



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

42 COM

WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add

Paris, 28 May 2018

Original: English / French

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

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

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-second session

**Manama, Bahrain
24 June - 4 July 2018**

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

SUMMARY

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/42COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports are available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

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

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I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

1. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2014: Joint World Heritage Center/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities (Project to raise up the Yuzhen Palace at the property)
- Management systems / Management Plan (Requirement for a living heritage management approach)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Tourism development has begun to reach a critical mass)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/705/documents/> and provides the following details:

- The raised platform for the Yuzhen Palace has been redesigned to provide a more natural shoreline, and the work on the platform has been completed. In addition, work is proceeding on the reinstallation of buildings and archaeological remains on the raised platform. Work is also underway to install exhibitions to allow visitors to have a full understanding of the work that has taken place at the palace;
- A draft Protection and Management Plan was produced in 2014, and a process of consultation took place with heritage professionals and other stakeholders to make improvements. Based on the results of this process, a revised Plan has been produced and will be submitted soon to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- A visitor management system has also been designed and is currently in implementation. The total number of visitors to the property is nearly 2 million annually with 10,000 on peak days. The

State Party reports that it is trying to divert tourist traffic to other scenic parts of the property, and limit the burning of incense which has a potential to cause problems with air quality;

- Municipal legislation for the protection of the property was approved and implemented as of September 2017;
- The State Party considers that only 49 of the 62 component parts that make up the national-level “State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Site – Building Complex of Wudang Mountains” are actually included in the World Heritage property, and that the remaining 13 components are far away from the Wudang Mountains and were therefore not included in the inscribed property. The State Party therefore requests the World Heritage Centre to modify the Brief Synthesis of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) to take this clarification into account;
- In an annex which contains the 2015 state of conservation report for the property, the State Party explains that there are buffer zones around each of the individual components, rather than a larger buffer zone encompassing the entire Wudang Mountains National Scenic Area.

On 30 March 2018, the Director of the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to clarify the buffer zone of the property and the component parts as inscribed with proper documentation. At the time of preparing this working document, no further information has been submitted by the State Party.

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

The ongoing work on the platform at the Yuzhen Palace and the redesigned, more natural shoreline are noted. It is also noted that work is proceeding on the reinstallation of the buildings and archaeological remains on the site, all in accordance with the recommendations of the 2014 mission and Committee’s Decision **40 COM 7B.30**. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an update on the reinstallation efforts as they continue to be implemented.

Concerns remain, however, in terms of the carrying capacity for visitors to the property, in particular during peak tourist season and specific holidays. This is true for the property in general, which has very fragile links between the cultural and natural elements of the landscape, and particularly true for more sensitive areas of the property such as the Golden Shrine. While recognizing that a visitor management system has been put in place, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that specific studies should be carried out at all component parts of the property to better understand carrying capacity, guarantee the necessary physical conservation of the property and its setting, and ensure visitor experience is not compromised by too many people at any one component at the same time. The results of these studies should then be reflected in a visitor management plan for the property.

It is positive that a municipal legislation is in place for the protection of the property, but the Protection and Management Plan for the property should be completed and submitted as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Clarification of the number of component parts of the property and any subsequent revision of the SOUV will require a Decision by the Committee. It is therefore recommended that a meeting take place with representatives of the State Party, the World Heritage Centre, and the Advisory Bodies, to clarify the overall issues (boundary clarification and revision of the SOUV) and the necessary process to reach a resolution.

Given the landscape qualities of the property and the need to preserve the integrity of the component parts, their relationships to each other, and the main perspectives to and from these components, it is considered that establishing individual buffer zones around each of the component parts is not satisfactory to protect the OUV of the property. Instead, a buffer zone of adequate size around all the component parts, corresponding to the larger protected area of the Wudang Mountains Historic and Scenic Area, is considered necessary. This larger buffer zone corresponds to that proposed at the time of inscription, as found in the ICOMOS Evaluation report, which noted that the State Party clarified “*the buffer zone being protected area of the park.*” This issue should also be clarified during the meeting recommended above.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes the redesign of the shoreline and the progress made on the finalization of the uplift process for the Yuzhen Palace, and requests the State Party to provide an update on the reinstallation efforts as they continue to be implemented;
4. Also requests that the State Party provide more information on the visitor management system in place, and in particular that specific studies be carried out at all component parts of the property to better understand carrying capacities, and to guide the preparation of a visitor management plan, so as to guarantee the necessary physical conservation of the property and its setting and also to ensure that visitor experience is not compromised by too many people visiting any one component at the same time;
5. Welcomes the adoption of the municipal legislation for the protection of the property and further requests that the protection and management plan for the property be completed and submitted as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Requests furthermore the State Party to initiate a meeting with representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to clarify the following issues and determine the necessary processes for their resolution:
 - a) Final determination of the number of component parts of the property,
 - b) Potential revision of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for the property, depending on the final number of component parts,
 - c) Revised buffer zone to ensure that it is large enough to protect the entire property and its setting;
7. Requests moreover, further to the outcomes of the above-mentioned meeting, that the State Party prepare and submit the appropriate documentation for review by the World Heritage Committee at its subsequent session, especially regarding the final number of component parts, the definition of the buffer zone, and the SOUV;
8. 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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

2. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994, extensions in 2000 and 2002

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; April 2003: UNESCO/ICOMOS expert mission; May 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property)
- Commercial development; Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Housing (Uncontrolled urban development in and adjacent to the boundary of the property)
- Management systems / Management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents/> and indicates the following:

- There is ongoing progress in valorizing and utilizing traditional knowledge systems in the conservation work at the property, and a number of traditional processes and techniques have been listed on the “National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage” and the “List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Autonomous Region”. Focus has been given on training young craftspeople to continue the traditions;
- Conservation plans have been developed by Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage for the Potala Palace, the Jokhang Temple Monastery, and by Henan Research Institute for Ancient Architecture for Norbulingka. These plans are linked to other urban plans for Lhasa and have undergone a comment and revision period. They have now been completed for approval. The three plans will be sent to the World Heritage Centre in due course;
- Efforts are underway to enhance monitoring of soil erosion and bedrock conditions at the Potala Palace, and specific research is being launched to analyse the spatial relationships between heritage components. This study will provide suggestions for urban design and planning in the protective zones of the property;
- Adequate administrative procedures have been developed for the examination and approval of new development projects. Concerning the proposed television tower, a study will be launched to assess the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Related regulatory systems have been established at the Tibet Autonomous Region and Lhasa

Municipality levels, and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be examined prior to the implementation of any project within the protective zones of the property;

- Policies have been put in place to ensure that the property functions as a pilgrimage site by providing tourists a positive experience that does not interfere with pilgrimage activities. Cultural environment management planning is also being explored through a pilot research project. Monitoring, maintenance, and conservation activities are also ongoing on various parts of the property;
- Necessary maps outlining the buffer zones will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre following the completion and approval of the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property. Regulations for the buffer zones will be contained within the conservation plans.

Following a fire at the Jokhang Temple Monastery in February 2018, the World Heritage Centre requested additional information and, on 16 March 2018, the State Party responded with the following:

- The cause of the fire is still under investigation. A ventilation chamber on the 2nd floor of the Back Hall of the Main hall caught fire and approximately 50m² of the hall burned. Emergency measures were immediately put in place, and the Golden Ceiling of the back hall was carefully dismantled to ensure that it could not be damaged in the event that the fire had caused structural problems (which was later determined not to be the case). The Statue of Sakyamuni Buddha suffered no damage, but was given a temporary protective covering as a precautionary measure;
- The fire only had a minor impact on the 1st floor, and Jokhang Temple Monastery was therefore reopened to the public the following day;
- Damage due to the fire included partial burn damage to the ventilation chamber and its golden ceiling and to some wooden columns and beams. The gilded bronze ceiling and other decorative elements remain intact, with several components suffering minor deformation or other burn damage. Some murals, бага soil walls, and aga soil floors from the 1980s also suffered damage. The main hall is stable, however, and remains open;
- Immediately following the fire, both the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the People's Government of the Tibet Autonomous Region have been working to assess damage. Repair work will be carried out, as soon as possible, once studies are completed. Fire monitoring and control will also be improved at the property, drawing lessons from this incident, and fire safety screenings are currently taking place at the property and other sites in Tibet.

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

The efforts of the State Party are duly noted, notably with valorizing traditional knowledge systems, improving visitor experience for pilgrims and tourists, improving monitoring and maintenance systems, and launching studies to analyse spatial relationships between the component parts of the property and cultural environment management planning.

The provision of maps which clearly define the buffer zones should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of priority, in accordance with multiple prior Decisions of the Committee. The State Party's advice that regulations for the buffer zones will be contained within the conservation plans for the component parts of the property is welcome. The three conservation plans for the component parts of the property should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible.

It is also noted that a study will be launched to assess the potential impacts of the proposed television tower on the OUV of the property. The study should follow the methodology of the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it is completed and before any work begins.

In regard to the fire of February 2018, the preliminary report contained in the additional information is acknowledged, along with the work carried out in the immediate aftermath of the fire. As more detailed damage assessments are carried out and plans for restoration are developed, more detailed reports, including images, drawings and other graphic illustrations of all the damage, paying particular attention to the Golden Ceiling, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the damage

caused by the fire and the proposed restoration works to be undertaken, as well as to examine other aspects of the state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Expresses its regret at the fire of February 2018, and notes the work carried out by the State Party in the immediate aftermath of the fire;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, more detailed reports of all the damage caused by the aforementioned fire, including images, drawings and other graphic illustrations and paying particular attention to the Golden Ceiling, as more detailed damage assessments are being carried out and restoration plans developed;*
5. *Takes note of the completion of the three conservation plans for the component parts of the property, which are awaiting final approval, and requests that they be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible, along with the maps to clarify the buffer zones, in line with the procedures defined in the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Also takes note of the efforts of the State Party to valorize traditional knowledge systems, improve visitor experience for pilgrims and tourists, improve monitoring and maintenance systems, and launch studies to analyse spatial relationships between the component parts of the property and cultural environment management planning;*
7. *Acknowledges the study to be launched on the potential impacts of the proposed television tower on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests that the study be undertaken in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage properties and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as it is completed and before any work begins;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the damage caused by the fire and the proposed restoration works to be undertaken, as well as to examine other aspects of the state of conservation of the property;*
9. *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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

5. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 985,073 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “Support for documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia” (Phase I, 2011– 2015); USD 697,796 UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project “Support for Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia” (Phase II, 2015– 2018)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan; November 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan (Talgar, Kayalyk, Karamergen, Aktobe, Kulan, Kostobe, Ornek sites and the Akyrtas archaeological complex)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Need to implement the timetables for developing detailed management plans; Need for strategies for conservation of component sites; Need for visitor management strategies, including interpretation)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Urban development (Comparative fragility of many sites)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Proposals for a major road and bridge directly across the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan)
- Housing (Residential development in the buffer zone, near the Talgar Citadel in Kazakhstan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 November 2017, the State Party of China submitted a state of conservation report. On 30 November 2017, the State Party of Kazakhstan submitted documentation on progress with the Management Plans for all eight component sites of the serial property located in Kazakhstan, along with two new options for an alternative road design, outside of the territory of the Talgar component site. A state of conservation report was submitted by Kazakhstan on 31 January 2018. Both States Parties' reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/documents> and address the Committee's requests as follows:

- The ICOMOS International Conservation Center in Xi'an, China (IICC-X), as the Secretariat of the Silk Roads Coordination Committee and the coordinating body of the Silk Roads World Heritage property, introduced the Silk Roads Archives Information Management System (AIMS), set up the database of international experts, strengthened the training and cooperation project, developed academic exchange, explored the international technical advice and assistance mechanisms, and cooperated on archaeological projects in Central Asia. The State Party of China, through the China State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) and IICC-X, actively carried out research, conservation and management activities for the Silk Roads, both in China and in Central Asia. They explored the integrated conservation and rational utilization of cultural routes and actively shared case studies through a variety of platforms (e.g. AIMS) for discussion among member countries.

