knowledge in recent years have strengthened the authenticity of the cultural landscape. Some *marae* at the *marae* complex of Taputapuātea have been restored, but the layout of the complex and most of the materials themselves are original.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Taputapuātea *marae* complex has been protected since 1952 under French Polynesian law and it has recently been classified as a historical monument. A protective and planning system, called a Zone de Site Protégé, is being put into place that would cover the whole of the property and the buffer zone. A steering committee has guided management of the property since 2012. This committee is creating the permanent management structure for the property and a management plan was adopted in 2015. The plan will preserve the sites of memory that testify to the ancient *mā'ohi* civilization, protect the *marae*, preserve the terrestrial and marine environments of the cultural landscape and seascape and preserve and transmit traditional knowledge and skills. A three person secretariat will manage the property in concert with a staffed bureau and the steering committee.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Approving the draft landscape management plan for the Taputapuātea *marae* complex,
  - b) Completing the remaining points specified in the Action Plan including the visitor survey, a study of the health of the coral reef and ecology, a study of coastal geomorphology of the *marae* complex, measures to mitigate sea level rise, ecological management of the Domaine and upper valley, and monitoring of long-term ecological change,
  - c) Training in the policies and practice of conservation and restoration of archaeological sites and the *marae* and adopting a policy and/or manual for restoration,



- d) Completing the establishment of the Zone de Site Protégé to cover the buffer zone of the property as scheduled,
  - e) Undertaking research on the coastal geomorphology and sediment transport by wave action. Threats to the coastline and measures to protect the Taputapuātea marae complex should be identified and interventions proposed. Sea level rise should be included as a factor in this research;
5. Also recommends the creation of a plan for the ecological management of the property with special attention paid to the Domaine d'Aratā'o, the reef and lagoon, the effects of invasive alien species and the monitoring of long-term ecological change.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.24**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura, Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

Modern humans first arrived in Europe 43,000 years ago during the last ice age. One of the areas where they took up residence was the Swabian Jura in southern Germany. Here, ancient peoples lived in and among a series of caves which are now archaeological sites. Excavated from the 1860s up to the present day, these six caves have revealed a long record of human presence, including both anatomically modern humans and Neanderthals before that. The focus of this property are the caves with Aurignacian layers, which date from 43,000 to 33,000 years ago. Among the items found at these sites are carved figurines, musical instruments and items of personal adornment. The figurines depict species of animals who lived in that ice age environment – cave lions, mammoths, birds, horses, bovinds and fish. Other figurines depict creatures that are half animal, half human and there is one statuette of a woman.

Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura represents a unique concentration of archaeological sites with some of the oldest figurative art and the oldest musical instruments yet to be found worldwide. Together with the artefacts and the surrounding landscape, they form an outstanding early cultural ensemble that helps to illuminate the origins of human artistic development. The long and highly productive tradition of research at these sites has had a significant influence on the understanding of the Upper Palaeolithic in Europe.

**Criterion (iii):** Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura provides an exceptional testimony to the culture of the first modern humans to settle in Europe. Exceptional aspects of this culture that have been preserved in these caves are examples of carved figurines, objects of personal adornment and musical instruments. The art objects are among the oldest yet to be found in the world and the musical instruments are the oldest that have been found to date worldwide.

**Integrity**

The property includes all six caves in the region that have had excavations of significant Aurignacian deposits, including the four caves containing figurative art objects and musical instruments and their landscape setting. All the elements necessary to express the values of the property are included in the property boundaries. The property includes sufficient

consideration of the setting of the caves in relation to the topography and vegetation of the Lone and Ach valleys, including the limestone cliffs, valley floors and adjacent uplands.

### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of the property is supported by the presence of stratified geological deposits in the caves that have served to protect the archaeological layers until their excavation and the surrounding landforms that contain the caves. Systematic archaeological research has been undertaken at these sites for more than a century and documentation is ongoing. The archaeological evidence gained from these excavations underpins the authenticity of the property. Several caves have unexcavated deposits, and there are other caves within the property that have not yet been investigated, providing the basis for future research.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Cultural Heritage Protection Act of Baden-Württemberg (1972) is the main legal enforcement to ensure the protection of the property. The property is administrated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Housing Baden-Württemberg (formerly Ministry of Finance and Economics) and other branches of state, regional and municipal governments. A dedicated manager has been appointed to oversee the property. A management plan and monitoring system is in place. Activities in the plan address the domains of coordination, credibility, conservation, capacity building, cooperation, communication and communities. The managers of the property should continue to ensure and maintain a balance between knowledge from excavation and conservation of the archaeological deposits. A documentation database should be developed to include data on the caves, the finds and all excavations that have taken place.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Ensuring and maintaining a balance between knowledge from excavation and conservation of the deposits in the property,
  - b) Improving the steep path leading up to Bockstein cave as it is difficult to access in wet weather. This area should be remediated to provide easier access,
  - c) Ensuring the protection and monitoring, and consider the future research potential of the backdirt from the early excavations at Sirgenstein, Hohlenstein Stadel and Bockstein caves (these might have a similar research potential as the recently re-excavated backdirt of Vogelherd cave),
  - d) Developing a documentation database that includes data on the sites, the finds and information for all excavations,
  - e) Not approving the Teichhau I + II wind power development. In addition, any new development projects near the property should be subjected to Heritage Impact Assessments and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the World Heritage Committee in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.25**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System, Poland**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System is located in the Silesian plateau of southern Poland, in one of Europe's classic metallogenic provinces. It is the largest, most significant and accessible complex of historic underground metal mines in Poland, preserved with sustained access by a community association for over sixty years. Further, it possesses a monumental underground water management system that reflects a 300-year development that is a masterpiece of hydraulic engineering.

The mining and water management system was constructed in flat and technically challenging terrain, a gently undulating plateau at an elevation between 270-300 m above sea level; the difference between the highest and lowest points amounts to less than 50 m. This is unusual in that most European metalliferous deposits are located in mountainous terrain, an occurrence that heavily influenced drainage techniques, in particular. The underground system at Tarnowskie Góry experienced up to three times the volume of water inflow compared to other major European metal mines at the time and eventually comprised a water catchment of over 50 km of main drainage tunnels and 150 km of secondary drainage adits, access tunnels, shafts and extraction areas. This surviving network is complemented by substantial remains of the principal water management infrastructure, both above and below ground, together with directly connected surface elements that comprise essential mining landscape features.

In terms of comparable properties, no water supply systems have been readily found in any global geographical and cultural context, that were planned, integrated and managed as part of a contemporary underground metal mining system, illustrating how, in a surviving and fully accessible mine context, modern steam-pumped water systems were developed using mining technology. It is the integrated and symbiotic relationship of mineral extraction, mine dewatering and water supply, creatively developed at an early period under the same ownership, which sets Tarnowskie Góry apart as being exceptional.

**Criterion (i):** Water Management System provides exceptional testimony to outstanding human technical creativity and application. It represents a masterpiece of mid-sixteenth to late-nineteenth century underground hydraulic engineering, its vast underground system representing the peak of European skills in such dewatering technology at a time when mining engineering provided the technical wherewithal for the development of the world's first large-scale public water supply systems based on the steam-powered pumping of groundwater.

**Criterion (ii):** Water Management System exhibits an exceptional interchange of technology, ideas and expertise in underground mining engineering and public water supply between leading mining and industrial centres in Saxony, Bohemia, Hungary, Britain and Poland. This led to the creation of a viable underground mine drainage network based on gravity free-flow, together with an integrated water pumping system that redistributed potable and industrial water to an entire region. This unique technical achievement, aided by the special natural attributes of the property, created a hotspot of industrial expertise that went on to influence industrial development elsewhere in Central and Western Europe. The system still functions in much the same way as originally designed, supplying drinking water to the inhabitants of Tarnowskie Góry; an operation devised over two hundred years ago but which would be considered sustainable if conceived today.

**Criterion (iv):** Water Management System is a unique and enduring technical ensemble of metal mining and water management, distinguished by a significant output of lead and zinc that sustained international metallurgical and architectural demands of the time, and a water

system that ultimately drained the mine by gravity and met the needs of the most industrialized and urbanized region in Poland, and amongst the largest in Europe.

### **Integrity**

The overall size of the property provides a complete representation of all the significant surviving attributes of the mine and its water management system, supporting historical and geographical-spatial integrity as well as structural and functional integrity. The majority of the site is underground, and the small number of discrete areas delineated at surface are directly linked to it in the third dimension.

### **Authenticity**

The cultural value of the property is reliably and credibly expressed through: form and design of mine and water management features, both below and above ground; materials and workmanship manifested by original and intact physical and structural remains; and use and function fully understood through exceptional archives held in Poland, together with a gravity drainage and water pumping facility that continues in operation today. The property's location, and setting, is still pervaded by highly authentic and characteristic mining features in the landscape.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The State Party has designated the property for which the preservation is in the public interest and which it protects through various forms of legal protection. The World Heritage Centre of The National Heritage Board of Poland cooperates directly with the Management Board of the stakeholder partnership that is responsible for the protection and management of the nominated site at the local level. A Conservation Management Plan is being developed that will further guide protection, conservation and presentation of the attributes that carry Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:
  - a) Finalising and implementing the legal protection at the national level of all the structures above ground within the boundaries of the property as well as those that, although in the buffer zone, are said to support the value of the property,
  - b) Setting up a multidisciplinary scientific committee as an advisory body to the Steering Committee, to assist in scientific and research programmes,
  - c) Confirming that the change of ownership of the pumping station at Adolph Shaft will not alter in the medium- to long-term the quality and regularity of the extraction of the water necessary to conserve the underground chambers,
  - d) Developing an archaeological investigation programme with a focus on the underground element of phase I, to the extent this is possible, and of phase II, with a particular focus on the mining landscape,
  - e) Considering the addition to the property of the historic water tower, immediately adjacent to Kaehler Shaft,
  - f) Considering the extension of area A5 to join area A4;
  
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Assumption Cathedral of the town-island of Sviyazhsk, Russian Federation**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

The Assumption Cathedral is located in the town–island of Sviyazhsk and is part of the homonymous monastery. Situated at the confluence of the Volga, the Sviyaga and the Shchuka Rivers, at the crossroads of the Silk and Volga routes, Sviyazhsk was founded by Ivan the Terrible in 1551 as the outpost from which to initiate the conquest of the Kazan Khanate. The Assumption Monastery was to function as both missionary and administrative centre for the conquered region. The Cathedral, with its extensive cycles of mural paintings, realised in a relatively short period of time, reflects the ambitious cultural and political programme of the Russian State in the recently conquered Islamic Kazan Khanate, and illustrates new trends in Christian Orthodox art in Russia and Europe.

The Assumption Monastery in its location, setting, layout and the architectural composition of its buildings contributes to illustrating its political, military and missionary role in the 16th century. The Cathedral is the most outstanding part of the Assumption Monastery Complex: its architecture reflects the prevailing Rus tradition of religious architecture from Moscow, Novgorod, Vladimir and Pskov, shaped upon Byzantine classical heritage as expressed by local craftsmanship and materials. The 18th century renovation of the building with baroque decoration illustrates new trends in art and architecture transposed from Western Europe by Peter the Great into the Russian empire as reference models. The architectural image of the cathedral with its 16th century cycle of wall paintings with scenes from the Old and New Testaments express Ivan IV's political and religious program to convey his royal power and the power of Orthodoxy to the Tatars, via a comprehensible/acceptable religious vocabulary based on the Old Testament and on the Virgin Mary. St. Nicholas Refectory Church with its bell tower, the Archimandrite building, the monastery school building, the Brethren's building, and the walls with the Ascension church above the gate supplement and enhance the values of the Assumption Cathedral, illustrating the religious and daily life of Orthodox monasteries in the past. The location and architectural bulk and configuration of the Assumption complex within the town–island of Sviyazhsk made it a prominent complex visible in the distance when approaching the town and express its role as a territorial and religious reference. The cultural layers and archaeological strata preserved in the grounds of the monastery complex and nearby contain 16th-19th century artefacts that are of great interest as a source of information on spiritual, social, artistic and scientific achievements. The Town-Island of Sviyazhsk in its current configuration represents a powerful setting that conveys the sense of an historic outpost settlement.

**Criterion (ii):** The Assumption Monastery with its Cathedral is real evidence of cardinal historical and geo-political interchanges in Eurasia at a time when the Rus State undertook its expansion eastwards. The architecture and Mariological cycle of wall-paintings of the Cathedral exceptionally reflect the interaction of the Christian-Orthodox and Muslim cultures and interchanges with Western Christian religious iconographical themes, e.g. the Creation or the Proto-evangelical and Evangelical cycles. The unique style of wall-painting and icons of the Assumption Cathedral iconostasis resulted from the fusion of artistic forces of large artistic centres of the Russian state, such as Novgorod, Pskov and Moscow, as well as of masters of the Volga region towns and artists working in the Rostov and Suzdal regions. The Iconostasis pictorial complex is part of the whole artistic system of the Cathedral.

**Criterion (iv):** The Assumption Monastery with the Cathedral illustrates in its location, layout and architectural composition the political and missionary programme developed by Tsar Ivan IV to extend the Moscow state from European lands to the post-Golden Horde Islamic states. The architecture of the Assumption Cathedral embodies the synthesis of traditional ancient Pskov architecture, a monumental Moscow art of building, and construction traditions of the Volga region. The Assumption Cathedral frescoes are among the rarest examples of Eastern Orthodox mural paintings. The iconographic program of the cathedral includes themes of the Creation and iconographic interpretations of traditional cycles of Proto-evangelic and Evangelic history, reflecting absolutely new trends for Russian religious art and expressing new theological concepts and Tsar Ivan IV's political programme.

### **Integrity**

All elements necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are contained within its boundaries. The Assumption Monastery complex with the Cathedral and the other stone buildings is contained within its historic perimeter and the whole complex depicts its historic political and religious functions. Overall, the property exhibits acceptable condition, following conservation, restoration and reconstruction interventions. However, there are some unresolved problems concerning structural instability and unstable indoor environmental parameters in the Cathedral, as well as soil erosion and instability, that are being studied and addressed. Tourism and tourism-related development pressures on the buffer zone and particularly on the town-island of Svyazhsk are being controlled, but need close monitoring from the relevant authorities.