Through AIMS, newsletters, expert visits, academic conferences and other activities organized by SACH and IICC-X, cooperation and communication among countries along the Silk Roads was strengthened. On 18-23 December 2017, Chinese and Kazakh representatives and experts worked in the component sites of Kazakhstan to enhance the communication and coordination mechanism between the two States Parties;

- The State Party of China reported that, besides ensuring the appropriate conservation and management, it continues to promote interpretation projects at its 22 components sites, notably by carrying out public education activities, enhancing the understanding of how the component sites in China relate to the overall Chang'an-Tianshan corridor and to the wider Silk Roads network. Activities involving stakeholders, including local communities, are reinforced and ensure their participation in heritage management and conservation. New technologies are used for daily monitoring in order to optimize data collection and strengthen research;
- SACH has been strengthening investigations and research on Beacon Towers along the Tianshan Corridor, with a view to possibly incorporating several well-preserved beacon towers into the heritage conservation area by means of a minor boundary modification;
- The Kazakh authorities and local government have initiated and proceeded with the preparation of management plans for all eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan (Aktobe (Stepninskoye), Akyrtas, Karamergen, Kayalyk, Kostobe, Kulan, Ornek, Talgar);
- The Talgar site management has been transferred to the State Historical and Cultural Conservancy Museum "Issyk". A Master Plan is being developed for Talgar that will define protected and development zones and their uses. The State Party of Kazakhstan notes that the area for the Talgar component site in the nomination dossier was erroneous at 55.7ha and that it should only cover 20.8ha. Although housing built illegally within the component site will be demolished, the wider protected zone appears to allow the construction of roads and residential buildings that do not 'violate the historic environment';
- Within the Talgar Master Plan, two alternative routes for the Birlik-Akbulak highway that are said to bypass all protected zones (both cultural and natural) have been considered. Both start from the already-constructed road, and the preferred option will involve the demolition of buildings in recreation and settlement zones along with the construction of a new bridge over the Talgar river;
- The State Party of Kazakhstan indicates that five component sites (Ornek, Akyrtas, Kostobe, Aktobe, Kulan) are to be given the status of 'Memorial Site of History and Culture' under the State Register of Kazakhstan, in line with the boundaries of the component sites and their buffer zones. Two other component sites (Kayalyk, Karamergen) will be included in 2018;
- Due to difficulties in protecting the component sites of Akyrtas, Kostobe, Kulan and Ornek, a Commission involving state, regional and local representatives, including mayors, was set up and agreed on the following:
 - Akyrtas: expand the buffer zone and close roads through the area of the memorial site;
 - Kostobe: exclude the cemetery from the protected areas, in line with the mission's recommendations; expand the buffer zone; ensure that all projects in the component site and buffer zone are approved by the state-authorized body at national level;
 - Ornek, Aktobe, Kulan: request local executive bodies to temporarily suspend issuing permissions for utilities, construction works, and other excavation activities until the memorial sites are approved;
- Concerning road improvements, the State Party of Kazakhstan provided the following details:
 - Kostobe: a gravel road leading to the monument has been constructed to the south side of the Bayzak village;
 - Kayalyk: plans have been prepared to allow the road "A-3" (Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty), to bypass Koilyk village. It will run along the north side of the buffer zone and archaeological investigations have been undertaken;
 - Akyrtas: an asphalt road leading to the visitor centre has been constructed; its impact will be assessed and measures developed to reduce the negative impact.

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

As the detailed reports provided independently by the States Parties of China and Kazakhstan relate to a single, serial transnational property, it would have been preferable that all three States Parties submit one joint state of conservation report.

Considerable progress has been made with interpretation, stakeholder involvement and monitoring along Silk Roads in China, notably through public education activities to better understand how the component sites in China relate to the overall Chang'an-Tianshan corridor and the wider Silk Roads network. Extensive research, conservation and management efforts have been made at the components in China. It is also noted that the State Party of China is actively exploring ways to enhance communication and coordination mechanisms among the three States Parties. The project 'Study and Conservation of Beacon Towers in China', which aims to possibly incorporate several valuable and well-preserved beacon towers into the heritage conservation area by means of a minor boundary modification, appears promising.

It is noted with appreciation that the State Party of Kazakhstan has started preparing Management Plans for all its component sites and their landscape settings, in order to address governance issues at both the national and local levels and to ensure adequate planning and effective management.

The assurances made by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding road projects are welcome: details were provided on ongoing projects at Kayalyk, Akyrtas and Kostobe and the necessary impact assessments will be carried out, or mitigation measures developed to reduce any negative impact.

Proposals for a bypass route at Talgar, located outside of all protected zones, are noted. The preferred option, which passes outside the buffer zone, would entail the demolition of residential and public buildings and the construction of a new bridge across the river. Before any further plans or commitments are made, and before any work is undertaken, more detailed plans of these proposals, showing the precise route of the road, the location of the new bridge and any areas which are to fulfil the functions of demolished buildings, need to be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, preferably in one of the two working languages of the Committee (i.e. English or French). Details also need to be provided on the work undertaken to dismantle the partially-constructed bridge built in 2016 across the Talgar River, the dismantling of which was requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.34**. Information is also still awaited on mitigation measures to address reconstruction work and illegal, uncontrolled residential developments near the boundaries of the Talgar site, and on measures to urgently strengthen the overall legal, planning and management frameworks of the component site and its setting.

The decision to close all existing roads through the component site of Kostobe should be commended, with the existing gravel road being used for local access only. As the overall plans involve the creation of a service zone and parking area, the State Party should be requested to submit these together with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

At the Kayalyk component, the A3 Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty highway was initially due to pass along the south-eastern border of the site and through the buffer zone, which posed a significant threat to the property. Revised plans have now been prepared to allow this strategic road to bypass the component site and Koilyk village, with a route along the north-west side of the buffer zone. However, it is noted that the north-west boundary of the buffer zone appears to coincide with the line of the new road. In order to adequately protect the site, the alignment should be adjusted to avoid the buffer zone entirely.

At the Akyrtas component site, minimal details have been provided on the asphalt road leading to the visitor centre, started in 2017. In line with its commitments, the State Party should be requested to provide further details and analysis of impact in an HIA.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee encourage all three States Parties to make full use of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (ICC), established prior to inscription, to better coordinate the protection and management of the serial property, and notably of the ICC's Secretariat based at ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (China).

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.34** and **41 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*

3. Welcomes the two detailed reports submitted by the State Parties of China and Kazakhstan addressing the requests made by the Committee in the aforementioned decisions, but strongly encourages all three States Parties involved in this serial transnational property to submit a joint report in the future;
4. Commends the State Party of China for:
 - a) the ongoing work on interpretation, stakeholder involvement and monitoring along the Chinese components of the serial property, and notably the public education activities,
 - b) its extensive research, conservation and management activities, along with its efforts to enhance communication and coordination mechanisms among the three States Parties,
 - c) the project 'Study and Conservation of Beacon Towers in China', which looks at the possibility of incorporating several valuable and well-preserved beacon towers into the heritage conservation area by means of a minor boundary modification;
5. Also welcomes the assurances made by the State Party of Kazakhstan that the necessary impact assessments for road construction projects will be carried out and that mitigation measures will be developed to reduce any negative impacts;
6. Notes the decisions to re-route the Birlik-Akbulak highway outside all protective zones at the Talgar component site, to close all existing roads through the component site of Kostobe, and to divert the A3 Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty highway to the edge of the buffer zone at the Kayalyk component site; and requests the State Party of Kazakhstan to provide the following to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any further plans or commitments are made and before any work is undertaken:
 - a) Details of the preferred option for the Talgar bypass road, showing the precise route and the location of the new bridge, as well as any areas which are to fulfil the functions of demolished buildings, accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA),
 - b) Details of the overall road closure plans for Kostobe including the creation of a service zone and parking together with an appropriate HIA,
 - c) Details of an adjusted route for the A3 Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty that avoids the buffer zone of Kayalyk component site entirely, together with an HIA,
 - d) Details of the new road to the visitor centre at Akyrtyas;
7. Reiterates its requests to the State Party of Kazakhstan to provide details on:
 - a) the dismantling of the partially constructed bridge adjacent to the Talgar component site,
 - b) mitigation measures to address reconstruction work and illegal, uncontrolled residential developments near the boundaries of the Talgar component site,
 - c) measures to strengthen the legal, planning and management frameworks of the Talgar component site and its setting;
8. Further welcomes the ongoing process of preparing Management Plans for all component sites in Kazakhstan and their landscape settings, and also reiterates its request that these be finalized as a matter of priority, taking into consideration the outcomes of the November 2016 mission, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, by **1 December 2018** at the latest;

9. Also strongly encourages the three States Parties to make full use of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (ICC), established prior to the inscription to better coordinate the protection and management of the serial transnational property, and notably of its Secretariat based at the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre in Xi'an (China);
10. Finally requests the three States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, 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 44th session in 2020.

10. Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan) (C 1484)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2

14. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2

15. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2001-2012

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1994 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 153,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 under UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust for a study tour; USD 47,000 under the UNESCO Participation Programme for emergency assistance following typhoon Emong in May 2009; USD 40,600 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the emergency stabilization and restoration of the Rice Terraces after typhoon Juaning in July 2011

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: joint ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Storms; Other climate change impacts (Vulnerability to natural disasters)

- Financial resources (Lack of sustainable funding for the functioning management agencies)
- Management activities (Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan through operational arrangements)
- Management systems/ management plan (Need for an integrated tourism Management Plan and mechanisms to control tourism related infrastructure developments)
- Society's valuing of heritage; Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Implementation of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning Plan)
- Human resources
- Illegal activities
- Legal framework

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), at the time this document was written. On the basis of the report submitted ahead of the 40th session in 2016, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>, and on the basis of exchanges with the State Party that have occurred since, the following information on conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions could be gathered:

- Continued efforts have been made for the conservation and management of the rice terraces, in line with the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015–2024;
- The Master Plan foresees the establishment of a database system for the rice terraces to provide adequate support for conservation activities, and also encourages the creation of a National Support Body and Office, to ensure that the government remains committed to the restoration and preservation of the rice terraces;
- A number of measures have been taken in order to preserve the rice terraces by developing and implementing community-based zoning and land use plans that take into account traditional value systems. The resulting maps are in the process of adoption by the relevant national authorities;
- The need to regularize the employees involved in conservation projects is recognized as an important step for the sustainable management of the site.

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

In the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property, progress achieved by the State Party towards implementation of rice Terraces Master Plan (2015-2024) cannot be evaluated.

However, the State Party has sustained its efforts to address the conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, which has resulted in the overall improvement of the property's state of conservation and management.

The grassroots approach to the protection of the property will take longer to become fully functional, given that consultation and engagement with a diverse range of communities and stakeholders is a time-consuming process. This process is critical, however, in order to secure the long-term sustainability of the protection and management arrangements, as it ensures that people who live within the property and/or whose livelihoods depend on it can embrace the management system and contribute to its successful implementation.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue providing adequate human and financial resources to actively support the implementation of measures included in the Master Plan and which concern not only the tangible conservation of the property, but also the Ifugao practices and intangible cultural heritage associated with them.

The success of the property's long-term management will depend on the positive role played by local communities. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that mechanisms are in place to guarantee their active involvement in the property's management, and in turn guarantee that tourism development occurs in consultation with the local communities and in such a way that it benefits them.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continuously monitor the implementation of regulations to control infrastructure and physical developments within the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.45** 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 by the deadline of 1 December 2017, as requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.45**;
4. Welcomes nonetheless the efforts and progress made by the State Party to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to continuously implement the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024, including not only the tangible conservation of the property, but also the Ifugao practices and intangible cultural heritage associated with it;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the necessary human and financial resources to support the implementation of the Master Plan of the property through operational arrangements;
7. Encourages the State Party to continuously monitor the implementation of regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments within the property, and to ensure the full participation of local communities and residents in its operation;
8. Also 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 Committee at its 44th session in 2020.



17. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,334

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: UNESCO expert Advisory mission; April/May 2008: UNESCO New Delhi Office Advisory mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Weakness in the management of the Galle Heritage Foundation in its role as the managing authority for the property)
- Marine transport infrastructure (Potential impact of a proposed port construction on the integrity of the property)
- Commercial development; Illegal activities (Intrusive and illegal constructions within the Galle cricket ground impacting on the integrity of the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/>

Current conservation issues

On 18 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents>, which provides information on the state of the implementation of the previous decisions of the Committee, including the proposed port project and the integrated management system.

With regard to the proposed port, the State Party reports that, while detailed plans have been prepared and the loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) confirmed for the project, it has nevertheless been temporarily deferred by the Sri Lankan Ports authority due to other major port projects being developed in Colombo and Hambantota. For this reason, and as there was only a conditional clearance of UNESCO given in 2016, considering the recommendations of July 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission, a “fresh set of updated plans will be required at the time of commencement” along with large-scale plans and high resolution, photo montages of the project, as previously requested by the Committee.

Major legislative changes are also reportedly being carried out with regard to the Antiquities Ordinance and the Gall Heritage Foundation Act, and a timetable has been developed and submitted for the implementation of the management plan. Funding for the protection of the property is being obtained through government institutions and others, such as the Central Cultural Fund, the Urban Development Authority, and the Southern Development Authority. The appointment of a marine archaeologist remains to be confirmed.

A Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (MP) is also under preparation, and a draft has been developed in collaboration with stakeholders, with the aim of spreading tourism activities around the area so as to limit the impact of too many tourists at the fort at any one time.

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

In regard to the proposed port project, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the implementation of the scaled-back project has been delayed due to the ongoing work at other port development projects in Sri Lanka. The State Party acknowledges the need for considerably updating the plans before the actual commencement, given that no thorough clearance had been provided by the Committee. This is welcome news, as it will provide additional time to ensure that the project does not have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies emphasize the need to follow the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the ICOMOS Advisory mission of July 2016, and that the State Party should submit the requested detailed documents, large-scale plans, and high-resolution photo montages before any work commences for this project. The newly-deferred timeline for the project will allow the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide advice on the new plans, and the World Heritage Committee will be able to make a final decision on the appropriateness of the port project.

It is further noted that steps have been taken to engage a marine archaeologist for the project before the start of the implementation, to ensure that any impacts of the project can be mitigated. The State Party does not intend to extend the buffer zone to include maritime archaeological remains, which are protected under the legal provision of the Antiquities ordinance.