### **Authenticity**

The location, setting, layout and composition of the Assumption Monastery complex and of its structures are key to understanding its role as a missionary post in a settlement that was strategic from a military and political perspective when it was founded. The architecture of the Assumption Cathedral reflects in its configuration and substance at least two significant stages of its development, dating back to its construction and decoration in the 16th century and its baroque rearrangement in the 18th century. The entire cycle of mural paintings in its interior are key sources of information that credibly attest to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The architecture and mural paintings of the refectory and of St. Nicholas Refectory Church complement the iconographic programme of the cathedral. With the exception of the Cathedral, which retains most of its historic fabric in architectural and artistic terms, the buildings within the monastic complex have undergone interventions of different degrees of restoration or reconstruction, which, however, do not prevent them from substantially contributing to illustrating the value of the property.

### **Protection and management requirements**

An array of federal and State legislation ensures that the property and its buffer zone are adequately protected. The whole territory of the buffer zone is legally protected and provided with legally established sub-zones and related regulations. Natural values of the area are also legally protected at the state and federal level and by a much larger UNESCO biosphere reserve designation (Great Volzhsko-Kamsky). To ensure effective protection, the legal provisions/restrictions are integrated into the relevant territorial and urban planning for the districts and the municipalities. All state and local authorities ensure implementation of land-use regulations and restrictions; an interdepartmental commission on town planning ensures compliance of any project proposal falling into the buffer zone with the objectives and requirements for the protection of the property.

An established Coordinating Committee is tasked with advice on decision-making and has a monitoring role on the implementation of the management plan. The effective management of the property derives from the coordination of the various legal and planning instruments and close collaboration among the different institutions; careful consideration of tourism pressures needs to be integrated into any development plan or programme.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Developing a complete diagnosis of the problems of the Cathedral and including considerations of the potential negative impact of certain conservation materials (e.g. grouting mortars) on the murals,
  - b) Establishing a permanent monitoring system to keep a continuous record of the structural behaviour and of the interaction of the frescoes with the indoor environmental parameters of the Cathedral,
  - c) Avoiding touristic over-exploitation of the property and of the town-island of Svyazhsk,
  - d) Avoiding reconstruction of 'traditional houses' on the island for tourism purposes and consider that any reconstruction in this part of the buffer zone should be limited as much as possible, based on a comprehensive plan defining in advance what is planned to be rebuilt and for what reasons, and on the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment,
  - e) Expanding the tourism strategy to encompass the wider territory of the buffer zone to spread tourism facilities and services outside of the Island, thus decreasing tourism pressure on the town-island,
  - f) Carrying out a carrying-capacity study for the Island with regard to tourism and the envisaged museum development strategy;
5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to: **Assumption Cathedral and Monastery of the town-island of Sviyazhsk.**

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.27**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Talayotic Minorca, Spain**, on the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
  - a) Clarify the definition of 'Talayotic' and its reference to a 'culture' or a 'period.' In addition to the focus on monuments and architecture, a wider range of archaeological evidence, including stone and metal tools, ceramic vessels and other equipment, as well as faunal data and paleoenvironmental indications should be brought into consideration,
  - b) Reformulate the nomination to consider either larger components with multiple archaeological sites and landscape elements or a series of the most representative Talayotic sites drawn from Minorca and Majorca. In either case, the time frame of the series should be restricted,
  - c) Undertake a refocused comparative analysis based on the revised arguments for Outstanding Universal Value. It should be structured to look first if necessary at an internal analysis that considers sites in Majorca, then at near Mediterranean islands as far as Malta, and finally at near Mediterranean coastlines, followed by eastern Mediterranean islands and coasts, the rest of Europe and other sites around the world. As well as an emphasis on architecture, it should include reference to other types of material culture such as pottery and metallurgy, and these should be used to place the Talayotic sites in a continent-wide context,

- d) Create a common management structure which will be responsible for coordination and effective implementation of the management system for the nominated property as a whole,
  - e) Create a Management Plan for the site, which would be distinct from the Island Historic Heritage Management Plan. The Management Plan should include a detailed Conservation Policy to guide conservation interventions, ongoing maintenance work and archaeological research. A section on visitor management should address visitor experience, controlling visitation at some components and the promotion of responsible tourism,
  - f) Establish a Landowners Forum or equivalent that would meet at least twice a year to provide feedback and information to landowners about the management of the site,
  - g) Create a regular reporting structure for the monitoring program in order to gather the results of the different monitoring activities on a periodic basis and assemble them into a common location;
3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.28**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes Aphrodisias, Turkey, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief Synthesis**

Aphrodisias is located in southwestern Turkey, in the fertile valley formed by the Morsynus River, in the ancient region of Caria. The history of the area comprising Aphrodisias dates back to the Late Chalcolithic Period. The city was founded in the 2nd century BC, during the period of intense urbanization in the Meander Valley, and then or later was laid out in a grid around the temple of the goddess Aphrodite. Because the city shared a close interest in the goddess Aphrodite with Sulla, Julius Caesar, and the emperor Augustus, Aphrodisias had a close relationship with Rome. It obtained a privileged 'tax-free' political status from the Roman senate, and subsequently developed a strong artistic, sculptural reputation. Aphrodisias remained under Roman rule during the Imperial Period and under Byzantine rule in the late antique and medieval periods.

The Cult of Aphrodite was the most important cult of Aphrodisias. The sanctuary at Aphrodisias had a distinctive cult statue of Aphrodite which defined the city's identity. The Aphrodite of Aphrodisias combined aspects of a local Anatolian, archaic fertility goddess with those of the Hellenic Aphrodite, goddess of love and beauty. It distributed this unique identifying image as a religious 'export' from Anatolia across the Mediterranean, from the city of Rome to the Levant. The importance of the Aphrodite of Aphrodisias continued well beyond official imperial acceptance of Christianity; the Temple did not become a church until c. 500 AD.

The proximity of the marble quarries to the city was a major reason that Aphrodisias became an outstanding high-quality production center for marble sculpture and developed sculptors



who were famous throughout the Roman Empire. The longevity of high-standard production of sculpture in Aphrodisias assures its role as a unique place in human cultural history and makes important contributions to our understanding of ancient monumental art in its local contexts of social interaction. At the same time, the techniques and the highly skilled use of marble, the quality of local artistic design, and the production of advanced portrait sculpture give Aphrodisias a unique place in modern scholarship.

A distinctive Greek-Roman political and cultural system is embodied and enacted in Aphrodisias's surviving urban fabric. This distinctive urban culture of Anatolia under Roman rule represents the urban system and planning characteristics of the Greek and Roman periods, with all public facilities and monuments specific to those eras. Because its archaeological preservation is better than that of any other sites in Caria, Aphrodisias provides modern scholars with a useful example of a typical Carian cult center, particularly in the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Embedded in this surviving settlement pattern is another unique aspect of Aphrodisias, its cosmopolitan social structure (Greek, Roman, Carian, pagan, Jewish, Christian) that is abundantly articulated in the site's 2000 surviving inscriptions. When all the above described characteristics of the site are considered together they reveal the significance of Aphrodisias in world history.

**Criterion (ii):** The exceptional production of sculpted marble at Aphrodisias blends local, Greek, and Roman traditions, themes, and iconography. It is visible throughout the city in an impressive variety of forms, from large decorated architectural blocks to over life-statues to small portable votive figures. The proximity of good quarries with both pure white and grey marbles was a strong catalyst and enabling factor for the swift development of the city as a noted centre for marble-carving and marble-carvers. The great ability of Aphrodisian sculptors was well noted in antiquity and sought after even in metropolitan Rome where signatures of Aphrodisian sculptures appear on some of the finest works from Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli. These sculptors were major players in the art market in the Empire between 1st and 5th century AD and thus have contributed to the development of the western sculptural tradition.

**Criterion (iii):** Aphrodisias occupies an important place in the study of urban culture in Asia Minor from the late Hellenistic period to Late Antiquity. Like many other cities in the region, Aphrodisias blends aspects of Greek tradition with a variety of received elements of the Roman Empire. Aphrodisias stands out because of its extraordinary state of preservation and extensive epigraphic documentation and because of its cultic and historical importance. It was a unique Carian centre for Aphrodite, a city with special privileges under the Empire, and a provincial capital in Late Antiquity. Moreover, its quarries and its sculpture workshops made it an important art centre, famous for its creativity and high-quality technical skill in marble carving. Aphrodisias has one of the very few known and systematically excavated sculpture workshops of the Roman Empire, which provides a fuller understanding of the production of marble sculpture than almost anywhere else in the Roman world.

**Criterion (iv):** Aphrodisias bears exceptional testimony to the built environment of a Greco-Roman city in inland Asia Minor. Several of its monumental buildings have unique features in terms of architecture and design, and many are outstanding simply in terms of their state of preservation and conservation. The Sebasteion, a remarkable cult complex for the worship of Augustus and the Julio-Claudian emperors, represents a distinctive integration of Hellenistic, Roman and Aphrodisian artistic traditions. The so-called Archive Wall in the theater is a famous example of a well-preserved collection of official imperial documents regarding the status of the city under the Empire. The Theater also features the earliest known scene building with an aediculated façade. The Stadium, which has a peculiar architectural form known as "amphitheatrical", is the best-preserved as well as one of the largest buildings of this stadium type in the whole ancient world. The conversion of the Temple of Aphrodite into a cathedral, around 500 AD, is unique among all known temple-to-church conversions in its

scale, engineering, and transformative effect. The entire original architectural structure of the Tetrapylon, the conspicuous entrance to the outer Sanctuary of Aphrodite, is preserved with its elaborate and exquisitely carved architectural ornament. The South Agora is exceptional in terms of size, shape, and lack of parallels in an ancient urban setting.

**Criterion (vi):** Aphrodisias was famous in antiquity as the cult center of a unique version of Aphrodite which amalgamates aspects of an archaic Anatolian fertility goddess with those of the Hellenic goddess of love and beauty. The Aphrodite of Aphrodisias appears in marble figures from the site of Aphrodisias itself as well as from many other locations around the Mediterranean. This dissemination of the cult image is strong evidence of the regional and supra-regional importance of the cult. The city was also famed as a place of philosophical activity under the high empire and in Late Antiquity. Alexander of Aphrodisias, the most celebrated of the ancient commentators on the works of Aristotle, is considered one of the most important thinkers of the Roman period. A school of Neoplatonic philosophy flourished at Aphrodisias under Asklepiodotos of Alexandria, who was based in the city in the 5th century AD.

### **Integrity**

Aphrodisias is of outstanding importance in terms of its unity and integrity. The property has visual integrity and a long, well-studied history from the Bronze Age to the Ottoman Period. The nominated property includes all elements necessary to express its values and does not suffer from significant geomorphological change or intensive human occupation since antiquity. Boundaries of the nominated area draw the limits of the remains at the largest extent which ensures fully representation of outstanding values. The property has been legally taken under control by the State, also many policies and actions have been proposed within the conservation and management plans in order to sustain the integrity of the site.

### **Authenticity**

Aphrodisias retains its authenticity in terms of form and design, materials and substance, location and setting. This claim is clearly proven by remarkably well-preserved monuments and sculptures, about 2000 surviving inscriptions, a comprehensively studied history, and a substantial body of published research. The work of conservation and restoration at Aphrodisias has been undertaken in conformity with the Charter of Venice, respecting their original design and building materials. The landscape dominating the environment of Aphrodisias has never been exposed either to development or to mass tourism and offers visitors the experience of feeling the ambiance of a Greco-Roman city in its historical context.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism with its central and local branches and the excavation team are the main responsible bodies for the conservation, protection, promotion and management of the site. The archaeological site is excavated, researched and conserved by the excavation team which is authorized by the government on a yearly base, and the work carried out is regularly monitored by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The site is registered on the National Inventory and is protected within the framework of the Act on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property No. 2863. A Conservation Plan for the Archaeological Site was prepared, and approved by the relevant Regional Conservation Council in 2002.

Aphrodisias Management Plan, which was prepared under the surveillance of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, was approved on 17 September 2013.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Updating the Management Plan to reflect the revised boundaries and protections for the property,

- b) Providing the legal protection for the entirety of the buffer zone,
  - c) Increasing efforts to integrate the local community into the management system for the property,
  - d) Formulating and implementing monitoring indicators for the quarry component,
  - e) Implementing the drainage rehabilitation plan within the walled city at a quicker pace,
  - f) Developing a fire response plan and providing training in fire suppression, as well as mobile water tanks in the summer as an interim measure until a permanent fire suppression system is installed,
  - g) Expanding the patrols by the agricultural guards to include the quarry component and the whole of the buffer zone,
  - h) Conducting a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces in order to provide a baseline record of their condition,
  - i) Implementing remedial conservation measures within the quarry component;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.29**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **Naumburg Cathedral and related sites in the Cultural Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut, Germany**, back to the State Party in order to allow it, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
  - a) Re-scope the nomination by focusing on the given Outstanding Universal Value of Naumburg Cathedral,
  - b) Adjust the boundaries of the nominated property and the management plan,
  - c) Review the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of Naumburg Cathedral for final adoption by the Committee within three years.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.30**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The English Lake District, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (ii), (v) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

## **Brief synthesis**

The English Lake District is a self-contained mountainous area in North West England of some 2,292 square kilometres. Its narrow, glaciated valleys radiating from the central massif with their steep hillsides and slender lakes exhibit an extraordinary beauty and harmony. This is the result of the Lake District's continuing distinctive agro-pastoral traditions based on local breeds of sheep including the Herdwick, on common fell-grazing and relatively independent farmers. These traditions have evolved under the influence of the physical constraints of its mountain setting. The stone-walled fields and rugged farm buildings in their spectacular natural backdrop, form an harmonious beauty that has attracted visitors from the 18th century onwards. Picturesque and Romantic interest stimulated globally-significant social and cultural forces to appreciate and protect scenic landscapes. Distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes were added to augment its picturesque beauty. The Romantic engagement with the English Lake District generated new ideas about the relationship between humanity and its environment, including the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty and the validity of emotional response by people to their landscapes. A third key development was the idea that landscape has a value, and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it. These ideas underpin the global movement of protected areas and the development of recreational experience within them. The development in the English Lake District of the idea of the universal value of scenic landscape, both in itself and in its capacity to nurture and uplift imagination, creativity and spirit, along with threats to the area, led directly to the development of a conservation movement and the establishment of the National Trust movement, which spread to many countries, and contributed to the formation of the modern concept of legally-protected landscapes.

**Criterion (ii):** The harmonious beauty of the English Lake District is rooted in the vital interaction between an agro-pastoral land use system and the spectacular natural landscape of mountains, valleys and lakes of glacial origins. In the 18th century, the quality of the landscape was recognised and celebrated by the Picturesque Movement, based on ideas related to both Italian and Northern European styles of landscape painting. These ideas were applied to the English Lake District in the form of villas and designed features intended to further augment its beauty. The Picturesque values of landscape appreciation were subsequently transformed by Romantic engagement with the English Lake District into a deeper and more balanced appreciation of the significance of landscape, local society and place. This inspired the development of a number of powerful ideas and values including a new relationship between humans and landscape based on emotional engagement; the value of the landscape for inspiring and restoring the human spirit; and the universal value of scenic and cultural landscapes, which transcends traditional property rights. In the English Lake District these values led directly to practical conservation initiatives to protect its scenic and cultural qualities and to the development of recreational activities to experience the landscape, all of which continue today. These values and initiatives, including the concept of protected areas, have been widely adopted and have had global impact as an important stimulus for landscape conservation and enjoyment. Landscape architects in North America were similarly influenced, directly or indirectly, by British practice, including Frederick Law Olmsted, one of the most influential American landscape architects of the 19th century.

**Criterion (v):** Land use in the English Lake District derives from a long history of agro-pastoralism. This landscape is an unrivalled example of a northern European upland agro-pastoral system based on the rearing of cattle and native breeds of sheep, shaped and adapted for over 1,000 years to its spectacular mountain environment. This land use continues today in the face of social, economic and environmental pressures. From the late 18th century and throughout the 19th century, a new land use developed in parts of the Lake District, designed to augment its beauty through the addition of villas and designed landscapes. Conservation land management in the Lake District developed directly from the early conservation initiatives of the 18th and 19th centuries. The primary aims in the Lake

District have traditionally been, and continue to be, to maintain the scenic and harmonious beauty of the cultural landscape; to support and maintain traditional agro-pastoral farming; and to provide access and opportunities for people to enjoy the special qualities of the area, and have developed in recent times to include enhancement and resilience of the natural environment. Together these surviving attributes of land use form a distinctive cultural landscape which is outstanding in its harmonious beauty, quality, integrity and on-going utility and its demonstration of human interaction with the environment. The English Lake District and its current land use and management exemplify the practical application of the powerful ideas about the value of landscape which originated here and which directly stimulated a landscape conservation movement of global importance.

**Criterion (vi):** A number of ideas of universal significance are directly and tangibly associated with the English Lake District. These are the recognition of harmonious landscape beauty through the Picturesque Movement; a new relationship between people and landscape built around an emotional response to it, derived initially from Romantic engagement; the idea that landscape has a value and that everyone has a right to appreciate and enjoy it; and the need to protect and manage landscape, which led to the development of the National Trust movement, which spread across many countries with a similar rights system. All these ideas that have derived from the interaction between people and landscape are manifest in the English Lake District today and many of them have left their physical mark, contributing to the harmonious beauty of a natural landscape modified by: a persisting agro-pastoral system (and supported in many cases by conservation initiatives); villas and Picturesque and later landscape improvements; the extent of, and quality of land management within, the National Trust property; the absence of railways and other modern industrial developments as a result of the success of the conservation movement.

### **Integrity**

The English Lake District World Heritage property is a single, discrete, mountainous area. All the radiating valleys of the English Lake District are contained within it. The property is of sufficient size to contain all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the processes that make this a unique and globally-significant property. The boundary of the property is the Lake District National Park boundary as designated in 1951 and is established on the basis of both topographic features and local government boundaries. The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are in generally good condition. Risks affecting the site include the impact of long-term climate change, economic pressures on the system of traditional agro-pastoral farming, changing schemes for subsidies, and development pressures from tourism. These risks are managed through established systems of land management overseen by members of the Lake District National Park Partnership and through a comprehensive system of development management administered by the National Park Authority.

### **Authenticity**

As an evolving cultural landscape, the English Lake District conveys its Outstanding Universal Value not only through individual attributes but also in the pattern of their distribution amongst the 13 constituent valleys and their combination to produce an overarching pattern and system of land use. The key attributes relate to a unique natural landscape which has been shaped by a distinctive and persistent system of agro-pastoral agriculture and local industries, with the later overlay of distinguished villas, gardens and formal landscapes influenced by the Picturesque Movement; the resulting harmonious beauty of the landscape; the stimulus of the Lake District for artistic creativity and globally influential ideas about landscape; the early origins and ongoing influence of the tourism industry and outdoor movement; and the physical legacy of the conservation movement that developed to protect the Lake District.

## Protection and management requirements

As a National Park, designated under the 'National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949' and subsequent legislation, the English Lake District has the highest level of landscape protection afforded under United Kingdom law. Over 20 per cent of the site is owned and managed by the National Trust, which also has influence over a further two per cent of the site through legal covenants. The National Park Authority owns around four per cent of the site, and other members of the Lake District National Park Partnership, including the Forestry Commission and United Utilities Ltd, own a further 16 per cent. A substantial number of individual cultural and natural sites within the English Lake District are designated and have legal protection. The Lake District National Park Partnership has adopted the bid for World Heritage nomination. This provides long-term assurance of management through a World Heritage Forum (formally a sub-group of the Partnership). The National Park Authority has created a post of World Heritage Coordinator and will manage and monitor implementation of the Management Plan on behalf of the Partnership. The Management Plan will be reviewed every five years. A communications plan has been developed in order to inform residents and visitors of the World Heritage bid and this will be developed and extended.

The Management Plan seeks to address the long-term challenges faced by the property including threats faced by climate change, development pressures, changing agricultural practices and diseases, and tourism.

4. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:
  - a) Providing assurances that quarrying activities within the property will be progressively downsized and extraction volumes limited to what is needed for carrying out conservation of the assets supporting the attributes of the property,
  - b) Formally committing to avoiding any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value and related attributes of the property from the NWCC energy transportation facility being currently planned; and informing the World Heritage Centre about the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment, and how these will be integrated into planning consent and in the development consent order (DCO),
  - c) Informing about the timeframe of the integration of World Heritage consideration into the local plans and policies,
  - d) Developing proactive strategies, including alternative national farm-supporting policies, with the farming community, to address the issues that threaten the viability of the shepherding tradition that maintains many of the landscape's significant attributes; recognising and financially compensating farmers for their heritage services in caring for the cultural landscape, as well as values such as genetic diversity of herds and food security,
  - e) Rebalancing programs and funding dedicated to improving natural resources with the need to conserve the valuable cultural landscape that the Lake District is by acting on its key attributes and factors,
  - f) Strengthening risk preparedness strategies for floods and other disasters that incorporate local knowledge on how to cope with recurrent disastrous natural events,
  - g) Developing convincing programs to prevent depopulation, including:
    - (i) develop affordable housing for new households and for local retirees,
    - (ii) ensure that communities have a mix of commercial outlets that serve the local community,
    - (iii) further develop and market local products that benefit residents and local farmers,

- h) Developing an interpretation strategy at the landscape level which communicates the different strands of the Outstanding Universal Value by using the documents put together for the nomination dossier,
  - i) Ensuring that careful attention is paid to conservation of landscape-defining features such as land-use patterns, structures such as shelters, dry stone walls, hedgerows, and also to vernacular architecture and Victorian buildings, not only in designated Conservation Areas, but in the whole property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS by **1 December 2018** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.31**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having \_\_\_\_\_ examined \_\_\_\_\_ Documents \_\_\_\_\_ WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.32** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) which “Requests the State Party to submit, by 1 February 2014, a request for a major boundary modification for the property to allow Gelati Monastery to justify the criterion on its own”;
3. Approves the significant boundary modification of **Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, Georgia** to exclude Bagrati Cathedral, to become **Gelati Monastery, Georgia**;
4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

**Brief synthesis**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Integrity**

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

Some development pressures exist, in the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property but the level of threats is low and the processes are currently under control.

### **Authenticity**

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

The Academy building which was roofless in 1994 at the time of inscription was re-roofed with reversible material in 2009. The extensive buffer zone allows a full appreciation of the harmony between the enclosed monastery and its natural setting.

### **Protection and management requirements**

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

Conservation work is guided by the Conservation Master Plan, produced by the Ministry of Culture, Monuments Protection and Sports of Georgia in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Georgia. This plan covers conservation of the built structures as well as proposals



to support the revival of monastic life that started in the 1990s and the needs of visitors. Adequate resources for long-term conservation programmes need to be sustained. A system of documentation for all conservation and restoration work and tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring of the overall stability of the various monastic buildings need to be put in place.

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

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

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Ensuring adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings,
  - b) Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work,
  - c) Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;
  - d) Approving and implementing the management structure for the property with clear responsibilities for the various agencies and organisations involved in its management,
  - e) Setting up a Coordinating Committee for the property with representation from key stakeholders,
  - f) Putting in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes,
  - g) Registering as soon as possible the land rights in order to avoid land disputes,
  - h) Submitting full details of proposals for covering excavated cellar areas next to the Academy, outlining the new visitor access arrangements and location of new domestic quarters for monks, including the archaeological profile of the chosen area, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
  - i) Augmenting the monitoring indicators to reflect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2019** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

## **Decision: 41 COM 8B.32**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Approves the extension of **Strasbourg – Grande île** to include the *Neustadt* and thus become **Strasbourg, Grande-île and Neustadt, France**, on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

### **Brief synthesis**

The Grande-île and the *Neustadt* form an urban ensemble that is characteristic of Rhineland Europe, with a structure that centres on the cathedral, a major masterpiece of Gothic art. Its distinctive silhouette dominates the ancient riverbed of the Rhine and its man-made waterways. Perspectives created around the cathedral give rise to a unified urban space and shape a distinctive landscape organized around the rivers and canals.

The French and Germanic influences have enabled the composition of a specific urban space combining constructions reflecting major significant periods of European history: Roman Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Rhineland Renaissance, French 18th century classicism, and then the 19th and early 20th centuries which saw the emergence of a modern city, the capital and symbol of the new German state.

**Criterion (ii):** French and Germanic influences have shaped the Grande-île and *Neustadt*. They have enabled the emergence of a unique expression coming from the two cultures, which is especially conveyed in the fields of architecture and urbanism. The cathedral, influenced by the Romanesque art of the East and the Gothic art of the kingdom of France, is also inspired by Prague, particularly for the construction of the spire. It is a model that acted as a vector of Gothic art to the east. The *Neustadt*, a modern city forged by Haussmannian influences, and a model of urbanism, also embodies the theories of Camillo Sitte.

**Criterion (iv):** The Grande-île and the *Neustadt* in Strasbourg constitute a characteristic example of a European Rhineland city. Integrated into a Medieval urban fabric in a way which respects the ancient original fabric, the Renaissance-style private residences built between the 15th century and the late 17th century form a unique ensemble of domestic Rhineland architecture, which is indissociable from the outstanding Gothic cathedral. In the 18th century, French classical architecture became dominant, as exemplified by the Palais Rohan, built by the king's architect, Robert de Cotte. From 1871 onwards, the face of the town was profoundly modified by the construction of an ambitious urbanistic project, leading to the emergence of a modern, functional city, emblematic of the technical advances and hygienistic policies that were emerging at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. The private and public buildings of the urban ensemble bear witness to political, social and cultural change, with the town's status changing from a free city of the Holy Roman Empire to a free city of the Kingdom of France, before it became a regional capital.

### **Integrity**

The distinctive landscape of Strasbourg, dominated by the silhouette of the cathedral, has been preserved up to the present day. The cathedral is well preserved and integrated in an intact Medieval parcel system. It continues to dominate the urban landscape just as it did when it was first built. Down the centuries, the renewal of the built structure in Grande-île has respected the early land parcel system, while inserting public and private buildings that represent a synthesis of French and Germanic influences, bearing witness to the evolution of architecture from the 15th century to the present day.

The siege in 1870 and the bombardments of 1944 gave rise to occasional reconstructions, which were however carried out while respecting the urban fabric and existing volumes. Only the Grande Percée, linking the new station to the Port d'Austerlitz in the first half of the 20th century, involved a deliberate restructuring of the urban fabric. The modernisation and sanitation of the historic centre were carried out in a spirit of continuity and respect for the urban qualities of the site. The *Neustadt* was designed in a spirit of functional complementarity and landscape continuity with the historic centre. The property as a whole has preserved all the attributes of the various chronological stages that contribute to its Outstanding Universal Value.

### **Authenticity**

The urban ensemble of the Grande-Île and the *Neustadt* has been well preserved, in a material condition that is close to its original state, and its urban landscape has largely conserved its characteristics. The facades of the Place du Château have retained their original appearance, and the Place de la République and the imperial axis their monumental character. The major public buildings of the *Neustadt* have retained their original size, their physical quality and their materials.

The great majority of the modern buildings have been introduced while respecting the ancient urban fabric. Close to the Vauban dam, the 20th century structures, such as the Conseil Général building and the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum, have little impact on the urban landscape. Meanwhile, the recent urban development projects inside the boundaries of the property have enabled its preservation and valorisation, while facilitating its adaptation to new use values. The uses of the buildings in the property have been well conserved, particularly as regards amenities, shops and housing. In the *Neustadt*, the restructuring and rehabilitation work on major amenities (National and university library, Palais de Justice, and Palais des Fêtes) comply with current building standards, while respecting the heritage value of the edifices. The urbanism documents, established with remarkable continuity since the 19th century, have facilitated the conservation of the buildings inside the property's boundaries, and led to outstanding continuity in the urban landscape.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The cathedral has been protected by historic monument status since 1862, and its upkeep is covered by an agreement between the French state and the Fondation de l'Œuvre Notre-Dame. In the property area, 170 other edifices or parts of edifices are protected by historic monument status, and thus benefit from the control of the French state's heritage services.