With regard to the timeframe for the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), it is noted that many activities were scheduled to be completed in 2017 and most others in 2018. It would

therefore be useful to have a detailed report on the implementation of these activities in the State Party's next state of conservation report. It is further noted that the Sustainable Tourism MP has been submitted and recently reviewed by ICOMOS. It provides sensible provisions and a series of priority actions address most of the issues. However, it makes a significant number of recommendations that require further action and uncertainty remains with regard to their actual implementation, responsibilities, funding and a timetable. While detailed recommendations with regard to improvement of the Tourism MP will be shared with the State Party, more information should be provided on its current status. The financial position of the Galle Heritage Foundation should be made clear, including how it is funded and whether this funding will be increased to help achieve progress with the recommendations of the Tourism MP. The Galle Heritage Foundation should consider forming a business plan in order to anticipate the number of staff needed to carry out the requirements of the IMP and the Tourism MP. Adequate financial resources should be made available, allowing the employment of suitably qualified and talented people to implement the requirements of the IMP and the Tourism MP. Finally, the commitment of the State Party to strengthen its legal and administrative frameworks for the protection of the property is welcomed.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the news that the implementation of the scaled-back port project has been deferred due to other port projects being implemented first, and that the need for considerably updated plans is clearly recognized, taking into account the recommendations of the July 2016 ICOMOS Advisory mission;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, large-scale plans, detailed plans, and high-resolution photo montages of the proposed port development before any work commences at the property, so that the Committee can review the port project and determine its appropriateness;*
5. *Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to strengthen the legislative and financial frameworks for the management of the property, and to engage a marine archaeologist before the commencement of the implementation of the proposed port project to prevent any impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and initiate mitigation measures, if necessary;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to provide information on the implementation status of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan and to clarify the financial standing of the Galle Heritage Foundation, including information on the financial resources available to implement the recommendations of the Tourism Management Plan;*
7. *Requests furthermore that the State Party provide information on the measures taken to ensure the appropriate quality and number of staff necessary to implement the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan;*
8. *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 the implementation of the above, including a detailed report be submitted on the*

implementation of the IMP, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

21. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia) (C 616bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2003-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 115,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2008 and January 2010: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development of high rise constructions on the Pankrác Plain
- Lack of effectiveness of existing planning, management and conservation measures for the property
- Lack of a finalized Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/>

Current conservation issues

Since the last Decision **36 COM 7B.73** (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), ICOMOS reviewed numerous documents submitted by the State Party (e.g. 2014 state of conservation report, 2015 draft Management Plan, restoration works Puhonice Park, restoration project of the Castle Alpine Garden, newly planned development project White Water Park, high-rise development on the Pankrác Plain) and provided extensive comments to the Czech authorities.

In 2016 and 2017, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide clarifications on a number of high-rise developments, as well as regarding planned extensive building within the property. On 21 February 2017, ICOMOS reviewed the report submitted by the Czech authorities on 23 September 2016. In the light of the above and after receiving information from the civil society, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party on 10 August 2017 to provide further information regarding developments at the "Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory", as well as a detailed progress report, as a basis for the submission of a state of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee.

On 15 March 2018, the State Party submitted clarifications regarding the "Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory" project on Pankrác Plain, and, more generally, the construction of high-rise buildings on Pankrác Plain in the buffer zone surrounding the property. These submissions make reference to height limits suggested by the Committee, as part of Decision **32 COM 7B.86**, noting that there are different interpretations regarding the extent of the Pankrác Plain and therefore where height limits should apply.

On 28 March 2018, the State Party also submitted a detailed state of conservation report, with an extensive number of annexes. The report is available on <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>, and provides information:

- On current and planned development activities, including the construction of the V-shaped residential building known as "Epoque Towers" currently being completed and the planned development project "Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory";
- On progress in elaboration, by the Ministry of Culture, of an "Amendment of State Heritage Care Act", the aim of which is to ensure an effective, transparent, predictable and professionally guaranteed method for managing the heritage of the Czech Republic;
- On progress in drafting the Management Plan and the forthcoming Metropolitan Plan, as well as on the North-South Trunk Road, the Blanka Tunnel, and plans for restoration of the Vyšehrad and Žižkov stations, etc.;
- In regard to the planned construction of the "Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory" residential complex located next to the Central Park in Pankrác, the State Party reported that the construction project is composed of five shorter and three high-rise residential buildings connected by a base on the floor located in the territory of the Pankrác Plain near the "Pentagon" where the high-rise buildings of the former Czechoslovak Radio (today City Tower), Motokov (today City Empiria) and Hotel Panorama – Hotel Prague are situated. The State Party clarified the exact delineation of the territory proposed for such a development.

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

The State Party's efforts in developing strategic documents, as well as revising the draft Management Plan following ICOMOS recommendations, as well as restoration and maintenance works are noted. The Committee should welcome these efforts and encourage the approval of all relevant legal documents and amendments, such as an "Amendment of State Heritage Care Act" to reinforce heritage protection and management, as well as inviting the State Party to strengthen the authority of the national institution in charge of the implementation of the Convention to enable it to focus major decisions on the retention of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is noted that the North-South Trunk Road is no longer being planned by routing the road through tunnels, but the plan is for a system of surface modifications.

The State Party concerns regarding the high-rise developments are noted. In 2017, ICOMOS concluded that the "Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory" project would add substantially to the harm caused by the existing tall buildings cluster. Nevertheless, in its decision, the Prague City Council's Department of Heritage Management concluded that this project was not in conflict with the heritage preservation regulations for the given area. It is noted with concern that in several locations the newly-developed draft Metropolitan Plan proposes filling in the composition of existing dominant structures with new high-rise buildings.

The Committee should express great concern at the lack of specific regulations available for high-rise developments, which may substantially impact on the OUV of the property, noting that, as a result there is a corresponding lack of stakeholder consensus. There have been unfortunate interpretations of part of Committee Decision **32 COM 7B.86** to confine the extent of height limits suggested in the Pankrác Plain area, thereby allowing taller buildings which are affecting the OUV of the property. The Committee should therefore request that the State Party intervene to cease such arbitrary interpretation of its previous decision regarding the height controls. The completion of the high rise limitations plan should remove the possibility of future misinterpretation of Decision **32 COM 7B.86**. Meanwhile, it is also appropriate for the Committee to request the State Party to introduce a moratorium on major projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, which may substantially impact on the OUV of the property, until appropriate regulations are developed and implemented.

Details and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of any proposed project, together with a cumulative HIA of the projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, focusing on potential impact on the OUV of the property, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The Committee should strongly encourage the State Party to finalize the Management Plan and to implement all relevant measures and plans, defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, to prevent threats to its OUV.

Given the current situation, a Reactive Monitoring mission is needed to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, review all ongoing studies and proposals and assist with the identification of options regarding possible developments that are consistent with the OUV of the property, as well as to evaluate whether the property is faced with threats, which could have deleterious effects on its

inherent characteristics, such that it meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),
3. Notes the information provided and progress made by the State Party in restoration works, on the North-South Trunk Road project modifications, as well as revision of the draft Management Plan following ICOMOS recommendations;
4. Urges the State Party to finalize the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes as well as to implement all relevant measures and plans, defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, to prevent any threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
5. Encourages the State Party to approve all relevant legal documents and amendments, such as an “Amendment of State Heritage Care Act”, to reinforce heritage protection and management, and invites the State Party to strengthen the authority of the national institution in charge of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention to enable it to focus major decisions on the retention of the OUV of the property;
6. Expresses its great concern about the number of large-scale development projects proposed within buffer zone of the property and its wider setting, as well as the lack of specific regulations on high-rise developments, which may substantially impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to prevent further misinterpretation of its previous decisions (particularly Decision **32 COM 7B.86**) on height limits and the extent of the area previously named as ‘Pankrác Plain’; and also invites the State Party to introduce a moratorium on major projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, which may substantially impact on the OUV of the property, until appropriate regulations are developed and implemented, including the high-rise limitations plan, with specific regulations to prevent exacerbating the damage already caused by the cluster of high-rise buildings;
8. Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of any proposed project which may affect the OUV of the property, together with a cumulative HIA of the projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting focusing on their potential impact on the OUV of the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. 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, review all ongoing studies and proposals and assist with the identification of options regarding possible developments that are consistent with the OUV of the property, as well as to review whether the property is faced with threats, which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, such that the property meets the criteria for its inscription on the

List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. *Further 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.*

24. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2009-2016

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1997-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 96,160

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: Funds-in-Trust. Georgia-UNESCO Agreement: Cultural heritage advisory service to the NACHP (National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia) implemented under the Third Regional Development Project (RDP III). Total budget: USD 250 000

Previous monitoring missions

1993: World Heritage Centre mission; May 1994: ICOMOS Advisory mission; 1999: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2001: Heritage and Tourism Master Plan mission; November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, and April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank Advisory mission and Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2015, February and December 2016: World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions; July – September 2017: World Heritage Centre on-site technical assistance

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management mechanism (issue resolved)
- Lack of definition of the unified buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Lack of Urban Master Plan of the City of Mtskheta
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities
- Privatization of surrounding land
- Natural erosion of stone
- Loss of authenticity during previous works carried out by the Church
- Inappropriate urban development within a sensitive historical environment (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 October 2017, the final Activity Report, including detailed recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance to Georgia, was transmitted by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party within the framework of the UNESCO/Georgia Agreement. On 30 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation providing progress made with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 41st session. The joint World Heritage

Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out in February 2018. The three reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>.

- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Urban Land-Use Master Plan (ULUMP) have been prepared including the Historical Cultural Base Plan and building regulations. The Technical Committee composed of all relevant governmental stakeholders has been established and the administrative process for validation of the ToR is progressing;
- Institutional and technical capacity of local and national authorities has been enhanced, cross-institutional collaboration improved and management mechanisms have been reinforced through the UNESCO/Georgia agreement. The Mtskheta self-governing town has been merged with the Mtskheta municipality resolving the management issue of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. The Cultural Heritage and Tourism Development Center has been created as an independent public entity under local administration;
- Owing to the complexity of the development of the ULUMP, necessitating further coordination among stakeholders as well as financial and human resources, the moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta has been prolonged until 31 December 2018, with the condition that a full set of town planning documentation including the ULUMP and Historical-Cultural Base Plan be elaborated;
- Technical reviews and recommendations for projects proposals for the new bridge on the river Mtkvari and the Samtavro Monastery Garden have been received and the decision to implement the projects has accordingly been taken;
- As a result of the methodological recommendations provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies along the development of the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP) and Mtskheta New Archaeological Museum projects proposals, these two projects have now been revised and consented to. The project proposal for the rehabilitation of western wall of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral was discussed during the mission.

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

While the State Party has achieved remarkable progress in addressing the factors affecting the property, devoting all its efforts to implementing the recommendations provided over the past years, it is noted that basic conservation issues of the property remain crucial. The historic urban landscape of Mtskheta is currently undergoing step-by-step changes with increased commercial tourism development, rehabilitation of public spaces and changes in the overall historic urban landscape, as well as environmental degradation due to lack of waste and water/sewage management. It should be noted with concern that these threats, if not addressed in time with appropriate and immediate measures, may impact in the medium term on the attributes which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including its conditions of authenticity and integrity.

The Decree of the Moratorium has had a positive impact, successfully tackling uncontrolled land privatization and development within the Mtskheta Protection Zone. To improve the protective instruments, the State Party adopted in June 2017 the Unified Visual Protection Area by the Decree of the Minister of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia under the Law of Georgia on Cultural Heritage (2007). The elaboration of a comprehensive set of mapping and planning documentation for the preparation of the ULUMP has been achieved. On the basis of updated databases and site surveys by the Technical Assistance project, the borders of built-up regulation zone areas, archaeological zones and the historical landscape protection zone were corrected. The 2018 mission recommended that the Moratorium be maintained until the urban planning documentation has been adopted, and control and monitoring is fully in place. Also, as there is confusion among the citizens about the contents and implementation of the Moratorium, information is needed about the steps required for the lifting of the regulation and about the monitoring and management of the historical core of the town, after the expiration of the Moratorium.

The mission concluded that while the State Party has made significant progress in establishing a clear institutional coordination and mechanism, it is not fully implemented and operational in daily practice. Neither the Steering Committee, nor the municipality and civil society are involved in the development of the ULUMP concept yet. There is lack of a functioning participatory process and communication within all levels of planning and management. The mission highlighted the importance of a coordinated inter-ministerial and institutional decision-making process regarding the protection of the property. A continuous dialog and transparency between all stakeholders of the Master Plan should be the guiding

principle for all actors, especially at the conceptual stage of new proposals. The priority need is to reinforce the role of the municipality in all training and capacity building programmes for the planning and management of Mtskheta. The mission highlighted the crucial need to raise awareness on the World Heritage benefits and commitments among the local authority and all the citizens and stakeholders.

A number of development projects were reviewed by the mission and recommendations provided within the mission report. However, noting in particular the “Second Jerusalem” project in the Historical Landscape protection zone and the Buffer Zone of the property, including interventions such as a new pedestrian bridge over the river Aragvi and universal baptistery in the Mtkvari-Aragvi riverside area of Mtskheta. It also includes related infrastructure with new walkways, connecting roads and look-outs at the historically important area at the banks of the Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers and by the Jvari Church. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, all detailed documents, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) to be carried out already at the strategic level, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is also recommended that the Committee endorse all recommendations of the 2018 mission, and in particular on the integrated planning process of elaboration of the Urban Planning Documentation, that the responsibility of the Steering Committee should be in practice, and that no project, independently of its contents and potential positive or negative impacts, should be realized without the active support of all relevant stakeholders, including the Local Authorities, and without the approval of a HIA in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties.