The safeguarded sector created in 1974 has been undergoing a revision-extension procedure since 2011. It now covers the whole of the extended property, and is focused on the preservation of the built structure, the urban landscape, and the landscape quality of the river and riverbanks. The protection of the property is largely dependent on the safeguarding and valorisation plan for the safeguarded sector.

The property has a management system whose main partners are the State, the City of Strasbourg and the Eurometropolis. This system, whose funding is shared, is based on French legislation, and particularly the Heritage, Urbanism and Environment Codes.

The management plan for the Grande-Île approved by the Municipal Council in 2013 covers all aspects of urban management: knowledge, conservation, valorisation and transmission. The local housing plan is intended to maintain social diversity and limit the vacancy rate of non-occupied housing inside the property. The urban transport plan enables to reduce the importance accorded to cars, by encouraging pedestrians and cyclists. Since 1989, the introduction of a tramway network has been carried out in conjunction with the restructuring of public space and the introduction of pedestrian streets. The terraces charter, the regulations on occupation of public areas, and the local advertising regulations, reflect efforts to achieve harmonious use of public space.

Finally, in accordance with the action plan for Grande-Île and the *Neustadt*, various actions have been started up to improve the appropriation of the Outstanding Universal Value by everyone, by developing mediation tools, particularly as part of the “Ville d’art et d’histoire” label scheme, and by improving accessibility for everyone.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Continue the actions put in place to reinforce the training of the municipal construction police service to ensure better control of interior alterations in all restoration projects,
  - b) Finalise the revision of the safeguarding and enhancement plan (PSMV),
  - c) Finalise the setting up of a distant perspective zone,
  - d) Set up as soon as possible the fire risk protection plan for the blocks of the historic centre,
  - e) Set up the Committee of Experts as announced.

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.33**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Approves the extension of the **Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau**, to include the Houses with Balcony Access in Dessau and the ADGB Trade Union School in Bernau and to become the **Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau, Germany**, on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

#### **Brief synthesis**

Between 1919 and 1933, the Bauhaus School, based first in Weimar and then in Dessau, revolutionized architectural and aesthetic concepts and practices. The buildings created and decorated by the School’s professors (Henry van de Velde, Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Wassily Kandinsky) launched the Modern Movement, which shaped much of the architecture of the 20th century and beyond. Component parts of the property are the Former Art School, the Applied Art School and the Haus am Horn in Weimar, the Bauhaus Building, the group of seven Masters’ Houses and the Houses with Balcony Access in Dessau, and the ADGB Trade Union School in Bernau. The Bauhaus represents the desire to develop a modern architecture using the new materials of the time (reinforced concrete, glass, steel) and construction methods (skeleton construction, glass facades). Based on the principle of function, the form of the buildings rejects the traditional, historical symbols of representation. In a severely abstract process, the architectural forms – both the subdivided building structure and the individual structural elements – are reduced to their primary, basic forms; they derive their expression, characteristic of Modernist architecture, from a composition of interconnecting cubes in suggestive spatial transparency.

The Bauhaus was a centre for new ideas and consequently attracted progressive architects and artists. The Bauhaus School has become the symbol of modern architecture, both for its educational theory and its buildings, throughout the world, and is inseparable from the name of Walter Gropius. Hannes Meyer, his successor as director of the Bauhaus, realized the idea of collective work on a building project within the framework of training in the

Bauhaus's building department. These buildings stand for an architectural quality that derives from the scientifically-based design methodology and the functional-economic design with social objectives. The Bauhaus itself and the other buildings designed by the masters of the Bauhaus are fundamental representatives of Classical Modernism and as such are essential components, which represent the 20th century. Their consistent artistic grandeur is a reminder of the still-uncompleted project for "modernity with a human face", which sought to use the technical and intellectual resources at its disposal not in a destructive way but to create a living environment worthy of human aspirations.

For this reason, they are important monuments not only for art and culture, but also for the historic ideas of the 20th century. Even though the Bauhaus philosophy of social reform turned out to be little more than wishful thinking, its utopian ideal became reality through the form of its architecture. Its direct accessibility still has the power to fascinate and belongs to the people of all nations as their cultural heritage.

**Criterion (ii):** The Bauhaus buildings in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau are central works of European modern art, embodying an avant-garde conception directed towards a radical renewal of architecture and design in a unique and widely influential way. They testify to the cultural blossoming of Modernism, which began here, and has had an effect worldwide.

**Criterion (iv):** The Bauhaus itself and the other buildings designed by the masters of the Bauhaus are fundamental representatives of Classical Modernism and as such are essential components which represent the 20th century. The Houses with Balcony Access in Dessau and the ADGB Trade Union School are unique products of the Bauhaus's goal of unity of practice and teaching.

**Criterion (vi):** The Bauhaus architectural school was the foundation of the Modern Movement which was to revolutionize artistic and architectural thinking and practice in the 20th century.

### **Integrity**

The Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau includes all elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, reflecting the development of Modernism, which was to have worldwide influence in the visual arts, applied art, architecture, and urban planning. The seven component parts are of adequate size to ensure protection of the features and processes which convey the significance of the property.

### **Authenticity**

Although the three buildings in Weimar have undergone several alterations and partial reconstructions, their authenticity is attested (apart from the reconstructed murals in the two Schools). Similarly, despite the level of reconstruction, the Bauhaus Building in Dessau preserves its original appearance and atmosphere, largely thanks to the major restoration work carried out in 1976. As for the Masters' Houses, the restoration work carried out was based on thorough research and may be considered as meeting the conditions of authenticity. The Houses with Balcony Access and the ADGB Trade Union School largely preserve their original state in terms of form, design, material and substance and thereby provide authentic evidence of the sole architectural legacies of the Bauhaus building department.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The two former Art Schools, the Applied Art School and the Haus am Horn in Weimar are protected by listing in the Register of Historical Monuments of the Free State of Thuringia as unique historical monuments under the provisions of the Thuringian Protection of Historic Monuments Act of 7 January 1992. The Bauhaus, the Masters' Houses and the Houses with Balcony Access are listed in the equivalent Register of the State of Saxony-Anhalt (Protection of Historical Monuments Act of 21 October 1991). The ADGB Trade Union

School is registered on the monuments list of the Federal State of Brandenburg and is therefore protected by its law for the protection and conservation of historical monuments of 22 July 1991. The Bauhaus Building and the Masters' Houses are used by the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, a public foundation. In Weimar, Dessau and Bernau the status of registered historic monuments guarantees that the requirements for monument protection will be taken into account in any regional development plans. There is also a buffer zone, reflecting a monument zone, for the protection of the World Heritage property.

Overall responsibility for protection of the Weimar monuments is with the State Chancellery of the Free State of Thuringia, for those in Dessau with the Ministry of Culture of the State of Saxony-Anhalt, and in Bernau with the Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg, in all cases operating through their respective State Offices for the Preservation of Historical Monuments.

Direct management is assigned to the appropriate State and municipal authorities, operating under their respective protection regulations. In Dessau, the site of the Bauhaus itself and the Masters' Houses are managed by the Foundation Bauhaus Dessau (Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau). The respective monument protection acts of the Federal States ensure the conservation and maintenance of the objects and clarify areas and means of action. The largely identical aims, regulations and principles of these acts establish a uniform legislative basis for the management of the components at the different sites. A steering group with representatives of the owners and the authorities involved acts as a communication platform and coordinates overarching activities concerning compliance with the *World Heritage Convention* or the research into and the presentation of World Heritage.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Considering the restoration of the glazing of the staircases on four of the Houses with Balcony Access,
  - b) Giving special attention to the ADGB Trade Union School's surrounding landscape,
  - c) Detailing the monitoring indicators.

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.34**

The nomination of the **Luther Memorials in Eisleben and Wittenberg, Germany** has been withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

#### **C.5. LATIN AMERICA - CARIBBEAN**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.35**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site, Brazil**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

## **Brief synthesis**

Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site is situated on Jornal do Comércio Square in the dock area of Rio de Janeiro city. The wharf started being built in 1811 to facilitate the debarkation of enslaved Africans arriving in Brazil. It is estimated that up to 900,000 African captives entered the Americas via Valongo.

In physical terms the property consists of several archaeological layers. The lowest of these with floor pavings in pé de moleque style represents the remains of the Valongo Wharf. Later, more dominant layers relate to the Empress' Wharf, constructed in 1843. The property's characteristic is that it is a beach that was covered with extensive paving made of hewn stones of different sizes, forms and functions, with a ramp and steps leading down to the sea. It was built in an apparently simple process, not on a landfill, as was customary, but directly on the sand of the beach, following its natural contours.

Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site is the globally most significant remains of a landing point of enslaved Africans in the Americas and therefore carries enormous historical as well as spiritual importance to African Americans. Valongo Wharf can therefore be seen as unique and exceptional both from a material point of view and with regard to the spiritual associations to which it is tangibly related.

**Criterion (vi):** Valongo Wharf is the most important physical evidence associated with the historic arrival of enslaved Africans on the American continent. It is a site of conscience, which illustrates strong and tangible associations to one of the most terrible crimes of humanity, the enslavement of hundreds of thousands of people creating the largest forced migration movement in history. As the very location the African stepped onto American soil and with it into their new lives as enslaved labour, the site evokes painful memories, which many African Brazilians can strongly relate to. Preserving these memories, the vicinity of Valongo Wharf has become an arena for various manifestations celebrating African heritage on an ongoing basis.

## **Integrity**

The modest fragments of Valongo Wharf, which were left exposed to the public after their excavation in 2011, encompass the complete remains of the original stone disembarkation wharf. The wharf's function was originally related to auxiliary structures, such as warehouses, quarantine facilities, the lazaretto and the New African cemetery. These are either lost or preserved only as underground remains in the buffer zone and are legally protected.

As the debarkation point after long and painful journeys across the Atlantic Ocean, Valongo Wharf and the sea were closely related. Therefore, integrity is presently reduced by the disconnection between the archaeological site and the seafront which is removed as result of land reclamations in the dock area. To ensure legibility of the property, it is essential to undertake measures, which assist in reconnecting the sea to the archaeological site.

The intensification of real estate development on all sides of the property and, in particular, towards the sea front is of concern as it will continue to significantly transform the landscape and could have negative impacts on the perception of the property. As future excavations may uncover further auxiliary functions of the wharf, it is essential that detailed archaeological investigations are conducted before any project is undertaken. While the Special Urban Interest Area of Rio's Porto Region, which lies at a distance of about 50 metres to the site, is not included in the buffer zone, it will be necessary to ensure that developments will not negatively impact of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

## **Authenticity**

Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site preserves the remains of Rio de Janeiro's slave disembarkation wharf in the 19th century. Its earthen cover for the past 168 years has enabled this sensitive site to be preserved with the design of the former disembarkation

slipway, drainage system and paving. No reconstruction was undertaken which retains the archaeological remains as an exact fragmented reflection of the early 19th century. These remains are authentic in terms of their material, location, workmanship, substance and, as much as can be perceived, design.

In addition, the modest physical remains are highly authentic in spirit and feeling evoking a memory reference and identity marker for the large Brazilian population of African origin and African Americans at large. This aspect is underlined by creation of religious rituals, such as the Washing of the Wharf, during the merely five years period that the site has been rediscovered.

### **Protection and management requirements**

The Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site is protected by federal Law number 3924, of 26 July 1961 through its official registration on 25 April 2012. The stipulations of this protection are enforced by the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (IPHAN) as the responsible body for its conservation and management.

The property is cherished by the African-Brazilian society, with communities committed on a daily basis to the site's care and preservation. This is not only expressed in the religious value the site has been attributed but also the associated rituals established. The physical proximity of these actors, and even the fact that a church of the African cult (Iglesia Universal) will be next to the site to organize regular meetings, creates a strong feeling of community guardianship of the property.

The conservation of the site is supervised by IPHAN and supported by the Companhia de Desenvolvimento do Porto of Rio de Janeiro (CDURP). A conservation plan has been adopted to guide these processes. Regular monitoring and maintenance is needed to ensure protection of the site against erosion and the functionality of the rainwater drainage system via pumps. The conservation and management of the site will be overseen by a council instituted by IPHAN and involving civil society and federal, state and municipal institutions committed to the preservation of cultural heritage and/or linked to questions of interest to the population of African origin.

The site management plan requires to be finalized and an adequately resourced site management body needs to be created. Further minimalistic interpretation on site will allow visitors who may not visit the museum to gain a general understanding of the site's multi-layered character. Special attention should be given to evaluating further urban developments in terms of their potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property before any construction approvals are granted as well as measures which aim at re-establishing the relationship between the property and Guanabara Bay.

4. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to the following:
  - a) Swiftly finalizing the strategic management plan, formally adopt it and establish the management unit on site,
  - b) Strengthening through landscaping measures the relation between the seafront and Valongo Wharf, despite the fact that the warehouse at Pier Mauá obstructs a direct sea view,
  - c) Undertaking detailed Heritage Impact Assessments before any formal construction approvals are granted in the vicinity of the property, including areas outside the buffer zone, which have a potential to negatively impact the property, especially in the Special Urban Interest Area of Rio's Porto Region,
  - d) Giving further attention to the monitoring of the physical archaeological remains and seeking alternative solutions to address the challenge of rain water collection in the archaeological area,



- e) Developing a holistic interpretation concept to communicate the multi-layered character of the property, including to visitors who may not opt to visit the nearby museum.

### III. EXAMINATION OF MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

#### A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

##### A.1. ASIA - PACIFIC

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.36**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7A.13** and **39 COM 7B.11** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions respectively,
3. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, India**, to allow the State Party, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre if requested, to complete and submit a revised proposal for extending the boundaries of the property, taking into account the evaluation of IUCN, and to consider the options of either:
  - a) Revising and resubmitting the minor boundary modification, to only include the parts of Manas National Park that meet integrity requirements in the property, and to accord the status of buffer zone to the encroached areas that lie within the National Park, or
  - b) Submitting a revised proposal as a new nomination, allowing the full IUCN evaluation process, and if this option is pursued, consider the inclusion in the property of the extended areas which were added to the National Park in 2016;
4. Requests the State Party, in any revised proposal, to not include any established cropland or permanently encroached areas within the nominated property, and to include in its submitted information, full details regarding the relationships in place with relevant stakeholders and/or rights-holders related to the cropland areas within Manas National Park.

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.37**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 8B.9** and **36 COM 8B.10** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), sessions respectively,

3. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Western Ghats, India**;
4. Invites the State Party to submit the proposal as a new nomination for a significant boundary modification, in order to enable an appropriate evaluation, in line with the procedures outlined in the *Operational Guidelines*.

## **B. MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **B.1. ASIA – PACIFIC**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.38**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add, WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Taking note that the proposal is appropriate in relation to natural criteria, and enhances the overall integrity, protection and management of the property,
3. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Mount Wuyi, China**;
4. Requests the State Party with the support of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre to:
  - a) Undertake further study to address the concerns in relation to cultural values of the property,
  - b) Provide in detail the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone and a topographical map in relation to the surrounding villages and the Wuyi Mountain National Reserve (Jiangxi Province) by **1 February 2018**.

## **C. CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **C.1. ARAB STATES**

#### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and the proposed buffer zone of the **Ancient City of Bosra, Syrian Arab Republic**;
3. Pending the improvement in the situation of conflict that has affected this property, recommends that the State Party take the following actions to further support its protection and management:

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

## C.2. EUROPE - NORTH AMERICA

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.40**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site, Canada**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Confirm clearly that there are no more archaeological sites in excavation or in potential excavation in the parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,
  - b) Clarify the future utilization of the Beak Point parcel,
  - c) Submit photographs of the concerned five parcels,
  - d) Provide further information on the installation of a communications tower for local fisherman and mariners for Parcel 5,
  - e) Clarify whether other modifications of a similar nature are being considered.

### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.41**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Old City of Dubrovnik, Croatia**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
  - a) Explain in detail the methodological framework and rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, also through cartographic, graphic and photographic documentation, in particular with regard to the protection of the relevant visual links of the inscribed property with the surrounding setting,

- b) Clarify how and by when the Management Plan will be finalised and amended so as to include the necessary regulatory and management measures to allow the buffer zone to effectively act as an added layer of protection for the inscribed property,
- c) Limit the passage and mooring of boats, ships and yachts (except the passage of small boats transporting the visitors to the Lokrum Island) in the coastal area between the old city and Lokrum Island.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.42**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Jewish Quarter and St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč, Czech Republic**, back to the State Party in order to provide additional justification for the proposed change of boundary for component 001 – The Jewish Quarter. This should include additional justification for the choice of an historical (1822) boundary as the basis for the component boundary in the context of the history of property and its significant period up to World War II, as well as a clarification for discrepancies between the 1822 boundary and the proposed boundary;
3. Recommends that the State Party ensure integrated management for the property, including the former monastery.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.43**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and to the buffer zone of the **Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Continue consultations with the municipalities affected by the minor modification of the property boundaries in line with the Management Plan approved in 2012,
  - b) Finalise the national protection of the sites for the upper part of the Éperon de Marnay,
  - c) Provide the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS with updated maps of the Loire Valley property as presented in the 2012 Management Plan.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.44**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed buffer zone for **Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, Georgia**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Elaborating the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan through specific provisions to address the management of different areas,
  - b) Reviewing the range of protective instruments and mechanisms to ensure integrated and comprehensive protection;
4. Also recommends, if a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission is organised, it also assesses the effectiveness of management of the modified buffer zone;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2018**, as part of the requested report on the state of conservation of the property (Decision **41 COM 7B.44**), a progress report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.45**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of **Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
  - a) Finalising the draft management plan of the property and submitting it to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre once it is adopted,
  - b) Considering the creation of a buffer zone.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.46**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Does not approve the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Defence Line of Amsterdam, Netherlands**;
3. Recommends that the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if requested, to take the following actions to further support the protection and management of the property:
  - a) Consider the implementation of a buffer zone for the World Heritage property in order to improve the protection of the property and its visual integrity, particularly for sections near industrial and residential development areas (and in particular, the Geniedijk area near the Schiphol Airport),

- b) Continuing to strengthen the legal protection and monitoring for the remaining areas inside the inscribed property,
- c) Ensuring that the protection of the World Heritage property is effectively incorporated into all existing and future zoning plans,
- d) Continuing to support communication and capacity building initiatives for local and provincial governments and stakeholders,
- e) Ensuring the use of 'Heritage Impact Assessment' processes for all zoning and development proposals inside and adjacent to the Defence Line of Amsterdam (particularly in relation to proposals for expansions to the Schiphol Airport and its associated facilities and surrounds),
- f) Ensuring that all major projects that could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are communicated to the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
- g) Providing updated mapping for the Fort Kijkuit component (no. 042), and an updated figure for the overall area (in hectares) of the inscribed World Heritage property,
- h) Continuing to work cooperatively with a broad range of public and private owners and stakeholders to ensure the conservation (including possibilities for adaptive reuse) of the fort structures and their settings.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.47**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries and to the buffer zone of **Vegaøyen – The Vega Archipelago, Norway**.

**Decision: 41 COM 8B.48**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Historic Areas of Istanbul, Turkey**;
3. Recommends the State Party to consider simplifying the names of the four component parts of the property.

#### **IV. STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF SIX PROPERTIES INSCRIBED AT THE 40TH SESSION (ISTANBUL/UNESCO, 2016) AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.49**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
2. Adopts the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016):
  - Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland, The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement;
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards;
  - Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lut Desert;
  - Iran (Islamic Republic of), The Persian Qanat;
  - Sudan, Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park;
  - Turkey, Archaeological Site of Ani.

#### **V. LARGE COMPLEX SERIAL TRANSNATIONAL NOMINATIONS AND THE NEED FOR NOMINATION STRATEGIES**

##### **Decision: 41 COM 8B.50**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add,
2. Noting that some large complex serial transnational nominations may benefit from an agreed nomination strategy before their official submission,
3. Commends the involved States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for their work towards a solution for a feasible nomination process for the remainder of the serial transnational property Frontiers of the Roman Empire and also commends the States Parties for having participated in the preparation of the Thematic Study, and the development of an overall Nomination Strategy for the whole Roman frontiers and a detailed strategy for the European section of the Roman Frontier;
4. Takes note of the nomination strategy process for the remainder of the serial transnational property Frontiers of the Roman Empire presented in Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add;
5. Emphasizes that, if and when, it takes note of a nomination strategy, this is not prejudicial and does not imply that the complex serial transnational nominations proposed would necessarily lead to an inscription on the World Heritage List.

## VI. EXAMINATION OF A MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATION OF A CULTURAL PROPERTY ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

### Decision: 41 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having \_\_\_\_\_ examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add.2, WHC/17/41.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2
2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundaries of the **Site of Palmyra, Syrian Arab Republic**, with the exception of the archaeological sites of Al Bazouriya palace, Al-Bakhra, Al-Sukkari Palace and Khan Hallabat (mentioned in Annex 2 of the minor boundary modification proposal);
3. Also approves the proposed buffer zone for the **Site of Palmyra, Syrian Arab Republic**;
4. To support the protection and management, recommends that the State Party take the following further actions pending the improvement in the situation of conflict that has affected this property:
  - a) Further developing clear and workable objectives (including permitted and prohibited uses) for the various zones that comprise the buffer zone,
  - b) Ensuring that the permitted and prohibited uses in the buffer zone clearly address the wide range of potential land uses that could impact on the archaeological materials, such as quarrying, energy infrastructure, water supply and drainage networks, and so on,
  - c) Further developing planning and policy measures for the Ayn Fayad areas (south west of the property) and the Aamiryat urban area (north of the White Zone) to ensure that future developments do not pose intrusive pressures on the inscribed property,
  - d) Developing the Management Plan for the entire property and its buffer zone,
  - e) Finalising and implementing the Ministerial Decree that sets out the strategic policy for protecting World Heritage and the revised Antiquities Law as soon as possible,
  - f) Continuing to improve the understanding and protection of the attributes associated with the World Heritage property located within the buffer zone and in the wider setting.

## VII. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF A PROPERTY INSCRIBED AT THE 40TH SESSION (ISTANBUL/UNESCO, 2016) AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

### Decision: 41 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add.2,



2. Adopts the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage property inscribed at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016):
  - Chad, Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape.

## **8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

### **Decision: 41 COM 8C.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC/17/41.COM/7B, WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7B.Add.2) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC/17/41.COM/8B, WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add.2),
2. Decides to **inscribe** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
  - Austria, Historic Centre of Vienna (Decision **41 COM 7B.42**)
  - Palestine, Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (Decision **41 COM 8B.1**)

### **Decision: 41 COM 8C.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC/17/41.COM/7A, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2),
2. Decides to **retain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
  - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Decision **41 COM 7A.54**)
  - Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Decision **41 COM 7A.55**)
  - Belize, Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Decision **41 COM 7A.2**)
  - Bolivia (Plurinational State of), City of Potosí (Decision **41 COM 7A.23**)
  - Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.4**)
  - Chile, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Decision **41 COM 7A.24**)
  - Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Decision **41 COM 7A.6**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Garamba National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.7**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.8**)
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Decision **41 COM 7A.9**)

- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Salonga National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.10**)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.11**)
- Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **41 COM 7A.32**)
- Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Decision **41 COM 7A.3**)
- Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Decision **41 COM 7A.18**)
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Decision **41 COM 7A.33**)
- Iraq, Hatra (Decision **41 COM 7A.34**)
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City (Decision **41 COM 7A.35**)
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (Decision **41 COM 7A.36**)
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Decision **41 COM 7A.37**)
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Decision **41 COM 7A.38**)
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Decision **41 COM 7A.39**)
- Libya, Old Town of Ghadamès (Decision **41 COM 7A.40**)
- Libya, Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Decision **41 COM 7A.41**)
- Madagascar, Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Decision **41 COM 7A.14**)
- Mali, Old Towns of Djenné (Decision **41 COM 7A.28**)
- Mali, Timbuktu (Decision **41 COM 7A.29**)
- Mali, Tomb of Askia (Decision **41 COM 7A.30**)
- Micronesia (Federated States of), Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Decision **41 COM 7A.56**)
- Niger, Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Decision **41 COM 7A.15**)
- Palestine, Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Decision **41 COM 7A.42**)
- Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Decision **41 COM 7A.43**)
- Panama, Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Decision **41 COM 7A.25**)
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Decision **41 COM 7A.26**)
- Senegal, Niokolo-Koba National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.16**)
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Decision **41 COM 7A.21**)
- Solomon Islands, East Rennell (Decision **41 COM 7A.19**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Aleppo (Decision **41 COM 7A.44**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra (Decision **41 COM 7A.45**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Damascus (Decision **41 COM 7A.46**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Decision **41 COM 7A.47**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Decision **41 COM 7A.48**)

- Syrian Arab Republic, Site of Palmyra (Decision **41 COM 7A.49**)
- Uganda, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Decision **41 COM 7A.31**)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (Decision **41 COM 7A.22**)
- United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve (Decision **41 COM 7A.17**)
- United States of America, Everglades National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.1**)
- Uzbekistan, Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Decision **41 COM 7A.57**)
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Coro and its Port (Decision **41 COM 7A.27**)
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid (Decision **41 COM 7A.51**)
- Yemen, Old City of Sana'a (Decision **41 COM 7A.52**)
- Yemen, Old Walled City of Shibam (Decision **41 COM 7A.53**)

**Decision: 41 COM 8C.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC/17/41.COM/7A, WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/7A.Add.2) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC/17/41.COM/8B, WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add and WHC/17/41.COM/8B.Add.2),
2. Decides to **remove** the following properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
  - Côte d'Ivoire, Comoé National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.5**)
  - Ethiopia, Simien National Park (Decision **41 COM 7A.13**)
  - Georgia, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Decision **41 COM 7A.20**), which has become Gelati Monastery (Decision **41 COM 8B.31**)

**8D. CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND AREAS BY STATES PARTIES**

**Decision: 41 COM 8D**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8D,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8D**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the boundaries of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;

4. Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear;
5. Takes note of the clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the States Parties as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/17/41.COM/8D:

#### AFRICA

- Seychelles, Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve

#### ARAB STATES

- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra

#### EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Canada, Old Town Lunenburg
- Russian Federation, Architectural Ensemble of the Trinity Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad
- Sweden, Church Town of Gammelstad, Luleå
- Sweden, Laponian Area
- Sweden, Naval Port of Karlskrona

#### LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Honduras, Maya Site of Copan;

6. Requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible, and by **1 December 2017** at the latest, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2018.

## **8E. ADOPTION OF RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE**

### **Decision: 41 COM 8E**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/8E,
2. Congratulates the States Parties for the excellent work accomplished in the elaboration of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties located within their territories;
3. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/17/41.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:

#### ARAB STATES

- Egypt, Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Armenia, Cathedral and Churches of Echmiatsin and the Archaeological Site of Zvartnots
- Armenia, Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin
- Canada, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
- Czech Republic, Litomyšl Castle
- France, Bourges Cathedral
- France, Chartres Cathedral
- France, Cistercian Abbey of Fontenay
- France, Historic Centre of Avignon: Papal Palace, Episcopal Ensemble and Avignon Bridge
- France, Historic Site of Lyon
- France, Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion
- France, Palace and Park of Fontainebleau
- France, Paris, Banks of the Seine
- France, Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière and Place d'Alliance in Nancy
- France, Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France
- Ireland, Sceilg Mhichíl
- Italy, Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto)
- Portugal, Cultural Landscape of Sintra
- Russian Federation, Citadel, Ancient City and Fortress Buildings of Derbent
- Russian Federation, Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands
- Russian Federation, Historic and Architectural Complex of the Kazan Kremlin
- Russian Federation, White Monuments of Vladimir and Suzdal
- Sweden, Hanseatic Town of Visby
- Sweden, Rock Carvings in Tanum

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN

- Dominica, Morne Trois Pitons National Park;
4. Decides that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger will be reviewed in priority by the Advisory Bodies;
  5. Requests the States Parties to provide support to the World Heritage Centre for translation of the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value into English or French respectively, and further requests the World Heritage Centre to upload the two language versions on its website.