It is finally recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to implement all recommendations of the UNESCO Advisory service to Georgia implemented within the framework of the agreement signed between the State Party and UNESCO, and financially supported by the World Bank (UNESCO/Georgia Agreement).

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement the recommendations made with regard to the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP), and encourages the State Party to further enhance the participatory process and involvement of the municipality and civil society in the development of the ULUMP, and to improve coordinated inter-ministerial and institutional decision-making processes regarding the protection of the World Heritage property;*
4. *Endorses the recommendations of the final Activity Report of the UNESCO Advisory service to Georgia developed within the framework of the agreement signed between the State Party and UNESCO, and financially supported by the World Bank (UNESCO/Georgia Agreement), as well as the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and invites the State Party to implement these recommendations, and in particular concerning the Svetichkhoveli Cathedral, the Javary Monastery, Samtavro Nunnery and Samtavro Valley;*
5. *Requests the State Party to maintain the moratorium on Urban Development and Land Privatization in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta until the urban planning documentation has been adopted, and control and monitoring is fully in place;*
6. *Recalls its request to the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development projects*

within the property, its buffer zone and setting for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse;

7. ***Strongly urges** the State Party to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for developments within the property and its buffer zone as a timely and appropriate method of assessing the multiple and cumulative impacts of current and planned developments, taking into account potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, prior to allowing any developments to take place and prior to the finalization and implementation of the ULUMP;*
8. ***Also 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.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979, minor boundary modification in 2015

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

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2003: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; January 2006: Management Planning Course; February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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



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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report with eight annexes, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/> (with the exception of Annex IV 'Report on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for harmonizing policy/planning framework and instruments'). Progress towards resolving various conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- A 2017 Action Plan was drawn up for the implementation of Committee Decision adopted in 2016;
- An HIA was carried out to harmonize the policy/planning framework and instruments, and its conclusions will be the departure point for the specific HIAs requested by the Committee and used to evaluate all new constructions;
- The Study of Protection of Cultural Properties for the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for the Coastal Area (SPSPCA) was finalized and is already being used to inform heritage management;
- A new Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures was adopted. It provides the basis for development of a Spatial Urban Plan for the Municipality of Kotor. It should also include heritage protection provisions planned to be prepared on the basis of the aforementioned Study;
- A new Council for the Management of Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor has been appointed to improve heritage management, and a working group has proposed amendments to heritage legislation in order to improve its operation;
- Amendments to the Law on Protection of Natural and Cultural-historic Region of Kotor have been approved. These include: the requirement for HIAs for development projects in the area; the definition of the responsibilities of the various actors in the heritage management system; and more adequate instruments for conservation and management.

In March 2017, the State Party submitted an HIA regarding a proposed project to construct a cable car between Kotor and St John's Fortress, with original project data provided in November 2017. It should be noted that this part of the property now overlaps with a component of the serial property 'Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: *Stato da Terra* – Western *Stato da Mar*', inscribed in 2017. A report on state of conservation of this serial property is scheduled for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

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

The efforts of the State Party to address the issues raised by the Committee at its 40th session are appreciated. However, many issues addressed in previous Committee decisions require further progress.

The completed Kotor HIA was requested by the Committee to evaluate the current set of "planning instruments" adopted for the property and its buffer zone, in order to understand which might have a potential negative effect on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in terms of development that could be allowed. The idea was that this study could then serve as a basis for "harmonizing all urban planning instruments" and "establishing a clear territorial policy / planning framework".

This detailed report realistically notes that if all legitimate land-use planning and urban development plans were to be realized, the OUV of the property would be jeopardized. It analyses and assesses the weaknesses of the system, such as insufficient links between protection requirements and approved land-use and town plans. It sets out some proposals but does not provide clear and detailed guidance for resolving the problem through strengthening or harmonising planning instruments in accordance with the Committee's decisions. Instead it sets out a framework for future HIAs to be carried out by a Team of Experts authorised by the Ministry of Culture. At the same time new actors will be introduced into the planning system. This in effect suggests that unacceptable projects can still be legitimately put forward in line with planning instruments but mitigated as a result of HIAs. It is difficult to understand how the HIA/EIA processes can replace inadequate legal protection or lack of planning controls. What is still needed is a detailed analysis of the actual spatial and urban plans in force for the property's territory and its buffer zone, their weaknesses and what is needed to strengthen them.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to maintain the moratorium on any new construction and development until a complete suite of planning and protection measures are in force to satisfactorily constrain developments within the sensitive landscapes of the property so that there is no adverse impact on OUV.

The draft Kotor HIA and the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures were the subject of an ICOMOS technical review, which was transmitted to the State Party in May 2018. An HIA was carried out for the cable car project and has already been reviewed by ICOMOS. This technical review, submitted to the State Party in November 2017, did not consider the proposed mitigation actions to be sufficient to avoid negative impacts on the property's OUV, and instead proposes that the project should be abandoned.

As many of the development pressures arising within the property are related to tourism (not only infrastructure but also high visitor numbers, particularly related to cruise tourism), tourism planning that respects OUV and supports sustainable development should also be an essential component of general planning for the property.

The recent appointment of a new management council, with improvements to the way it functions, is an important step towards effective management. The council should ensure that the ongoing implementation of the management plan is coordinated with all other planning activities, and that all relevant actors are involved (e.g. the various municipalities).

Finally, the report suffers from a lack of information about the conservation conditions of the physical fabric of the property, as noted in the HIA for the cable car project. This is not only important for safeguarding OUV in general, but is also the basis on which some of the proposed development projects might be safely implemented. There is also no information available on the impact that urban development has on intangible aspects of the property, including traditional ways of life and knowledge systems, which were indicated as being potentially at risk in the last Periodic Report (2015).

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, as well as, to consider in detail the various reports and legal amendments that have been produced and how further work might be carried out to strengthen the legal and planning protection of the property and its buffer zone.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Welcomes the ongoing work by the State Party on legal, planning and management matters and acknowledges the work undertaken as part of the Kotor Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to analyse in general the weakness of the current overall protection system, and the proposals for the development of a Spatial Urban Plan for the Municipality of Kotor;*
4. *Notes the proposal to centralize the production of HIAs as a means of mitigating negative impacts of development proposals that have been submitted, but considers that this measure cannot compensate for the lack of adequate legal and planning mechanisms for the overall landscape of the property;*
5. *Remains concerned that considerable further work is needed to analyze in detail the weaknesses of the current Spatial and Urban Plans in force for the property's territory and its buffer zone, as a prelude to developing means to strengthen them;*
6. *Considering ICOMOS' technical review of the HIA of the project, urges the State Party to abandon the Kotor-St John's Fortress cable car project to prevent any negative impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

7. Strongly requests the State Party to maintain the moratorium on any new construction and development until a complete suite of planning and protection measures are in force to satisfactorily accommodate possible sustainable developments within the sensitive landscape of the area and prevent any impact on the cultural and landscape values of the property ;
8. Also requests the State Party to complete all relevant actions in response to the Committee's previous decisions, in particular to carry out HIAs for all ongoing or planned development projects, including the transport connection at Verige and the tourist facility at Glavati – Prčanj, as well as to submit the results of the HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to undertaking any further commitments;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, as well as the various reports and legal amendments that have been produced and to advise on what further work is needed to strengthen the legal and planning protection of the property and its buffer zone and to coordinate its management;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated detailed report on the state of conservation of all components of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

28. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (i)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 38,540

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1992, 1993, 1994, 2011: ICOMOS missions; 2002: UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission and on-site workshop; 2007, 2010 and 2013: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; July 2014 and October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory missions; March 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Structural integrity issues at the Church of the Transfiguration
- Lack of an integrated management plan addressing the overall management of the World Heritage property
- Tourism development pressures including development of infrastructures

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2017, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/> and provides update information on the following issues:

- Restoration work of the Church of the Transfiguration has continued in accordance with the approved restoration project, supporting ICOMOS guidelines and recommendations. As a result, the domes have been dismantled and are being restored, the iconostasis of the heaven ceiling has been restored and the walls of the Church have been strengthened with traditional binding posts;
- Following the ICOMOS technical review of the Management Plan, the plan was substantially revised and subsequently approved by the Coordination Council for the property "Kizhi Pogost", all stakeholders including the local communities, and the Government of Karelia in August 2017;
- No further works for reconstruction of the museum entrance have been undertaken. The museum entrance development project has been revised taking into account all comments and suggestions by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The revised study of the project and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) were technically reviewed in December 2017 and will be resubmitted. The reuse of existing facilities and removal of temporary buildings located in the visual corridor of the architectural ensemble are some of the main outcomes of the study;
- The museum has developed its own excursion programmes and purchased small boats and hovercrafts to offer tours around the island and thereby improve the flow of tourists around the buffer zone. A commission set up in 2014 oversees monitoring and compliance with land-use.

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

The State Party has made noteworthy progress with the state of conservation of the property thanks to the dedication and efforts invested by people from the Department of the Ministry of Culture, museum administration and staff, as well as engineers, architects and craftsmen. The ICOMOS Advisory mission, carried out in March 2018, reviewed the technical aspects of the restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration and assessed the management plan and visitor management strategy, notably projects related to the development of the entrance zone.

The restoration project of the Church of the Transfiguration has now entered its final stages as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd tiers have been completely dismantled and taken to the restoration complex for restoration. Since the 2015 mission, restoration and conservation of the church interior has also been carried out on the decorated rafters of the heaven ceiling, as well as the royal doors. The 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission was satisfied with the overall progress made and the very high quality of workmanship.

The mission team noted that the challenges of structural reinforcement of the building had been addressed positively in the direction of earlier recommendations. The mission made further detailed recommendations related to vertical movements of the binding posts, the support of the ring for the heaven ceiling, the iconostasis, and surface treatment.

The mission was presented with plans for the restoration of the Church of the Intercession. The mission recommended that the same principles for restoration should apply to this project as have been applicable for the current project. It was noted that the timber of the Church is in a very bad condition and ways need to be considered as to how to minimize new interventions. Details of alternative proposals should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken.

Concerning the Museum entrance project, the mission has reviewed the proposed Kizhi Open Air Museum entrance area on Kizhi Island zone B, and in particular the proposed buildings (the restoration and storage complex, the reconstruction of the warehouse building and the architectural and ethnographic sector "Northern Vepsians") as regards their location, size and construction materials. The mission underlines that the development plans for zones A and B will reach the maximum permissible level of development of administrative and other service buildings on the island. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to permit any further new constructions in the future.

With regard to the revision of the Management Plan and its implementation, the State Party has made substantial efforts to respond to the Committee recommendations. However, the ICOMOS Advisory

mission noted that the provision of tourist services should be combined with the development of the rest of the traditional economy – cultivation of land, development of traditional handicrafts, etc., in view to create the conditions for the long-term settlement of the inhabitants based on mixed economic sources.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to focus on the establishment of sufficient protection measures both within and outside the buffer zone, including land-use and non-constructive zones legislation, as well as to strictly apply fluvial regulation in order to prevent any impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 7B.58, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Acknowledges the considerable progress made with the the restoration of fabric and interior of the Church of the Transfiguration, the high quality of workmanship and the satisfactory implementation of previous recommendations;*
4. *Welcomes the revisions made to the entrance zone project;*
5. *Takes note of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property made in relation to the restoration works of the Church of the Transfiguration and requests the State Party to implement them;*
6. *Notes that the restoration of the Church of the Intercession is being planned and recommends that the same principles for restoration should apply to this project as has been applicable for the project of the Church of the Transfiguration; further notes that the timber of the Church of the Intercession is in a very bad condition and that a robust methodology should be developed to minimize new interventions and also requests that details of alternative proposals should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before a decision is taken on the way forward;*
7. *Notes that the State Party has proceeded with a new Museum entrance project and, in order that acceptable accommodation be provided on the island, has planned a number of other developments such as the restoration and storage complex, the reconstruction of the warehouse building and the architectural and ethnographic sector “Northern Vepsians”, for which Heritage Impact Assessments have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Body ICOMOS;*
8. *Further requests the State Party not to permit any further new constructions in the future since the development plans for zones A and B of the new Museum entrance project will reach the maximum permissible level of development of administrative and other service buildings on the island;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to focus on the establishment of sufficient protection measures both within and outside the buffer zone, including land-use and non-constructive zones legislation, as well as to strictly apply fluvial regulation in order to prevent any impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*

10. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party to revise the Management Plan (2018-2026) and submit it for approval to the Coordination Council for the World Heritage property “Kizhi Pogost” management, stakeholders and the Regional Government of the Republic of Karelia and requests furthermore the State Party, and the Museum as managing administration of the property, to ensure that the provision of tourist services be combined with the development of traditional economy activities such as cultivation of land, development of traditional handicrafts, etc., in view to create the conditions for the long-term settlement of the inhabitants;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.

29. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2

31. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1986-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 452,208

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

November 1997: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 1998: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2000, May 2001, 2002, December 2003, December 2004: World Heritage Centre missions; April 2006, May 2008, April 2009, November 2012: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: Reactive Monitoring mission World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Ground/underground transport infrastructure
- Low impact research/monitoring activities
- Management systems/management plan
- Loss of integrity and authenticity: decay and loss of Ottoman/vernacular architecture

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

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/356/documents/>, and outlines progress made in relation to the requests of the Committee, and in particular to various projects, as follows:

- The height of the ventilation shaft for the Eurasia tunnel project has been limited to 5 metres in order to avoid impacting adversely on the silhouette of the Historic Peninsula;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Yenikapı Reclamation Area Activity Tent project will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as completed;
- The Çanakkale 1915 museum project has been cancelled;
- Visualizations and basis descriptions have been provided for the Planetarium project as well as the Istanbul City museum;
- Details are provided of the surveys undertaken for the route for the Vezneciler-Edirnekapı-Eyüp-Gop-Sultangazi ground/underground metro for which the Tender Process was completed in 2014; the route includes a section in the property near the land walls;
- Detailed information is provided for a project to move the current above ground tram line below ground for a two kilometre section between Seyitnizam and Zeytinburnu on the Kabataş-Bağcılar line; the current Seyitnizam and Mithatpaşa stations will be moved underground; work started in 2017;
- Planning started in March 2017 for a new 40km Kazlıçeşme- Söğütlüçeşme Metro Line connecting the Asian side and European side of Istanbul; there will be two stations in the Historic Peninsula: Kazlıçeşme Station and Topkapı Station, next to the Topkapı Cultural Park;
- A project to document Ottoman timber and stone houses has been initiated as a basis for the development of an immediate action plan to prevent further loss of these structures. The first phase of work will be addressed at houses that can be stabilised by simple maintenance; those that need significant restoration will be part of a second phase. 14 registered buildings in private ownership will be renovated in the first phase;
- The Fatih Municipality has revised its approach to Urban Renewal Areas to implement 'block-based applications' that take a holistic approach to larger areas rather than focusing on restoration and conservation works, and also aim to ensure effective participation of relevant stakeholders;
- Large scale restoration projects have been carried out at the Chora Museum, the Land Walls, Molla Zeyrek Mosque, and the Boukoleon Palace and on the Hagia Sophia Medrese following the submission of an HIA to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre ; details have been provided on analysis and work undertaken at the Chora Museum, the Land Walls, and Molla Zeyrek Mosque;
- Two workshops were organized by the Istanbul Municipality on traditional timber and stone-making techniques and conservation especially in relation to the property;
- A pilot project on "Heritage Istanbul and Children" was organized by the Site Management Directorate with the support of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Cultural Properties Directorate to raise awareness of heritage values amongst children, teachers and parents;
- In order to get a constructive and productive approach among all stakeholders for the HIAs, the State Party will organize an international workshop within 2018.

On 30 April 2018, the State Party submitted additional information including a finalized draft of the revised Management Plan, details of a proposed cultural HIA process, the revised structure of the Site Management Directorate as well as further details on the conservation strategies for protected examples of Ottoman structures. These documents outline following progress:

- The Management Plan has been further revised and is in the approval process. Work on defining the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is still in progress;
- The State Party has established a compulsory Cultural HIA process for the property that is included in the revised Management Plan.

Further details of the strategy for the conservation of Ottoman timber and stone buildings will be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

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

The State Party has made visible efforts to streamline various reports on numerous projects in one coherent reporting approach and to respond to the Committee decisions in a proactive manner including through a close and regular dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

However, the Committee noted in 2017 that the Yenikapi Tent was being constructed and that no HIA had been submitted. The structure has now been completed while the HIA remains to be finalized. Although the Committee requested full details to be provided for review of the already-approved Planetarium and Istanbul City museum projects, only visualizations and limited drawings have been submitted and no HIA. It is merely stated that no effect from the projects on the silhouette of the Land Walls was observed.

Details have been provided of planned infrastructure projects for new and extended metro lines and for a project, which has already started, to move a short section of a tramline underground.

The further revised draft of the Management Plan will be reviewed. It is still recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to determine the attributes that convey the OUV of the property as a matter of priority as these should form the basis for the Management Plan.

The planned workshop on Cultural HIAs is a positive step forward. The detailed information on the georadar measurements of the Chora Museum and the restoration of the Zeyrek mosque are welcomed.

The initiation of a project to document Ottoman timber and stone houses is welcomed as is the stabilisation work that is planned as part of this project. Such survey was first requested by the Committee in 1997 and in the meantime a significant proportion of these houses have deteriorated or been lost. No details of the timescale of the various phases of the project have been provided and what has been set out is not quite the emergency plan and long-term strategy for the Ottoman timber buildings that the Committee requested should be put in place by the end of January 2018. The amount of resources being directed at conservation projects remains impressive. Plans have been submitted for the reconstruction of the Hagia Sophia medrese for which an HIA had been prepared. Photographs and descriptive details of the analysis and work undertaken have been provided for the Land Walls, and also for the Bucoleon Palace, the Chora museum and the Molla Zeyrek mosque, although these do not encompass the methodology or justify the approach used.

Further to the 2016 Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to invite an advisory mission to review specifically the restoration and conservation projects, such as the Chora Museum, the Zeyrek Mosque and the Land Walls.

The overall report offers few new insights into conservation, renewal or new developments projects, apart from some infrastructure projects. A large number of renewal projects are still on-going for which no details have been provided that might provide assurances that these projects will not lead to loss of historic fabric.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its long-lasting concern that the situation remains highly delicate and strongly request the details of conservation and renewal projects or large-scale projects to be submitted in advance of decisions being taken and on the basis of appropriate HIAs.

It is finally recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to prepare a road-map including short and long-term strategies covering all types of projects (development/renovation/renewal), which may have an impact on the OUV of the property and determines all required details and steps in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.52, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Also recalling the long-standing concerns of the Committee on the property,*
4. *Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party of Turkey to streamline the reporting on the numerous projects in a coherent approach and for being engaged in a close dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

5. *Also welcomes the initiation of a project to document Ottoman timber and stone houses and the associated planned stabilization work, requests the State Party to provide further details on the implementation of the project and how this relates to the long-term strategy requested by the Committee;*
6. *Deeply regrets that, in the past, details and information on development/conservation projects have been submitted after work has been completed and without Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA); consequently, further welcomes the inclusion of a cultural HIA process in the revised Management Plan;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to define the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in the Management Plan as a matter of priority and before the Plan is finalized and approved;*
8. *Notes the work proposed for the reconstruction of the Hagia Sophia medrese for which an HIA had been prepared, and the work undertaken on the Land Walls, the Bucoleon Palace, the Chora museum and the Molla Zeyrek mosque;*
9. *Also notes the large number of proposed infrastructure and other projects, and recommends that the State Party develop a progress report on these, together with a road-map including short- and long-term strategies covering all types of projects (development/renovation/renewal) which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, and determine all required details and steps in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken; and submit this road map to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2019**;*
10. *Encourages the State Party to invite an ICCROM/ICOMOS Advisory mission to review the restoration and conservation projects such as the Chora Museum and the Zeyrek Mosque in line with the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring Mission report;*
11. *Also 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.*

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2015, 2017, 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need for information on the management (issue resolved)
- Site Museum project (issue resolved)
- Upgrading of the A303 trunk road project
- Risks of collapse of Silbury Hill (issue resolved)
- Infrastructure development pressure
- Lack of visitor management (issue resolved)
- Proposals for sections of dual carriageway and tunnel portals within the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 April 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373/documents>. The report provides updated information on the proposed A303 improvement within the Stonehenge component of the property, and progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2015 and 2017 Advisory missions. The report, available at the above-mentioned web address, explains why the southern surface (F10) option has been rejected and why longer tunnel options are not considered feasible.

The State Party position remains that a twin-bored tunnel with dual carriageway approach roads on either side will deliver benefits by removing the surface road from the central parts of the property. In response to Committee Decision **41 COM 7B.56**, and feedback received from the State Party's heritage agencies and other parties, the scheme has been modified and in September 2017, the State Party announced the 'Preferred Route' comprising a twin tunnel approximately 3.3 km long, including a short covered section, plus more than 2 km of dual carriageway in cuttings with some land bridges. The eastern portal remains to the east of The Avenue and the western portal is closer to the current A303 alignment, within the property. A 3rd World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission took place at the invitation of the State Party from 5 to 7 March 2018 and was focused on what is now termed the 'Proposed Scheme' which was subject to public consultation between February and April 2018. The statutory processes will allow for advice of the Advisory mission and Decisions of the Committee to be considered before a Development Consent Order (DCO) application is submitted.

There is progress with a range of other issues including establishing an independent and sustainable Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Trust, a study of the setting of the property, within the Local Development Framework and Wiltshire Core Strategy; development of techniques to address the threats posed by cultivation and burrowing animals; traffic strategies for the Avebury component of the property; master planning for the proposed 'Boscombe Down Development'; and progress with planned army development north of Stonehenge at Larkhill Garrison.

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

The 'Proposed Scheme' for the A303 improvement shows improvement compared with previous plans and would also improve the current situation in the centre of the property. Further investigations and assessments have indicated that the F10 southern surface route option is not viable because of a range of factors, including the priority afforded to impacts on Areas of Natural Beauty and Special Conservation Areas.

The 2018 Advisory mission concluded that the rigorous investigation, evaluation, iterative design and assessment process of the project has revealed that, if the tunnel solution is to be pursued, the current length proposed is not adequate to protect the authenticity, integrity and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The best option (in terms of OUV) would be a surface route, which re-routes the A303 completely around the Stonehenge component of the property, and enables the closure of the existing section of the A303 within the property. If a surface route is not possible, a longer tunnel is needed, which removes or at least substantially reduces the proposed lengths of dual carriageway within the property, in order to avoid the impact on the integrity, authenticity and OUV of the property.

The 2018 mission acknowledged that the eastern portal has been positioned in the least impactful location available close to the property's boundary, given the constraints imposed by the attributes of the property, other significant sites in the vicinity and local topographic and environmental conditions. However, a tunnel portal much further to the east, completely outside the property, could better protect the OUV of the property from the impact of associated dual carriageways. The western portal location involves an intrusive section of cut dual carriageway within the property. Therefore, if a tunnel solution is pursued, the western portal should be re-located outside the western boundary to avoid dual carriageways within this part of the property.

The State Party and its agencies should continue to proceed thoroughly and cautiously, to ensure that the optimal solution is identified and implemented for the widening of the A303. If the 'Proposed Scheme' tunnel option is pursued, substantial design refinement should occur and respect for the OUV of the property should take precedence over any predetermined project deadlines. The decision making processes for the project have not yet afforded sufficient priority to avoiding adverse impacts on the OUV of the property, particularly relative to economic and environmental considerations.

The 2018 mission report includes a logical set of recommendations that provide clear guidance for revising the current proposal, management of issues such as archaeology, sustainable tourism, availability of suitable expert advice, community consultation and the evaluation of heritage impact, noting that the State Party and its agencies have made considerable progress. The mission report notes the intentions of the State Party to incorporate a package of 'legacy benefits' and recommends that these should incorporate initiatives and programs identified as desirable to conserve and/or interpret OUV in the Plan of Management for the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM.7B.56**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Commends the State Party for inviting three Advisory missions to advise on the proposed upgrading of the main A303 road, (which currently bisects the property), as part of a wide major infrastructure project;*
4. *Notes the additional investigations undertaken by the State Party to consider the southern surface (F10) by-pass route and alternative alignment and 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;*
5. *Also notes the findings and recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission, particularly that, although the current 'Proposed Scheme' shows improvement compared with previous plans and would also improve the situation in the centre of the property, the rigorous investigation, evaluation, iterative design and assessment process has revealed that, if the current length of tunnel solution is pursued, the damage inflicted by the dual carriageway cuttings would impact adversely on integrity and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and therefore the proposed A303 upgrade project should not proceed with the current length of the tunnel ;*
6. *Urges the State Party to continue to explore further options and design refinement, with a view to avoiding impact on the OUV of the property, including:*
 - a) *alternative surface by-pass options,*
 - b) *longer tunnel options that allow for the re-location of the western portal outside the property and which do not require dual carriageway cuttings within the property;*

7. Requests the State Party to address the findings and implement the recommendations of the March 2018 Advisory mission and encourages the State Party to continue to facilitate progress towards an optimal solution for the widening of the A303 to ensure there is no adverse impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Further notes that the State Party has advised that it will manage the timing of the consent and other statutory processes for the A303 trunk road project to take into account Committee Decisions and to ensure that the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the 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 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 43rd session in 2019.

AFRICA

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 31,776

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management and conservation plan
- Clarification of boundaries and buffer zone
- Pressure from urban development
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Air transport infrastructure
- Encroachment of the archaeological sites
- Housing/ Deterioration of dwellings
- Solid waste

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

Current conservation issues

A state of conservation report was received from the State Party on 1 February 2018, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1055/documents/>. The requested joint Reactive Monitoring mission could not be carried out to Lamu as a result of security considerations, but an Advisory mission took place in Nairobi, from 24 to 26 January 2018 (see mission report at the above-mentioned weblink).

The State Party reports that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Development Authority and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) reported on in its 2017 state of conservation report has not yet been finalized, but that its principles will be completed by a technical working team.