## 9A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REFLECTION CONCERNING THE UPSTREAM PROCESSES

### Decision: 41 COM 9A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/9A,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 13.III**, **35 COM 12C**, **36 COM 12C**, **37 COM 9**, **38 COM 9A**, **39 COM 11** and **40 COM 9A**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the integration of the Upstream Processes in Paragraphs 71 and 122 of the *Operational Guidelines*,
4. Further recalls that, in order to be effective, the upstream support should ideally take place at an early stage, preferably at the moment of the preparation or revision of the States Parties' Tentative Lists, and takes notes that this has also been reiterated by the outcomes of the online survey on the Upstream Process;
5. Welcomes all the actions undertaken to improve the processes and practices prior to the consideration of nominations by the World Heritage Committee, and commends the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the pilot projects that registered progress;
6. Also welcomes the launch of the online survey on the Upstream Process and the in-depth reflection undertaken by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; and warmly thanks the States Parties which have participated in the online survey, for their valuable input and comments;
7. Expresses its appreciation to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for presenting proposals to ensure the effective and equitable implementation of the Upstream Process for its consideration;
8. In view of ensuring proper follow-up, greater efficiency, transparency and accountability as well as streamlining and improved coordination of the required actions following requests for upstream advice, approves with immediate effect the revised Upstream Process request format contained in Annex I to Document WHC/17/41.COM/9A and requests the Secretariat to include this item for examination and possible inclusion as a new annex to the *Operational Guidelines* during the next review of the *Operational Guidelines* at its 43rd session in 2019;
9. In view of the outcome of the online survey, also takes note of the proposed amendments to footnote of Paragraph 122 of the *Operational Guidelines* contained in Document WHC/17/41.COM/9A, which aims to provide useful and clear guidance to States Parties on questions relating to the implementation of the Upstream Process, and also requests the Secretariat to include this item for examination and possible inclusion in the *Operational Guidelines* during the next review of the *Operational Guidelines* at its 43rd session in 2019;
10. Recognizing the limited available capacity of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and on the basis of the experience acquired so far in providing Upstream advice, further takes note that it is not feasible to process more than ten new Upstream Process

requests per year and decides that this limit will be applied on a trial basis for 2 years starting in 2018;

11. Also decides that the Upstream Process requests will be reviewed and prioritized twice a year with deadlines for submission to the World Heritage Centre on 31 March and 31 October through giving priority for preparation or revision of Tentative Lists, to Least Developed Countries, Low-Income and Lower-Middle Income Countries and Small Island Developing States, followed by the mechanism of Paragraph 61.c) of the *Operational Guidelines*;
12. In order to ensure a fairer and more equitable use of the resources available, whether in terms of funding or in terms of staff, further decides to apply the prioritization system established by the mechanism of Paragraph 61.c) of the *Operational Guidelines* in conjunction with the criteria of eligibility for receiving financial support for the provision of upstream advice;
13. Requests that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to also give consideration to the thematic and regional imbalances highlighted by the gap analyses as well as innovative approaches to heritage in the prioritization of the upstream requests;
14. Decides furthermore that the States Parties who may benefit from the “Advisory Missions” budget line within the World Heritage Fund, including for upstream support, will be limited to those falling within the categories of Least Developed Countries, Low-Income and Lower-Middle Income Countries and Small Islands Developing States and others on a case by case as well as cost-sharing basis;
15. Decides moreover to establish a sub-account within the World Heritage Fund, to be used exclusively for funding requests for upstream support, and to be funded by voluntary contributions;
16. Also decides to include in the mandate of the extended Ad-Hoc Working Group an item on the definition of the upstream process and the effectiveness of the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List;
17. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to take the necessary and feasible measures in a way to better cope with upstream process;
18. Recommends that other Category 2 Centres consider integrating in their capacity-building initiatives the Nomination Upstream programme following the example of the African World Heritage Fund programme in Africa in partnership with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, which is considered a successful regional capacity-building model;
19. Further requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report on the ongoing pilot projects as well as on the implementation of Upstream Process requests received, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

## **9B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REFLECTION ON PROCESSES FOR MIXED NOMINATIONS**

### **Decision: 41 COM 9B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/9B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 9B** and **39 COM 9B** adopted respectively at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) sessions,
3. Welcomes the report of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on proposals to improve the preparation and evaluation of mixed World Heritage nominations;
4. Reiterates that due to the complexity of mixed site nominations and their evaluation, States Parties should ideally seek prior advice from IUCN and ICOMOS, if possible at least two years before a potential nomination is submitted, in compliance with Paragraph 122 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
5. Recognizes the progress made by the Advisory Bodies over the past two years and encourages them to continue their efforts towards setting up a harmonized evaluation process for mixed nominations to include as far as is feasible:
  - a) establishing a common approach for desk reviews,
  - b) undertaking a joint IUCN/ICOMOS panel to either address the whole evaluation or to complete the evaluations after the first IUCN and ICOMOS panels in December,
  - c) producing a single jointly agreed decision for mixed site evaluations;
6. Requests the Advisory Bodies to report back on the progress with regard to the above-mentioned paragraph to the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2019;
7. Calls upon States Parties to consider providing support to this initiative that requires additional resources;
8. Invites States Parties hosting potential mixed properties to reinforce their culture/nature interfaces in view of consolidating and sustaining the values of the properties.

## **10A. REPORT ON THE PERIODIC REPORTING REFLECTION (2015-2017) AND LAUNCH OF THE THIRD CYCLE**

### **Decision: 41 COM 10A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 5F.2**, **39 COM 10B.5**, and **40 COM 10A**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,



3. Notes with appreciation the successful implementation of the Reflection Period by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and the use of innovative and cost-effective working methods;
4. Commends the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group for the extensive and in-depth work carried out;
5. Thanks all States Parties who volunteered to participate in the Testing Phase for their active engagement in the Periodic Reporting Reflection;
6. Welcomes the recommendations and improvements proposed with regard to the format, content, relevance, analysis and use of data in the Periodic Reporting process;
7. Also welcomes the inclusion in the revised questionnaire of questions relating to synergies with other international instruments and programmes on cultural and natural heritage; questions relating to the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage and to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, as well as questions assessing the implementation of the World Heritage Policy for integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*, and of other key policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee;
8. Further welcomes the development of strengthened and comprehensive indicators to improve follow-up on progress made by State Parties in the implementation of the *Convention* as well as the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, further to the Recommendation of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector (Part III – 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage);
9. Takes note with appreciation of the analytical framework developed by the Expert Group and decides that it will be used as a global template for the analysis of data, for all regions, during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;
10. Also takes note of the feasibility study concerning the production of a global World Heritage report and recommends that further work on the format and resourcing of the report be carried out using responses from States Parties and Site Managers in the first years of the Third Cycle;
11. Also decides to maintain the order of regions and the 6-year periodicity of the Periodic Reporting cycles, with one region reporting every year (Arab States, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and North America) and one year between cycles for a reflection, if necessary, and for the production of a global report on the basis of the outcomes of the cycle across all regions;
12. Further decides to officially launch the Third Cycle (2017-2022), but in view of the need to allow sufficient time for appropriate preparation, by the Secretariat, and by the States Parties of the Arab States region, exceptionally postpones the start of the Periodic Reporting of all regions by one year, starting with the Arab States region in 2018, followed by the Africa region in 2019, and so on;
13. Encourages the active engagement of the States Parties in the following reporting cycles, and furthermore decides, that, in view of the current financial and human resources constraints of the World Heritage Centre, its role should consist of ensuring a holistic approach across regions, by providing overall coordination, guidance tools and analysis, as well as facilitating a State Party-driven approach, and invites the States Parties to contribute

extrabudgetary resources for this purpose, and further decides, in case the resources are insufficient to ensure continuity, to supplement the funding of an extra-budgetary position from the Periodic Reporting budget line in the World Heritage Fund;

14. Approves the revised Chapter V of the *Operational Guidelines* “Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*” and the revised Annex 7 to the *Operational Guidelines*, on the Format of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire, contained in Annex IV of Document WHC/17/41.COM/10A.

## **10B. FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR ALL REGIONS**

### **Decision: 41 COM 10B.1**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.1** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;
4. Thanks the governments of Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;
5. Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, and commends the fruitful international cooperation between the national institutions of various States Parties in the region, which makes this project a good practice example for other serial transnational nominations;
6. Reiterates its invitation to States Parties in Asia and the Pacific to actively implement the relevant sub-regional Action Plans, and encourages them to intensify their contributions towards the implementation of follow-up activities, to be planned and developed in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for Asia and the Pacific every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).

### **Decision: 41 COM 10B.2**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.2** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),

3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region;
4. Thanks the governments of the China, Flanders (Belgium), the Netherlands and Hungary, the European Union and the African World Heritage Fund for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa;
5. Commends the States Parties of the Africa Region who have been actively implementing the Action Plan, and encourages States Parties, who have not already done so, to establish their National World Heritage Committees and to develop their National Action Plans and Budgets;
6. Calls upon States Parties to continue to support financially and technically the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region through follow-up activities in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF); and to take advantage of the annual mobilization of the African World Heritage Day on 5 May in fostering support for the Action Plan for the Africa region;
7. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2018** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2017** at the latest;
8. Notes with appreciation the follow-up activities to the Ngorongoro Declaration, and also commends the World Heritage Centre for developing case studies on the strengthening, throughout Africa, of the sustainable development approach as well as the AWHF, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and their partners for the World Heritage nomination support programme launched in Africa;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the AWHF, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity-Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012-2017;
10. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for the Africa region every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).

**Decision: 41 COM 10B.3**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.3** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States;
4. Thanks the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, for its contribution towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States, especially for the countries which are affected by armed conflicts;

5. Invites the Arab States to increase their cooperation with the World Heritage Centre in order to reinforce the capacities of the national heritage professionals in the field of conservation and management of the World Heritage properties;
6. Notes with concern that the safeguarding of cultural heritage in countries of the region which are affected by conflicts remains one of the priorities of the Regional Programme and requires more human and financial resources;
7. Reminds the Arab States which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2018** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2017** at the latest;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for the Arab States every two years as from 2019 (43rd session).

**Decision: 41 COM 10B.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.4**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. Notes with appreciation the contribution of the Centre Lucio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC), Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to the development and implementation of a Capacity-Building Strategy as a follow-up to the Action Plan for World Heritage in South America 2015-2020 (PAAS 2015-2020), and encourages the Category 2 Centre to continue its cooperation with the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the Capacity Building Programme and activities related to World Heritage;
5. Strongly encourages the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Heritage in Zacatecas (Mexico) to enter into its operational phase, in view of the important contribution it could provide to the future implementation of capacity-building activities within the framework of the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America to be adopted in 2017;
6. Also notes with appreciation the contribution of the State Party of Mexico in organizing a meeting, in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre, for the establishment of a sub-regional Action Plan in Mexico and Central America, with the participation of all stakeholders;
7. Further notes with appreciation the contributions of the States Parties of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Grenada, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Jamaica, in organising and implementing various initiatives, during the period 2016-2017, under the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, including the results of the survey scheduled for the end of 2017, at its 43rd session in 2019.

**Decision: 41 COM 10B.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.5** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe;
4. Commends the States Parties of Europe who participated in the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey, the first of its kind, which will allow for a regular self-assessment and tracking of progress by the States Parties of Europe towards the achievement of the regional targets set out in the Action Plan;
5. Takes note of the responses received on the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan and of the publication of the results of the survey on the website of the World Heritage Centre, and requests the World Heritage Centre to take the opportunity to fine-tune the survey in preparation for its second edition in 2018;
6. Encourages the States Parties of Europe to continue pursuing their efforts, with a focus on monitoring activities and integrating World Heritage mechanisms into the management of World Heritage properties;
7. Also encourages the States Parties of Europe to accelerate their efforts on the Action Plan targets for which little progress has been reported, and, if needed, to seek out technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies where appropriate;
8. Further encourages States Parties to financially support the implementation of the regional Action Plans through support to the World Heritage Centre;
9. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Europe every two years as from 2019 (43rd session), and further requests the States Parties of North America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for North America at its 43rd session.

**11. REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

**Decision: 41 COM 11**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/17/41.COM/11, WHC/17/41.COM/10A and WHC/17/41.COM/12A,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 10B.5**, **39 COM 11**, **40 COM 10A** and **40 COM 11** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. Taking into account the deliberations of the Consultative Body established at the beginning of the session under Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure,
4. Decides to keep the current mechanism of registering Tentative Lists unchanged and to maintain the way Tentative Lists are presented to the Committee, together with their publication on the World Heritage Centre's website;
5. Further decides to introduce a disclaimer into the *Operational Guidelines* as an amendment of **Paragraph 68**, and to the Committee decisions concerning Tentative Lists:

**The Tentative Lists of States Parties are published by the World Heritage Centre at its website and/or in working documents in order to ensure transparency, access to information and to facilitate harmonization of Tentative Lists at regional and thematic levels.**

**The sole responsibility for the content of each Tentative List lies with the State Party concerned. The publication of the Tentative Lists does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of the World Heritage Committee or of the World Heritage Centre or of the Secretariat of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its boundaries.**

6. Emphasizes the need to further promote harmonization of Tentative Lists at the regional level and underlines its importance as a tool in enhancing dialogue between States Parties;
7. Highlights the importance of the capacity-building activities and notes the need to connect the upstream processes with the preparation and harmonisation of Tentative Lists more effectively;
8. Invites States Parties to engage in a dialogue with all stakeholders as part of the national process to include a site on the Tentative List;
9. Encourages States Parties to refrain from including on their Tentative Lists sites that may potentially raise issues, before these are solved through a dialogue with concerned States Parties;
10. Also encourages States Parties to address concerns of other States Parties, as much as feasible, through constructive dialogue, before the submission of relevant nominations to the World Heritage List;
11. Adopts the proposed revision of Chapter V and Annex 7 of the *Operational Guidelines* as presented in the Annex to this Decision;
12. Recalls Decision **39 COM 11** Paragraph 8 with regard to Annex 3 of the *Operational Guidelines* and decides to provide recommendations for its revision, at the Committee's 43rd session in 2019.