The State Party acknowledges the potential threats from the LAPSSET project to the conservation of cultural and other heritage, and reiterates the pledge of the LAPSSET Authority not to implement projects within the Lamu Archipelago. It further states that a revised Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA) of the entire corridor examining impacts on cultural and natural heritage will be prepared following the Advisory mission to take into account its recommendations. Detailed development plans have been broken down into component parts and plans are being prepared for each. A Master Plan for the Lamu Metropolis has been developed, and the EU-supported project on transportation infrastructure is ongoing. The Development Plan for Lamu Port and the Lamu metropolis Investment Framework Plan foresee a reduced urban and special economic zone footprint with special conservation areas on the islands.

The State Party clarifies that the work carried out at Manda Airport was a rehabilitation rather than a new project, therefore not necessitating a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). It requests that the next Reactive Monitoring mission visit the airport to have a better sense of the work that was carried out.

As the Advisory mission could not visit the property, it focused primarily on the threats from the LAPSSET project and discussions with various stakeholders and expressed concern about the density of development. While recognizing the commitment of the State Party to not undertake any "official" LAPSSET developments on the islands of the archipelago, the mission found that a project of this scale and scope would have profound negative impacts on the setting of the property, which will come from supplementary development by developers and others prompted by the LAPSSET project. There is a need for the State Party to develop and implement adequate planning and mitigation measures, and a very robust monitoring system. The mission considered that the SEA did not adequately cover the issue of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. A revised version is needed with a specific chapter on the potential impacts on OUV and related mitigation measures. It also noted the lack of clarity in the management relationships between the LAPSSET Authority, the NMK, and the local government. The mission was shown proposed buffer zones that are smaller than the ones presented to the 2015 mission and smaller than proposed at the time of inscription. The mission considered that these are not sufficient to protect the property from the strong development pressures that will be brought in as a part of the LAPSSET project and from private developers.

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

The efforts of the State Party to respond to the decisions of the Committee are well noted. There remains concern however that the LAPSSET's scope may continue to have significant impacts on the OUV of the property if proper planning and decision-making structures are not put in place in the near future.

The State Party should revise the SEA for the whole LAPSSET development to include a chapter on the impacts on cultural and natural heritage, and specifically the impacts on the OUV of both Lamu Old Town and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties. Furthermore, the HIA already carried out for the first phase of the LAPSSET project should be annexed to the SEA.

Adequate mitigation measures should also be proposed to protect the property and its wider setting.

It is also noted that a number of documents are in preparation by the LAPSSET Authority including a revised master plan for the Lamu Metropolis, an EU transportation infrastructure plan, and the LAPSSET Planning and Investment Framework. These documents should include the commitment of the State Party that LAPSSET developments will not take place on the islands of the archipelago and will not have significant impacts on the OUV of the property, either directly or through its setting. These plans should clearly indicate which areas are protected from development. All these documents should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as drafts are completed and before they are approved to ensure that the final documents include adequate protection for the OUV of the property.

The commitment of the LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority not to carry out any developments on the islands in the Lamu archipelago will not necessarily halt other developments that could impact on the wider setting of the property. There is a need to ensure that there are adequate planning measures and development controls in place (e.g., restrictions on height, building materials, land use and the use of HIAs.), to control spillover development. This includes the proposed Resort City, which may have significant impacts if necessary guidelines are not put in place.

Concerning the coal power plant planned in the vicinity of the property, the State Party should carry out additional studies to ascertain any effects that the resulting pollution may have on the fragile coral stone buildings of the Old Town and any other impacts on other attributes that carry the OUV of the property.

The MoU mentioned in the 2017 state of conservation report must be put in place as soon as possible to allow NMK to become a member of the board of LAPSSET, as pledged during the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission.

The chapter on LAPSSET in the Management Plan also still needs revision to reflect the most recent changes to the LAPSSET proposals.

It is suggested that the Committee recommend to the State Party that it set up a significant funding mechanism to deal with conservation issues, including training in the use of traditional building technologies and materials, within the Lamu World Heritage property as the LAPSSET project continues to develop.

In order to protect the immediate and wider setting, there remains an urgent need for the State Party to reconsider the buffer zone and accompanying development controls and building regulations, as has been requested by the Committee in past decisions. This buffer zone should be of adequate size to protect the OUV of the property and should include at a minimum all of Lamu Island, the parts of Manda Island visible from the property, and the larger mangrove areas. The State Party should submit a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre, which sets out the extent of a revised buffer zone around the property, as soon as possible.

It is noted that the Reactive Monitoring mission was unable to take place at the property due to security concerns. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a mission as soon as the security situation allows.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.40**, **40 COM 7B.12** and **41 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,*
3. *Noting the recommendations of the Advisory mission carried out to Nairobi, Kenya from 24 to 26 January 2018,*
4. *Notes the efforts of the State Party to respond to the decision of the Committee with regards to the Lamu Port–South Sudan–Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor project;*
5. *Reiterates its concern that the scope of the LAPSSET project may continue to have significant impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
6. *Requests the State Party to revise the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the entire LAPSSET project to include a chapter on the impacts and proposed mitigation measures for cultural and natural heritage, and specifically the impacts on the OUV of both Lamu Old Town and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties, and to include the already completed Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the first phase of LAPSSET as an annex;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre drafts of the revised Master Plan for the Lamu Metropolis, the EU transportation infrastructure plan, the LAPSSET Planning and Investment Framework, and the revised chapter on LAPSSET of the Management Plan for the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are completed and before they are approved;*
8. *Takes note of the commitment of the State Party not to allow LAPSSET developments on the islands of the Lamu Archipelago, but considering that there could be a spillover effect from other development related to LAPSSET, further requests the State Party to:*

- a) *Develop necessary planning measures and development controls (including restrictions on height, building materials, land use and use of HIAs) to ensure that any spillover developments in the setting of the property do not have a negative impact on its OUV,*
 - b) *As a matter of urgency, and as requested in a number of previous Committee decisions, submit a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre which sets out the extent of a revised buffer zone around the property including at a minimum all of Lamu Island, the parts of Manda Island visible from the property, and the larger mangrove areas,*
 - c) *Carry out additional studies to ascertain any effects that the pollution resulting from the coal-fired power plant may have on the fragile coral stone buildings of the Old Town and any other impacts on other attributes that carry the OUV of the property;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to complete the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) to include the NMK on the LAPSSET Board, as mentioned during the 2015 mission;*
 10. *Recommends that the State Party set up a significant funding mechanism to deal with conservation issues, including training in traditional building technologies and the use of traditional building materials, within the Lamu Old Town World Heritage property as the LAPSSET project continues to develop;*
 11. *Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, once the necessary security clearance has been obtained, in order to examine the state of advancement of the LAPSSET project as well as the state of conservation of the property, and to hold discussions with local stakeholder groups;*
 12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.*

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1994-2009)

Total amount approved: USD 209,880

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: For the rehabilitation of the Saint Sebastian Fortress: USD 1,108,078 by Japan Funds in Trust; USD 526,015 by UCCLA; USD 397,122 by Portugal/IPAD; USD 270,000 by Flanders Funds in Trust; USD 729,729 by the Netherlands Funds in Trust. For other

conservation and management projects: USD 50,000 by World Heritage Cities Programme (Netherlands); USD 89,000 by IPAD; USD 23,175 by Africa 2009; USD 13,450 by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF)

Previous monitoring missions

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2007: ICOMOS mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2010: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Plan not yet finalized
- Growing number of collapsed or seriously dilapidated buildings
- Threats to authenticity through inappropriate repairs
- Lack of development control
- Lack of adequate sewage and water systems
- Lack of adequate financial and human resources

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/>

Current conservation issues

On 8 December 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents/>. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was undertaken from 7 to 12 March 2018. The mission report is also available online at the above-mentioned web address. The State Party reports the following:

- A Regulation for Classification and Management of Mozambique Island Built Heritage and Landscape has been adopted, leading to the creation of an inventory and the classification of the built heritage of the property in a formal register;
- A stakeholder consultation process has been completed to finalize the Mozambique Island Management and Conservation Plan, which in turn has been informed by the UNESCO Historic Urban Landscapes approach and by the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Further activities, including stakeholder engagement, have been undertaken to define a revised buffer zone for the property, including allowing for the protection of underwater archaeological heritage;
- Matching private conservation initiatives with local needs remains a challenge;
- The need exists for experts to advise the State Party in finding an appropriate use for the Sao Lourenço Fortress, as the proposal to convert it to a hotel has been rejected by the State Party;
- Building rehabilitation has been undertaken to improve the state of conservation of the property;
- The State Party has indicated that it will rehabilitate the historical hospital for use as a hospital. An architect has been appointed and funds made available;
- A project to adaptively reuse a sports complex ('Complex Desportivo') as a hotel was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and was reviewed by ICOMOS in its November 2017 technical review. The project includes the rehabilitation of the existing buildings, the building of further hotel facilities, and the provision of new sports facilities for the community of the island in the macuti town-area of the property. The March 2018 mission visited the project site and recommendations for its improvement were provided in the mission report.

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

The State Party has made progress in addressing the challenges faced by the property, including in revising the Management and Conservation Plan for Mozambique Island. This process has been guided by the 2016 Committee Decision (**40 COM 7B.15**), especially as regards the inclusive engagement of stakeholders and the community. It is commendable that the document was informed by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and the SDGs. However, the March 2018 mission reported that the Management Plan has yet to be finalized, and that, because the writing and discussion of this Plan has taken such a long time, the period of validity of the Plan should be extended. This process should therefore be completed with haste.

The State Party's engagement with the legislative controls required to conserve the tangible fabric of the property is also welcomed. The creation of mechanisms to identify, grade and list structures within the property will contribute to their safeguarding. However, it must be noted that only structures in the stone and lime town of the property have been entered onto this register, omitting the macuti town structures. These structures remain especially under threat due to a limited supply of materials as well as new constructions, which utilize inappropriate materials. The challenges with living conditions, including the sanitary conditions, in the macuti town, which forms an essential component of the property, remain and require urgent addressing.

The 2018 mission further reports that:

- The Conservation Office of the Island of Mozambique (GACIM) requires strengthening through capacity building, additional appropriately-qualified staff, and awareness raising on a municipal level;
- The regulations governing GACIM need to be adopted to give this organisation the final veto on construction projects it deems to have an inappropriate impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Conservation regulations need to be amended to address terminology confusion that leads to inappropriate construction and adaptation projects;
- It is necessary to integrate procedures of disaster risk management for cultural heritage within the overall National Risk Management Plan and embed these in the Conservation and Management Plan for the property. Provisions for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and conservation guidelines to steer renovation and restoration projects, should also be included in the conservation plan. The lack of this latter aspect is currently having a negative impact on the property.

The mission further expressed its concern regarding the fast pace of transformation processes in the property, which are leading to social inequality. The increased vehicular traffic occurring as a result is having a negative impact on the property. Population growth in the macuti town has also continued and requires addressing.

As regards the re-use projects for important monuments, the 2018 mission reports that the hospital restoration project has been halted, leaving the building without a roof. This requires high-priority emergency measures to ensure the safeguarding of this structure. Inappropriate restorations and lack of maintenance remain a problem within the property and in its buffer zone, affecting, for instance, the Sao Lourenço Fortress.

The State Party has engaged with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the Complexo Desportivo project. The March 2018 mission provided recommendations regarding the project, including finding a new site. Discussions about the project are on-going. Special attention should be given to new projects to avoid conjectural reconstructions without proper documentation.

The delineation of the buffer zone is an ongoing process as the State Party hopes to include maritime archaeological heritage within its boundaries. This process remains urgent and haste should be made to submit the proposed buffer zone in accordance with the procedure for Minor Boundary Modifications.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the 2018 joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;*
4. *Welcomes the progress made in the completion of the Conservation and Management Plan, especially as regards the inclusive process undertaken and the application of the*

Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and of the Sustainable Development Goals;

5. *Urges the State Party to complete this process promptly and to include within the Conservation and Management Plan provisions for Disaster risk management, Heritage Impact Assessments, as well as Conservation guidelines to steer renovation and restoration project;*
6. *Requests the State Party to complete with haste the proposed buffer zone modification to facilitate the submission of the buffer zone proposal as a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies and consideration by the World Heritage Committee, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to undertake emergency conservation and consolidation work to safeguard the hospital building and expedite the resumption of the renovation project;*
8. *Notes the provision of a legislative framework for the identification categorisation of structures on the island, and the completion of an inventory for the stone and lime town area of the property, and further requests the State Party to extend this to include the macuti area of the property;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to:*
 - a) *Amend the regulations guiding the Conservation Office of the Island of Mozambique (GACIM), to give this body the appropriate authority to have the final approval of proposed developments in order to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
 - b) *Appoint suitably-qualified staff to strengthen GACIM appropriately and ensure that this organisation can fulfil its appointed tasks;*
10. *Requests moreover the State Party to develop strategies that:*
 - a) *Institute a regular maintenance regime for all publicly-owned buildings on the property,*
 - b) *Address the living conditions in the macuti town in a way that is appropriate regarding the OUV of the property,*
 - c) *Counter traffic increase in the property,*
 - d) *Further educate the property's inhabitants on their role as custodians of the OUV of the property,*
 - e) *Ensure appropriate maintenance and repair regimes for both the stone and lime town as well as for the macuti town,*
 - f) *Provide for capacity building at the national and local levels to ensure the proper management and conservation of the property,*
 - g) *Address the reported growing social inequality on the property;*
11. *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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

48. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2

ARAB STATES

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1991-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 81,450

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/86/documents>. The report acknowledges the need to strengthen the protection and management of the property through a single enforceable Management Plan based on the Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV) adopted by Decision **41 COM 8E**, and notes that such a plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2017. Consistent with the findings of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission and with Decision **41 COM 7B.78**, the report notes the need for archaeological remote sensing survey and research of the area potentially impacted by the proposed Ring Road Tunnel to inform a technical archaeology report. An 'archaeological assessment' report, which does not yet include remote sensing information was provided as an attachment to the State Party report. Together with technical reports on traffic management and design details, the final archaeological assessment would feed into the design process and inform the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Ring Road Tunnel, with all of these reports to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party report also provides a status update on foreign mission projects, new discoveries, current projects, and removal of encroachments at the five component sites which comprise the property, noting:

- The Lighting and Security Project of the Giza Pyramids Area is due to commence in 2018;
- The Scan Pyramids project has been progressing at Giza since 2015 and discovered a huge cavity inside the Pyramid of Khufu;
- Work on the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project has recommenced, including construction of buildings for administration, tourist police, civil defence, and engineering management, as well as a visitor centre and parking and traffic facilities;
- The Memphis Site and Community Development Project, involving visitor services, interpretation and community outreach, opened at Mit Mahine in September 2017 and work has commenced on an enclosure wall;
- At Saqqara, the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project nears completion, the Saqqara Monuments Development Project opened in 2017, and the northern enclosure wall was completed;
- The Scan Pyramids project commenced work on the Bent Pyramid at Dahshur.

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

The State Party has made significant archaeological discoveries at the property and is undertaking research at the Pyramid of Khufu. It has also nearly completed the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project at Saqqara. It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the progress made in this regard.

The State Party has committed to engaging with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the Committee over the possible development of an appropriate scheme for the Ring Road Tunnel across the Giza Plateau. The 'archaeological assessment' document provided does not yet include data from remote sensing activities, such as ground penetrating radar and magnetic survey, but does recommend that these processes should occur. Once a complete archaeological assessment, incorporating this information is available and, following review by the Advisory Bodies of this and other previously-submitted technical reports and engineering designs, the Ring Road Tunnel should then be subject to a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, having particular reference to the RSOUV, which should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Further to the findings of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission, the State Party should provide additional information about actions being taken to address the legacy impact of the abandoned 1995 Ring Road scheme, including dumps of soil/rock and construction debris, large-scale illegal sand quarrying, and waste incineration, all of which impacts adversely on the setting of some of the key component sites of the property.

It is of concern that the re-commenced Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project has progressed so rapidly, apparently without external technical review of heritage impacts or consideration of a buffer zone for the Giza component of the property. Moreover, the Lighting and Security Project of the Giza Pyramids Area due to commence in 2018 raises concerns of potential visual impact and impact on the integrity of the property. Moreover, the Memphis Site and Community Development Project is being built without information on its exact location, design and impact on the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit more comprehensive information on Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project, including Light and Security, and the Memphis Site and Community Development Project, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party is yet to respond to some matters raised in previous Committee Decisions, including investigation of national legislation specific to World Heritage properties, and the definition of a buffer zone and submission of a request for Minor Boundary Modification, particularly for the Giza component of the property, to provide protection from increasing urban pressure in Cairo.

It is recommended that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission in collaboration with key national and international stakeholders, to evaluate the property's state of conservation, the ongoing and planned projects and how they may affect the property's OUV.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Commends the State Party for the significant archaeological discoveries and related research at the Pyramid of Khufu and for the advancement of the Step Pyramid and Southern Tomb Risk Mitigation and Restoration Project at Saqqara, and requests it to submit detailed information thereon to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Welcomes the ongoing 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;
5. Takes note of the submission by the State Party of an initial 'archaeological assessment' for the Cairo Ring Road Tunnel project and reiterates its request to the State Party to complete a comprehensive archaeological assessment, in the manner previously requested, incorporating results from remote sensing using ground penetrating radar, magnetic survey and other techniques, and to ensure that, following review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, the final comprehensive 'archaeological assessment report' and the previous technical reports on traffic management and design details, inform the preparation of the engineering designs for the Ring Road Tunnel project, which should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), following the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties; and also reiterate its request to the State Party to submit the detailed engineering designs and HIA to World Heritage Centre for review;
6. Also takes note of the previous Committee Decision that work for the construction of the tunnel should only be progressed once all requested technical reports and subsequent HIAs have been positively reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and appropriate mitigation measures and procedures for monitoring have been agreed;
7. Noting that the legacy from the abandoned planned Ring Road of 1995 impacts adversely on the landscape and that the abandoned road has facilitated dumping, waste incineration, and large-scale sand extraction, also requests the State Party to provide additional information about actions being taken to address this impact;
8. Expresses concern over the information provided by the State Party on the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project, the Lighting and Security Project of the Giza Pyramids and the Memphis Site and Community Development Project and urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed document providing comprehensive information about the Giza Pyramids Plateau Development Project;
9. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen the protection and management of the property by:
 - a) Reinforcing the overall co-ordination and management of the World Heritage property, and reinforcing the conservation of the property by the Ministry of Antiquities,
 - b) Investigating national legislation specific to World Heritage properties,

- c) *Defining a buffer zone and submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the property's state of conservation, the ongoing and planned projects and how they may affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.*

54. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 167,079

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 1 million from the Italian Fund-in-Trust, USD 60 000 Improving the management of World Heritage and Tentative List sites in Jordan in line with the 1972 Convention, USD 10,450 Heritage Emergency Fund

Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: ICOMOS mission; March 2004: UNESCO mission; 2009: UNESCO technical expert missions; December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, November 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Heavy flooding in 1996 (issue resolved)
- Insufficiency or non-existence of sewage disposal facilities (issue resolved)
- Insufficient conservation of antiquities (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled development of villages in the vicinity of the site)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction or road widening projects leading to the site)
- Other encroachments upon the integrity of the site
- Lack of management plan for the property
- Lack of clear boundary delimitations
- Land conversion
- Urban growth and urban encroachment
- Development projects and major visitor associated infrastructure in the property and its vicinity (new hotels under construction, Crowne Plaza extension, Petra Museum project, eco-village and cultural village)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 April 2018 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>, providing information on measures taken or proposed to address the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (November 2017), as follows:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is proposed between the Petra Development and Tourism Authority (PDTRA) and the Department of Antiquities (DoA), defining roles and responsibilities in the protection and management of the property;
- The decision to extend the Crowne Plaza Hotel has been revoked; the hotel will be renovated without additions, with close supervision by PDTRA and DoA; measures to mitigate its impact are foreseen in conjunction with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA);
- PDTRA has worked to mitigate and reduce the environmental footprint of the eco-village and cultural village, on which construction had started in the buffer zone; the giant wheel and the cable car projects have been canceled;
- The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) prepared jointly by the DoA and the UNESCO Amman Office is being finalized; it includes an Action Plan and Policy Framework, which will be coupled with legal provisions, and reinforced with policies and funding actions;
- PDTRA has submitted to the Ministry of Environment its request to designate the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) as a Natural Protected Area (NPA). This designation will reinforce the protection and conservation of the property's natural and cultural resources including its setting. A MoU under preparation between the PDTRA and Ministry of Environment foresees a specific monitoring programme for the NPA;
- PDTRA intends to establish a maintenance and restoration centre. An assessment plan will be devised for the archaeological missions in Petra. Conservation and capacity needs and means to optimize and rationalize archaeological excavations and research in Petra are addressed under the IMP;
- The rehabilitation and maintenance of the water management system and the reactivation of the flash floods early warning system are proposed, in parallel with ongoing hydrological studies;
- Studies, analysis, risk mitigation measures and capacity building activities were conducted to prevent rock falls; at the Treasury façade, unstable blocks were removed, risks were mitigated and additional studies are ongoing;
- Future initiatives to enhance the intangible heritage values of the property are planned with the involvement of the local communities, civil society associations, and the Princess Basma Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage at Al Hussein Bin Talal University;
- PDTRA has devised and commenced measures to improve the economic revenues and tourism investment opportunities of the local communities in the Petra area, including improved representation of the local communities in the decision-making process and support for local projects. The 'Community Based Regional Tourism Development in the Petra Region', a project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is reinforcing these efforts;
- PDTRA worked with the Petra Society for Integrated Development to address school dropouts by providing additional educational support to 90 children under the age of 12. It is raising awareness on and taking steps to stop child labour through targeted workshops and monitoring of school drop-out levels with the involvement of the relevant Ministries and UNICEF;
- A series of activities were conducted to address animal mistreatment including awareness raising, a strategy, new regulations and several measures, in partnership with relevant national and international partners. A free medical day was held for animals, the animal clinic was reopened and a new veterinarian was appointed at the PDTRA.

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

The November 2017 joint mission (see mission report at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>) undertook a detailed analysis of the current issues and threats at the property.

The State Party demonstrates clear commitment to addressing the mission's recommendations through structured and concrete steps. The new team leading the PDTRA, appointed in December 2017, is closely working with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Amman Office to address the future conservation and management needs for the property and the high quality of the IMP will substantially contribute to these efforts.

The State Party should be commended for taking important decisions to mitigate the impact of ongoing construction sites in the property's vicinity, including replacing the Crowne Plaza extension project with a low-environmental impact renovation, and the abandonment of other high-impact tourism infrastructure projects. The designation of the PAP as a NPA will be an important step to protect the property's natural and cultural resources and foster sustainable tourism development.

The MoUs under preparation will reinforce coordination, improve conservation and management efficiency, and allow enforcing the *World Heritage Convention's* requirements and obligations; these will enable the DoA to fully embrace its legal obligations in the property, its buffer zone and setting.

The State Party's efforts to involve local communities and civil society organizations in decision-making and local development actions, and address their needs in terms of economic and social development, are highly commendable, in particular efforts to address child labour and school dropouts.

The State Party is demonstrating strong commitment to a sustainable economic, environmental and social development approach, in line with the policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Nevertheless, urban growth and urban encroachment, which constitute the main threats to the property, are yet to be fully addressed as a matter of urgency. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to:

- Implement all of the recommendations of the November 2017 joint Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly those relating to an accurate GIS-based map of the property, a permanent moratorium on new buildings or infrastructure, procedures for notification to, and consultation with, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and attention to the Siq Stabilization Project through a holistic and scientific approach;
- Protect the property from urban growth and development pressure through an Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) that allows for sustainable economic, social and environmental development;
- Prevent densification of the property's setting and divert urban growth towards the east of the property, beyond the boundaries of the PDTRA;
- Devise new regulations for the projected buffer zone and the property's larger setting, in line with the integrated territorial planning approach.
- Submit a minor boundary modification proposal towards the adoption of the boundaries of the planned buffer zone and to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone including its zoning, in the context of the development of an ITMP.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision 41 COM 7B.80, adopted at its 41th session (Krakow, 2017),*

3. Highly commends the State Party for taking immediate and substantive measures to implement key recommendations of the November 2017 joint Reactive Monitoring mission, notably by:
 - a) *Elaborating a high-quality Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property and foreseeing legal provisions and adequate policies for its implementation, in line with the Operational Guidelines,*
 - b) *Replacing the project to extend the Crowne Plaza Hotel with a low-environmental impact renovation one, and abandoning other high-impact tourism infrastructure projects,*
 - c) *Reinforcing institutional coordination to improve conservation and management efficiency, in particular with regards to the Department of Antiquities' role, and to the planned maintenance and restoration centre for the property;*
4. Also commends the State Party for conducting a management and protection approach in line with Policy on the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, notably through:
 - a) *Environmental protection: its efforts to designate the Petra Archaeological Park as a Natural Protected area, to reduce the environmental footprints of ongoing construction projects in the property's setting, and to step-up animal welfare-related actions,*
 - b) *Sustainable social and economic development: its active involvement of local communities and civil society organisations in decision-making and local development actions, in addressing their needs in terms of economic and social development, in particular concerning child labour and school dropouts;*
5. Urges the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the November 2017 mission, including particularly:
 - a) *Taking the necessary actions to protect the property from urban growth and urban encroachment by:*
 - (i) *Enforcing a permanent moratorium on new buildings or infrastructure that are visible from the site,*
 - (ii) *Devising an Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) that allows for sustainable economic, social and environmental development,*
 - (iii) *Preventing densification of the property's setting and diverting urban growth towards the east of the property, beyond the boundaries of the Petra Development Tourism Authority,*
 - (iv) *Devising new regulations for the projected buffer zone and the property's larger setting, in line with the integrated territorial planning approach,*
 - b) *Preparation of an accurate GIS-based map of the property showing its precise boundaries, topography, location of all its component attributes and planned buffer zone,*
 - c) *Urgent attention to the Siq Stabilization Project through a holistic and scientific approach to water management and watershed planning, and the root causes of flash floods,*
 - d) *Establishing procedures for notification to, and consultation with, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS prior to the implementation of major works;*
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal towards the adoption of the boundaries of the planned buffer zone and to clarify

the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone including its zoning, in the context of the development of an ITMP;