## REVISIONS TO CHAPTER V AND ANNEX 7 OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

## CHAPTER V

## PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

## V.A Objectives

**199.** States Parties are requested to submit reports to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken for the application of the *Convention*, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territories.

Article 29 of the *World Heritage Convention* and Resolutions of the 11th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (1997) and the 29th session of the UNESCO General Conference.

**200.** Periodic Reporting is a self-reporting process and should be led as far as possible by the States Parties in each region. The Secretariat coordinates and facilitates the Periodic Reporting Process at the global level. States Parties may request expert advice from the Advisory Bodies and the Secretariat, which may also (with agreement of the States Parties concerned) commission further expert advice.

**201.** Periodic Reporting serves four main purposes:

- a) to provide an assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the State Party;
- b) to provide an assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being maintained over time;
- c) to provide up-dated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties;
- d) to provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation.

**202.** Periodic Reporting is important for more effective long-term conservation of the properties inscribed, as well as to strengthen the credibility of the implementation of the *Convention*. It is also an important tool for assessing the implementation by States Parties and World Heritage properties of policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly.

## V.B Procedure and Format

~~203. World Heritage Committee:~~

Decision 22 COM VI.7

- ~~a) adopted the Format and Explanatory Notes set out in Annex 7;~~
- ~~b) invited States Parties to submit periodic reports every six years;~~
- ~~c) decided to examine the States Parties' periodic reports region by region according to the following table:~~

**203.** Every six years, States Parties submit periodic reports for examination by the World Heritage Committee. During the six-year Periodic Reporting cycle, States Parties report region by region in the following order:

- Arab States
- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe and North America

Region	Examination of properties inscribed up to and including	Year of Examination by Committee
Arab States	1992	December 2000
Africa	1993	December 2001/July 2002
Asia and the Pacific	1994	June-July 2003
Latin America and the Caribbean	1995	June-July 2004
Europe and North America	1996/1997	June-July 2005/2006

d) ~~requested the Secretariat, jointly with the Advisory Bodies, and making use of States Parties, competent institutions and expertise available within the region, to develop regional strategies for the periodic reporting process as per the timetable established under e) above.~~

~~204. The above mentioned regional strategies should respond to specific characteristics of the regions and should promote co-ordination and synchronization between States Parties, particularly in the case of transboundary and transnational properties. The Secretariat will consult States Parties with regard to the development and implementation of those regional strategies.~~

204. The sixth year of each cycle is a period for reflection and evaluation. This pause will allow the periodic reporting mechanism to be assessed and revised as appropriate before a new cycle is initiated. The World Heritage Committee may also decide to use the reflection to initiate the development and publication of a Global World Heritage Report.



~~205. After the first six-year cycle of periodic reports, each region will be assessed again in the same order as indicated in the table above. Following the first six-year cycle, there may be a pause for evaluation to assess and revise the periodic reporting mechanism before a new cycle is initiated.~~

~~205. At appropriate intervals, and whenever deemed necessary, the World Heritage Committee adopts and revises Monitoring Indicators and an Analytical Framework for Periodic Reporting.~~

~~205bis. The Periodic Reporting process is used as an opportunity for regional exchange and cooperation and to enhance active co-ordination and synchronization between States Parties, particularly in the case of transboundary and transnational properties.~~

~~206. The Format for the periodic reports by the States Parties consists of two sections: The Periodic Reporting questionnaire is an online tool to be completed by the respective National Focal Points and Site Managers of the World Heritage properties, as appropriate.~~

- a) **Section I** refers to the legislative and administrative provisions which the State Party has adopted and other actions which it has taken for the application of the *Convention*, together with details of the experience acquired in this field. This particularly concerns the general obligations defined in specific articles of the *Convention*.
- b) **Section II** refers to the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties located on the territory of the State Party concerned. This Section should be completed for each World Heritage property.

~~Explanatory Notes are provided with the Format in Annex 7.~~

~~206bis. The Periodic Reporting Format may be reviewed following each cycle of Periodic Reporting. An outline of the Format is contained in Annex 7 to the Operational Guidelines.~~

~~207. In order to facilitate management and analysis of information, States Parties are requested to submit reports, in English or French, in electronic as well as in printed form to, using the online tool provided on the website of the World Heritage Centre. The online tool of the full questionnaire can be accessed here: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>.~~

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### **V.C Evaluation and Follow Up**

~~208. The Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies facilitate the States Parties to consolidates national reports into Regional State of the World Heritage reports, which are available in electronic format at the following Web address <http://whc.unesco.org/en/publications> and in paper version (series World Heritage Papers).~~

~~209. The World Heritage Committee carefully reviews issues raised in Periodic Reports and advises the States Parties of the regions concerned on matters arising from them.~~

This Format was adopted by the Committee at its 22nd session (Kyoto 1998) and may be revised following the completion of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2006. For this reason, the Format has not been revised.

This format was reviewed further to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting and was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

~~210. The Committee requested the Secretariat with the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the relevant States Parties, to develop long term follow up Regional Programmes. The Committee may requested States Parties, working in partnership with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies, to develop long-term regional follow-up programmes~~ structured according to ~~its~~ **the Committee's** Strategic Objectives and ~~to~~ submit them for ~~its~~ examination. These Programmes are adopted as follow up to Periodic Reports and regularly reviewed by the Committee based on the needs of States Parties identified in Periodic Reports. They should accurately reflect the needs of World Heritage in the Region and facilitate the granting of International Assistance. ~~The Committee also expressed its support to ensure direct links between the Strategic Objectives and the International Assistance.~~

## Annex 7

### FORMAT

#### PERIODIC REPORTING ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION

This Annex presents an outline of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. The full questionnaire can be accessed at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>.

#### General Requirements

- Information should be as precise, specific and concise as possible. It should be quantified where possible and fully referenced. Opportunities for comment are provided in each chapter.
- Expressions of opinion should be supported by reference to the authority on which they are made and the verifiable facts which support them.

#### SECTION I:

#### APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATE PARTY

Section I requests that the State Party provide information or validate existing information on the legislative and administrative provisions which they have adopted and other action which they have taken for the application of this *Convention*, together with details of the experience acquired in this field (Article 29.1 of the *World Heritage Convention*).

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 lists the name of the State Party and the year of ratification or acceptance of the *Convention* and seeks information on the groups and institutions involved in the preparation of Section I of the report.

#### 2. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Chapter 2 aims to gather information on existing and potential synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as other UNESCO conventions, programmes, and recommendations. The State Party is also invited to provide information on the extent to which it has implemented relevant policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

#### 3. TENTATIVE LIST

Chapter 3 aims to gather information on the process of preparing the tentative list, the tools and guidance used, potential synergies with other conventions of properties on the tentative list as well as the sustainability of the process in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015).

#### 4. NOMINATIONS

Chapter 4 aims to gather information on the process of nominating properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, the tools and guidance used, as well as the sustainability of the process in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015).

## **5. GENERAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

Chapter 5 aims to gather information on the legal framework for the protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and/or natural heritage and its effectiveness.

## **6. INVENTORIES/LISTS/REGISTERS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

Chapter 6 aims to gather information on the status of inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage of national significance and the processes used to compile them.

## **7. STATUS OF SERVICES FOR PROTECTION, CONSERVATION AND PRESENTATION**

Chapter 7 aims to gather information on services within the territories of the State Party for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage and on cooperation between the stakeholders involved.

## **8. FINANCIAL STATUS AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

Chapter 8 aims to gather information on the availability and adequacy of financial resources for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage.

## **9. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

Chapter 9 aims to gather information on capacity building in heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management, in line with World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011).

## **10. POLICY AND RESOURCING OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES**

Chapter 10 aims to gather information on specific legislation, policies and measures for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage.

## **11. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND FUND RAISING**

Chapter 11 aims to gather information on the co-operation with other States Parties in the field of cultural and natural heritage.

## **12. EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING**

Chapter 12 aims to gather information on steps taken to raise the awareness of decision-makers, property owners and the general public, and in particular the youth, about the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

## **13. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Chapter 13 automatically generates the main conclusions under each of the items of Section I based on the answers provided in the questionnaire. States Parties should also provide information about the actions they have taken regarding their implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.

## **14. GOOD PRACTICES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

Chapter 14 offers the opportunity to provide an example of a good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management implemented at national level.

## **15. ASSESSMENT OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE**

Chapter 15 assesses the format, content and process of the Periodic Reporting exercise, including the degree to which it meets the objectives of Periodic Reporting, how the data generated is used and the training and guidance available to respondents.

## **SECTION II: STATE OF CONSERVATION OF SPECIFIC WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES**

Section II gathers information on the implementation of the *Convention* at site-level and must be completed for each individual World Heritage property. The preparation of this report should involve those who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the property. For transboundary properties, it is recommended that reports be prepared jointly by or with close collaboration between the agencies concerned.

### **1. WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY DATA**

Chapter 1 requires that information be provided or existing information validated with regards to the basic data of the property (name, year of inscription, geographic coordinates, maps, social media presence), and also gathers information on the organizations or entities involved in the preparation of Section I of the report.

### **2. OTHER CONVENTIONS/PROGRAMMES UNDER WHICH THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY IS PROTECTED**

Chapter 2 gathers information relating to synergies with other conventions and programmes (UNESCO and others) relevant to the property and on the extent of cooperation and integration existing between these conventions and programmes (where applicable).

### **3. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE AND DEFINING OF ATTRIBUTES**

Chapter 3 gathers information on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), their current condition and the trend in that condition since the last cycle of Periodic Reporting.

### **4. FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY**

Chapter 4 gathers information on the range of factors that are currently affecting or have strong potential to affect the property, both positively and negatively.

### **5. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY**

Chapter 5 gathers information on practical issues of management, and the effectiveness of protection, management and monitoring of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

### **6. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES**

Chapter 6 gathers information on the sources of funding available, the adequacy of budget for management needs, as well as the availability of human resources and levels of capacity building at the property.

### **7. SCIENTIFIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Chapter 7 gathers information on the adequacy of available knowledge (both scientific and traditional) regarding the values and attributes of the World Heritage property and the existence of research programmes directed towards management needs and/or the improvement of the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value.

## **8. EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING**

Chapter 8 gathers information on the existence and effectiveness of heritage education and awareness programmes at the property as well as general services dedicated to education, information, interpretation and awareness building.

## **9. VISITOR MANAGEMENT**

Chapter 9 gathers information on tourism activities and visitor management at the property.

## **10. MONITORING**

Chapter 10 gathers information on the existence of monitoring programmes and indicators for the property as well as on the implementation of property-related Committee Decisions (where applicable).

## **11. IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

Chapter 11 automatically lists all the management needs requiring further action which have been highlighted in this Section of the Periodic Report.

## **12. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

Chapter 12 highlights the most important positive and negative factors (up to ten of each) which have been highlighted in this Section of the Periodic Report.

## **13. IMPACT OF WORLD HERITAGE STATUS**

Chapter 13 gathers information regarding the impact of World Heritage status in relation to various topics, with a particular focus on the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (adopted in 2015).

## **14. GOOD PRACTICES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION**

Chapter 14 offers the opportunity to provide an example of a good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation and preservation implemented at the property level.

## **15. ASSESSMENT OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE**

Chapter 15 assesses the format, content and process of the Periodic Reporting exercise, including how the data generated is used and the training and guidance available to respondents.

## 12A. FOLLOW-UP TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF EVALUATIONS AND AUDITS ON WORKING METHODS: OUTCOMES OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP

### **Decision: 41 COM 12A**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/17/41.COM/12A,
2. Expresses appreciation to the Ad Hoc Working Group for its work and recommendations;
3. Referring to its decisions on Revision of the *Operational Guidelines* under item 11 and on the execution of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and preparation of the budget for the biennium 2018-2019 under item 14;
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group, to be composed of members of the Committee and up to two non-members per Electoral Group, to:
  - Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization and communication strategy,
  - Also develop the proposal to establish an informal Core Group on Resource Mobilization, including its mandate and modalities,
  - Study how to maximize the impact and scope of the Forum of Partners,
  - Analyze the recommendations of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Comparative Mapping Study and develop proposals in view of optimizing the use of the resources of the World Heritage Fund,
  - Discuss the definition of the upstream process and the effectiveness of the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List;
5. Further decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall work in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, and submit its report and recommendations to the 42nd session of the Committee in 2018.

## 12B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S "REPORT ON THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDANT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES" (DOCUMENT 38C/23)

### **Decision: 41 COM 12B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/12B,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 13B** and the reflection ongoing undertaken by the Governing Bodies of the *World Heritage Convention* to assess, improve and streamline their working methods,

3. Takes note of the progress report of the ongoing work undertaken by the General Conference to examine the governance, procedures and working methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO;
4. Decides to study the relevant recommendations of the Working Group on the governance, procedures, and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO established by the General Conference Resolution 38C/101;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to provide the Committee with information on the outcomes of the Working Group on Governance in due course;
6. Also decides to inscribe an item on its agenda at its 42nd session in 2018 on the “Follow up and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance as endorsed by the General Conference”.

### 13. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

#### **Decision: 41 COM 13**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/13,
2. Warmly thanks the States Parties of Italy, India, the Republic of Korea, Finland, the Philippines, Turkey and Germany for their contributions which made possible the funding of several International Assistance requests since 2010;
3. Also warmly thanks the States Parties of the Netherlands and Japan for having financed via their Funds-in-Trusts International Assistance requests presented on the International Assistance “Marketplace” web-page;
4. Recalling Decision **40 COM 14**, paragraph 6, strongly appeals to all States Parties to contribute to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund for International Assistance by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8**;
5. Commends the World Heritage Centre for its successful initiative to propose International Assistance requests which have been recommended for approval but not funded due to lack of funding, to potential donors, through the dedicated “Marketplace” and “Forum of Partners” web-page;
6. Noting that International Assistance covers funding support to States Parties for emergency assistance, preparatory assistance and conservation and management assistance to include training and research, technical cooperation and promotion and education, recommends that the World Heritage Centre continue to market and enhance the “Marketplace for World Heritage” and contribute to the development of the proposed Comprehensive Strategy for Resource Mobilization and Communication which is intended to promote continuity and strengthen fund-raising capacities to support the implementation of the *Convention*;
7. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to identify means of providing incentives for private and public institutional support to ensure buy-in among potential donors and continuation of donations to International Assistance programme.



## 14. PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR 2014-2015 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND UNDER THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

### **Decision: 41 COM 14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined documents WHC/17/41.COM/12A, WHC/17/41.COM/14, WHC/17/41.COM/INF.14.I and WHC/17/41.COM/INF.14.II;
2. Recalling its Decisions **40 COM 13A** and **40 COM 15**;
3. Also recalling “The *World Heritage Convention*: Thinking Ahead” initiative; the World Heritage Strategic Action Plan 2012-2022, and the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List;
4. Recognizing the severe strains on the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in dealing with limited financial and human resources to accomplish statutory tasks and manage increasing workloads;
5. Expressing concern at the financial difficulties that the World Heritage Fund is facing and further recalling that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, per Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*, a legal obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the *Convention*;
6. Emphasizing the urgency of securing adequate financial resources to achieve the objectives of the 1972 *Convention* to identify and, in particular, to conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value, especially in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and unprecedented threats such as climate change, natural disasters, and deliberate attacks on cultural heritage in territories affected by armed conflicts and terrorism;
7. Further recalling Articles 13(6) and (7) of the *Convention* which stipulate that the Committee shall seek ways of increasing the resources of the World Heritage Fund and take all useful steps to this end, shall cooperate with international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations having objectives similar to those of the *Convention*, and for the implementation of its programmes and projects, call upon ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN, as well as on public and private bodies and individuals;
8. Underscoring that sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and overall funding for World Heritage are a strategic issue and a shared responsibility which concerns States Parties and relevant partners, affecting the overall credibility of the *World Heritage Convention*, including effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;
9. Reaffirming the intergovernmental nature of UNESCO;

## **Part I: Execution of the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and preparation of the budget for the biennium 2018-2019**

10. Takes note of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2016-2017 as of 31 December 2016;
11. Notes with appreciation the supplementary costs covered by the Polish authorities as host of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in addition to those listed in the Statement of Requirements;
12. Approves the budget for the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2018-2019 and its corresponding breakdown as shown in Annex IV and also takes note of the new format/structure of the budgets of Advisory Bodies (Annex V);

## **Part II: Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund**

13. Expresses appreciation to the Ad Hoc Working Group for its work and recommendations;

### **Roadmap for Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund**

14. Endorses the attached Roadmap for Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, integrating short-, medium-, and long-term actions, involving relevant actors and stakeholders, with a view to enhancing cooperation, predictability, efficiency, and regular monitoring of efforts towards achieving sustainability of the Fund;
15. Identifies 1996 as a possible benchmark year, with approximately 6900 USD per site between the World Heritage Fund and inscribed properties (as opposed to the current ratio of 2800 USD per site);
16. Notes that implementation of the Roadmap should take into account and complement processes related to the 39 C/5, the External Audit of the Culture sector and efforts to develop common fundraising approaches among the cultural conventions, UNESCO's global fundraising strategy, and the Open-Ended Working Group on governance, procedures and methods of work of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO;

## **Resource mobilization**

### **Principles**

17. Underscores that the highest ethical standards and principles must be upheld in all measures to enhance fundraising to maintain and promote the integrity of the *Convention*, taking into account UNESCO's Administrative Manual, the Global Compact principles and the UN Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector. Transparency and accountability must be ensured at all times;

### **Arrears and contributions**

18. Calls on States Parties to remit assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund in a full and timely manner, and reaffirms that as stated in Article 15(4) of the *Convention*, no political conditions may be attached to contributions made to the Fund;

19. Calls upon States Parties, which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions for 2017, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the *Convention*, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible;
20. Urges States Parties concerned to settle all outstanding arrears;
21. Notwithstanding the significance and mandatory nature of assessed contributions, given the increasing demands on the World Heritage system, also calls upon States Parties to extend and/or augment voluntary financial and in-kind extrabudgetary contributions to the World Heritage Fund, World Heritage Centre, and the Advisory Bodies;
22. Thanks States Parties which have already made supplementary voluntary contributions in 2017;

### **Comprehensive Resource Mobilization and Communication Strategy**

23. Recommends the development of a long-term vision and strategy for effective resource mobilization and communication, taking into account all streams of funding, not only the World Heritage Fund, but also the Regular Budget and extrabudgetary sources;
24. Also recommends that the proposed strategy seek to expand the *Convention's* donor base to include not only governments and the private sector, but also civil society, NGOs, relevant regional organizations, development banks, multilateral funds and funding institutions, and, as appropriate, strengthen engagement with relevant Category 2 Centres, UNESCO field offices and other local actors in developing partnerships;
25. Further recommends to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO that the Secretariat of the *Convention* be reinforced and encourages States Parties to contribute to the strengthening of the human resources of the World Heritage Centre, including with regard to its fundraising capacities;

### **Core Group on resource mobilization**

26. Further takes note of the proposal to establish an informal Core Group on Resource Mobilization consisting of interested Member States (Committee members and States Parties) to support implementation of the Roadmap for Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and ensure continuity;

### **Forum of Partners**

27. Welcomes the efforts made by the World Heritage Centre on extrabudgetary resource mobilization opportunities and innovative fund raising possibilities, notably the "Marketplace" webpage as a first step in launching a full-fledged Forum of Partners in the future;
28. Also endorses the concept of a Forum of Partners and decides that side-events be organized at sessions of the Committee concerning the World Heritage Centre's "Marketplace" webpage, showcasing requests for international assistance recommended for approval and other projects in need of funding, in collaboration with future Chairs of the Committee, and inviting relevant stakeholders and potential donors;

### **Revision of the PACT Strategy**

29. Acknowledges the continuing relevance of the PACT Strategy and progress made by the Centre in its promotion, especially new initiatives and partnerships being developed;
30. Recommends furthermore that the PACT Strategy be updated and revised following the outcome of developments mentioned in paragraph 17 above, and become an integral part of a future comprehensive resource mobilization and communication strategy, as cited in paragraph 23 above;

### **Consultation on annual voluntary fees of World Heritage listed properties**

31. Takes note moreover of the results of the online consultation survey concerning the annual fee for World Heritage listed properties on a voluntary basis presented in document WHC/17/41.COM/INF.14.I and, invites States Parties that have responded positively, for some of their World Heritage properties, to proceed with making supplementary voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund according to the modalities to be agreed with the Secretariat, and also invites the States Parties to continue consultations with their local administrations in charge of World Heritage properties and inform the Secretariat accordingly;
32. Further invites States Parties to encourage site managers to include on the websites of listed properties a link to enable viewers to donate to the World Heritage Fund;

### **Feasibility of an Optional Protocol**

33. If substantial progress in the financial situation is not attained by the *Convention's* 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022, decides that the question of whether an Optional Protocol would be a feasible instrument to increase contributions to the World Heritage Fund for States Parties in a position to do so, be submitted to the General Conference for decision through the Executive Board, following the appropriate rules of procedure;
34. Stresses that such an Optional Protocol should be strictly limited to financial matters, specifically means to increase the 1% ceiling for assessed contributions to the Fund, as defined in the *Convention*, and only for those States Parties willing to do so;

### **Optimization of resources**

#### **Prioritization of conservation**

35. In view of previous Committee decisions to prioritize conservation, recommends moreover that a greater proportion of time be devoted to discussion of conservation issues including how greater support can be provided to sites in need during Committee sessions;
36. In conformity with article 11.4 of the *World Heritage Convention*, further recommends that, as a priority, States Parties concerned, working with the World Heritage Centre and relevant Advisory Bodies, develop, for the attention of the World Heritage Committee and partners and donors, costed action plans for sites on the Danger List and those in need, focusing on urgent conservation needs and capacity-building; such action plans should, where possible, be linked to requests for international assistance, the Marketplace webpage, and the Forum of Partners and the status of such plans, and the progress to secure funding for them, be reported to the World Heritage Committee;

37. Highlights the need to strengthen cooperation with other cultural heritage and biodiversity-related Conventions and intergovernmental programmes, with a view to contributing to improved conservation and sustainable management of World Heritage;
38. Finally recommends that the Committee consider the issue of setting a percentage of the Fund dedicated solely for conservation programs and activities, upon reviewing implementation of the revised paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

#### **Mapping study of advisory services**

39. Takes note moreover of the Comparative Mapping Study of forms and models for use of advisory services prepared by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) and also emphasizes the importance of balance between ensuring the highest quality of advisory services for the *Convention* and value for money and cost savings;
40. Also decides to examine its findings at its next session, in view of optimizing the use of the resources of the Fund;
41. Further notes the decision to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group to be composed of members of the Committee and up to two non-members per Electoral Group, to work in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies and, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, to:
  - Develop a comprehensive resource mobilization and communication strategy,
  - Also develop the proposal to establish an informal Core Group on Resource Mobilization, including its mandate and modalities,
  - Study how to maximize the impact and scope of the Forum of Partners,
  - Analyze the findings of the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) Comparative Mapping Study and develop proposals in view of optimizing the use of the resources of the World Heritage Fund, and
  - Discuss the definition of the upstream process and the effectiveness of the Global Strategy for a balanced and representative World Heritage List;
42. Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a report on implementation of this decision at its 42nd session in 2018.

## Roadmap for Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund

Vision: Substantial progress achieved towards increasing the World Heritage Fund, recalling 1996 levels (USD 6900 per site)

Mission: To enhance the system of World Heritage protection and strengthen implementation of the *Convention* equitably and sustainably

	Short-term (up to 3 years)	Medium-term (between 4 and 8 years)	Long-term (over 8 years)
Increasing funds and funding resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holding of side-events during Committee sessions on “Marketplace” webpage, as basis for further developing Forum of Partners</li> <li>• Continuation of voluntary fundraising measures endorsed by the Committee, with target of several (10 or more) States Parties doubling their annual contributions</li> <li>• Voluntary annual contributions from some sites</li> <li>• Links on listed properties’ websites for donations to the Fund</li> <li>• Support for increasing capacities of the World Heritage Centre, including for fundraising</li> <li>• Comprehensive resource mobilization and communication strategy, integrating a revised PACT strategy, adopted by the Committee to expand donor base, including, as appropriate, civil society and multilateral funds and institutions</li> <li>• Enhanced engagement of Category 2 Centres, field offices and local actors</li> <li>• Informal Core Group on resource mobilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of Forum of Partners (as high-level or stand-alone event) with wider scope of donors and projects for greater impact and visibility</li> <li>• If substantial progress not achieved, feasibility of Optional Protocol for States Parties that agree to increase assessed percentage of annual contributions submitted to General Conference for decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible Optional Protocol to raise 1% ceiling for assessed contributions to the World Heritage Fund</li> </ul>
Re-calibrating current resources, functions and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritization of conservation through action plans for sites on Danger List and those in need, with linkages to international assistance and Forum of Partners</li> <li>• Mapping study of advisory services implications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the implementation of paragraph 61 of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i>, consider setting quota/percentage for conservation activities</li> </ul>	

## 15. OTHER BUSINESS

No decision.

## 16. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPOREUR OF THE 42ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2018)

### **Decision: 41 COM 16**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides to hold its 12th Extraordinary session during the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* in November 2017 in UNESCO Headquarters;
2. Also decides to prolong the mandate of its Bureau composed of the following members:  
**Chairperson:** Prof. Jacek Purchla (Poland)  
**Vice-Chairpersons:** Angola, Kuwait, Portugal, Peru, Republic of Korea  
**Rapporteur:** M. Muhammad Juma (United Republic of Tanzania)  
until its 12th Extraordinary session;
3. Recalls that the hosting of a World Heritage Committee session by a Committee member is subject to the host country signing a host country agreement in conformity with UNESCO's rules and regulations and that host country agreements for category II meetings must ordinarily be signed eight months in advance of the meeting but in this case at the latest by 31 December 2017;
4. Also recalls that, pursuant to Rule 44.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, arrangements by the host country to provide interpretation in another language than the working languages of the Committee (English and French), or another official working language recognized by the United Nations, should be in compliance with UNESCO's rules, regulations and procedures.

## 17. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 42ND SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2018)

### **Decision: 41 COM 17**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/17,

2. Requests the World Heritage Centre to consult with the Chairperson regarding the Provisional Agenda and a detailed timetable;
3. Adopts the following Provisional Agenda for its 42nd session in 2018:

## **PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 42nd SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2018)**

### **OPENING SESSION**

1. Opening session
2. Admission of Observers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable
  - 3A. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 3B. Adoption of the Timetable

### **REPORTS**

4. Report of the Rapporteur of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017)
5. Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies
  - 5A. Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions
  - 5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies
  - 5C. *World Heritage Convention* and sustainable development
6. Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related category 2 Centres

### **EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION**

7. State of conservation of World Heritage properties
  - 7A. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
  - 7B. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER**

8. Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger
  - 8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2018



- 8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List
- 8C. Update of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger
- 8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties
- 8E. Review and approval of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

### **GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

- 9. Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List
  - 9A. Progress report on the reflection concerning the Upstream Process

### **PERIODIC REPORTS**

- 10. Periodic Reports
  - 10A. Progress report on the preparation of the Third cycle of Periodic Reporting

### **WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS**

- 11. Progress report on a Draft Policy Compendium
- 12. Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods and outcomes of the ad-hoc working group
  - 12A. Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods: outcomes of the ad-hoc working group
  - 12B. Follow up and implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Governance as endorsed by the General Conference

### **FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

- 13. International Assistance
- 14. Presentation of the final accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2016-2017, the interim financial statement and the state of implementation of the 2018-2019 budget
- 15. Other business

### **CLOSING SESSION**

- 16. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2019)
- 17. Provisional Agenda of the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (2019)
- 18. Adoption of Decisions

19. Closing session