7. *Encourages the State Party to pursue its ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies towards the conservation, and management of the property;*
8. *Further 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.*

55. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2007-2009)

Total amount approved: USD 34,750

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS mission; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; July 2008: World Heritage Centre expert mission for the Stylite tower

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management systems / plan / structure
- Unstable structures and lack of security
- Lack of comprehensive conservation plan
- Important tourism development project with new constructions
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 March 2018, the State Party submitted a Management Plan for Um er-Rasas, including a section on the state of conservation of the property, based on a rapid assessment carried out in 2015. On 4 April 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>, which responds to the requests made by the Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), and provides information on the following:

- A Management Plan has been adopted and is beginning to be implemented. Information is provided regarding areas where progress is already being made:
 - Regulations for archaeological projects in Jordan were approved in 2016, including those at Um er-Rasas;

- Research carried out by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (United Kingdom) has provided information on the irrigation system around the property;
 - A master planning project for the Castrum, led by the Istituto per le Tecnologie Applicate ai Beni Culturali (Italy), is being completed and will provide systematic mapping of the property, with immediate use for its interpretation and a signage system;
 - A project is underway for the conservation of the Twin Churches, including mosaic reburial and training for site staff, thanks to a collaboration with the European Centre for Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (Greece);
 - Monitoring and analysis continue at the property in order to inform future strategies;
 - The Ministry of Tourism and the Department of Antiquities (DOA) have begun values-based enhancement initiatives to improve visitor experience, such as signage, site interpretation, trails, etc.;
 - The DOA has carried out an assessment of the water drainage system across the property, in particular at the St Stephen Complex, and precise actions have been identified to be carried out in order to resolve problems found.
- Regarding the Committee's request to receive proposed conservation measures for the Stylite Tower, the State Party reports that the revised project is not yet complete and that only monitoring and preventive conservation actions are currently taking place;
 - The section on 'state of conservation' included within the Management Plan provides a broad overview, containing useful observations on the priority actions to be taken forward and notes that in recent years, concerns have been focused on the conservation conditions of the Stylite Tower and the Castrum, although much of the rest of the property also requires urgent attention.

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

ICOMOS assessed the Management Plan submitted by the State Party through a technical review in April 2018. It is reassuring to see a good planning document containing nuanced analysis of the management system and conservation conditions at Um er-Rasas. It aims at providing better coordination between the government bodies involved and to improve site management as it is implemented. It is hoped that the actions proposed are all taken forward. Indeed, the State Party has reported that the implementation of the Plan has already begun.

The information contained in the Management Plan is much more detailed regarding the property's conservation than the short state of conservation report submitted in April 2018, and shows that much conservation work needs to be carried out with some urgency, although it also notes that annual work programmes for conservation are foreseen, which should already be planned or will be launched in the near future.

Of particular significance in this context are the proposed conservation measures at the Stylite Tower, for which the Committee has been requesting further details since 2009. Although it is noted that monitoring and preventive conservation actions are ongoing, given the importance of the Tower for the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), it is of concern that the revised project is not yet ready. The Management Plan states that both the Castrum fortifications and the Stylite Tower are in a '*precarious state of conservation*' and that the Tower's upper chamber is in danger of collapse. In addition, it notes that, while most attention is given to the Tower and St Stephen's Complex in terms of maintenance and preventive conservation, this is at the expense of other areas in the property, which are also suffering.

It would therefore appear urgent that conservation interventions take place as soon as possible to avoid the risk of losing some key attributes of the property. Emergency consolidation works should take place immediately, in parallel to the longer-term conservation planning that is taking place in the context of the ongoing management planning process.

It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to undertake all needed temporary and reversible consolidation interventions of the vulnerable attributes in the property, in particular the Castrum fortifications and the Stylite Tower, submit the final conservation projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and encourage the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to support the finalization of such projects if deemed necessary.

It is also noted that the Management Plan describes an evolving situation regarding the property's boundaries and its buffer zone, which have changed since inscription and may be subject to further changes due to a land acquisition campaign by the State Party. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify this situation and to submit a minor boundary modification at its 44th session in 2020 for its approval.

Finally, the World Heritage Committee requested that the Management Plan include a comprehensive conservation plan, an archaeological research policy, and a Public Use Plan. This has not been fully addressed and each of these complex areas merits full treatment in a dedicated report. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide these additional plans.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the submission of the Management Plan for the property; and invites it to submit the requested complementary documentation: a comprehensive conservation plan and archaeological research policy, and a Public Use Plan;*
4. *Expresses concern over the lack of completion of urgent conservation work across the property, with particular attention given to the Stylite Tower and the Castrum Fortification and urges the State Party to undertake all needed temporary and reversible consolidation interventions of the fragile attributes in the property and submit the final conservation projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to support the finalization of such projects if deemed necessary;*
5. *Requests the State Party to update the definition of the property's boundaries and its buffer zone; and to submit it as a formal Minor Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies and adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.*

56. Byblos (Lebanon) (C 295)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

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



UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Port expansion project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Management Plan and a Master Plan (issue resolved)
- Plans for an extension of the jetty (issue resolved)

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

Current conservation issues

In August 2016, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to submit detailed and clear information regarding the different components of the 'Diplomatic Club' project, proposed to be undertaken adjacent to the southern part of the World Heritage property (note that no boundaries or buffer zone have been delineated for this property). The State Party indicated that this project consists of converting existing buildings into tourist and leisure structures and constructing in-ground swimming pools along with wooden cabanas, changing rooms and pergolas.

Given that the proposed Diplomatic Club project would be located on an archaeological site of potential major importance - the ancient port of Byblos - ICOMOS recommended that the State Party conduct evaluation studies and archaeological excavation works in order to confirm the presence of the archaeological remains of the ancient port and propose a technical solution to protect the archaeological area.

At the request of the State Party, the developers of the proposed Diplomatic Club project undertook the recommended archaeological excavations. These excavations confirmed the presence of archaeological remains of the ancient port, and of their degraded nature. The remains were duly documented. Reburial (backfilling) of the archaeological remains, allowing for the reversibility of the swimming pools, was proposed by the State Party and agreed to by ICOMOS, pending the receipt and approval of detailed design and specifications.

In February 2017, a World Heritage Centre mission noted that the project had been started, and that new above-ground structures of reinforced concrete were visible from the property. The Centre asked the State Party to stop construction. Following further exchanges with the World Heritage Centre, the State Party gave assurances that no additional new structures would be built until ICOMOS had been given the opportunity to examine the information previously requested. Despite repeated requests to the State Party, however, no detailed designs have been received.

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

The lack of an adequate and timely submission of detailed and clear design documents and specifications regarding the Diplomatic Club project, despite several requests, represents a serious concern. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit detailed designs and specifications for this project, including the reburial (backfilling) of the archaeological remains to allow for the reversibility of the swimming pools, as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies.

In light of the construction work that is underway and the new above-ground concrete structures that have been observed, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, to assess the Diplomatic Club project's impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, to identify any modifications to this project that may be necessary to sustain the property's OUV, authenticity and integrity, and to determine whether a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is advisable. In the interim, it is recommended that construction work on this project be suspended and no additional structures be built.

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

Furthermore, as no boundaries or a buffer zone have been identified for the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party, working in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, to submit a boundary and buffer zone by means of a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Expresses concern that above-ground structures of reinforced concrete were built at the south of the property and that the State Party did not submit detailed information and design for the Diplomatic Club project, including the reburial (backfilling) of the archaeological remains to allow for the reversibility of the swimming pools;*
3. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible and in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, a detailed document on the actions already undertaken and planned related to this project, including the architectural design documents;*
4. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, to assess the Diplomatic Club project's potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, to identify any modifications to this project that may be necessary to sustain the property's OUV, authenticity and integrity, and to determine whether a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is advisable;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to suspend construction work on this project and not build any additional structures until the above-mentioned actions have been completed;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to work in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to elaborate and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.*

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 213,315

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 9 April 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>. Progress achieved regarding a certain number of conservation problems treated by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The State Party still experiences a difficult general situation that impacts the property. However, it has efficiently combated wild occupation of the Punic ports and the implantation of publicity boards or anarchic constructions;
- The famous statue of Ganymède stolen from the site museum in 2013 has been recovered;
- Various archaeological excavations have been carried out or programmed. The report does not treat in depth the possible plans concerning their conservation and presentation, as previously requested by the Committee;
- The Commission responsible for the formulation of proposals to resolve land issues of declassification/reclassification of some archaeological areas within the property has submitted its conclusions to the competent political authorities;
- The State Party has continued its efforts on the one hand to ensure land control of the area located in the classified zone, and on the other, carrying out development and enhancement work;
- A proposal to modify the boundaries of the property was submitted to the National Heritage Commission on 8 January 2018, and obtained a favorable response. It will be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre very shortly;
- Information on criteria for the definition of the buffer zone and the regulations and measures that govern it will be provided once the revision of the boundaries of the property have been adopted;
- The revised version of the Protection and Enhancement Plan (PPMV) is currently being finalized, and a presentation plan for the property has been prepared and consultations are foreseen to outline a tourism management policy for the property, upon which the tourism management plan for the property will be based;
- A Study and Enhancement Project for the Roman Circus has been prepared to enhance the largest public monuments of Roman Carthage;

- A Study and Archaeological Investigations and Conservation Strategy for the property is under preparation;
- The State Party envisages the establishment of a new structure to coordinate management and preservation tools for the property, as well as the roles of the different stakeholders concerned;
- The hydraulic complex, including the cisterns and the reservoirs is likely to become a cultural and leisure space with, notably, the construction of an interpretation centre on the water.

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

The State Party has increased its efforts in a relatively difficult global context and implements the recommendations of the 2014 Commission report to ensure the conservation, protection and management of the property. It acts successfully against illegal activities and controls the land issues located within the property – in the areas reclassified by their acquisition – and this despite their high cost. However, it remains necessary that the State Party provides its Action Plan relating to the land issues of declassification/reclassification of some archaeological zones within the property, together with a timetable. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for its efforts to protect and conserve the property and to have found the statue of Ganymede and asks for a plan of action on the land issues of declassification / reclassification of certain archaeological areas within the property together with the timetable.

The revision process for the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone is ongoing, but it is regrettable that the criteria defining the buffer zone, as well as the regulations and measures that govern it, have not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Measures concerning the PPMV, the Enhancement Plan and the tourism management plan for the property, the management and conservation structure of the property with a clear definition of the mandates and prerogatives, indicate a worrying delay and require urgent action for their finalization, adoption and implementation.

The projects prepared for the study and enhancement of the Roman Circus and that of the study and archaeological investigations and conservation strategy for the property, as well as the Heritage Impact Evaluation (EIP), must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before irreversible decisions are taken, to enable the Committee to assist in seeking appropriate solutions to fully conserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Warmly welcomes the progress achieved in the protection and conservation of the property, despite a relatively difficult global context;
4. Commends the State Party for the successful efforts towards recovering the Ganymède statue stolen from the site museum in 2013;
5. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the State Party for land control of the area located in the classified zone and requests it to submit an Action Plan relating to land issues concerning the declassification/reclassification of certain archaeological zones within the property, accompanied by a timetable, to the World Heritage Centre;
6. Also takes note of the revision process for the property boundaries and the buffer zone and regrets that the criteria for definition of the latter, as well as the regulations and measures that govern it, have not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Also requests the State Party:
 - a) To adopt and implement the Protection and Enhancement Plan (PPMV) of the property,
 - b) To prepare a presentation plan and tourism management plan that will prevent the informal proliferation of commerce within the property, notably at the “UNESCO Square” and around the Antonin Baths,
 - c) To conceive and implement an archaeological and conservation strategy for the property,
 - d) To coordinate the management and preservation structures of the property, as well as the roles of the different concerned stakeholders;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the study and enhancement projects for the Roman Circus and the Study and Archaeological Investigations and Conservation Strategy for the property, as well as the Heritage Impact Evaluations (EIP), before irreversible decisions are taken, for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
9. 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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

MIXED PROPERTIES

ARAB STATES

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(v)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

2017: Heritage Emergency Fund – support to Iraqi World Heritage properties: USD 100 000

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Need to conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows, to confirm the biodiversity within the property and its surrounding landscapes
- Incomplete designation of all the components of the property as legally protected areas
- Need to regulate oil and gas concessions, and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property
- Highly unstable conservation conditions of the archaeological sites
- Need for a detailed master plan/road map that ensures the conservation of the property on a sustainable basis
- Need for an effective implementation of the consolidated management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1481/documents>, providing the following information:

- The Strategy for Water and Land Resources in Iraq (SWLRI) has been developed, covering the period until 2035, and recognizing the Iraqi marshlands as a legitimate water user. Minimum water flows of 5.8 billion cubic meters (BCM) are being allocated to the marshlands annually. Competition with other water users, notably agriculture, remains a challenge, particularly in light of upstream dam developments in neighbouring countries. Efforts to address the noted need for reform of water governance in Iraq, and long-term water sharing agreements with Turkey and Iran are underway;
- An increasing number of recent scientific studies on the biodiversity of the property is noted, however more work is needed to fill knowledge gaps and ensure its protection;

- Legal protection afforded to the property is stated to be sufficient in the context of Iraq, but law enforcement is a challenge, as is the ability to pass new laws. A list of applicable laws and resolutions is provided, including in relation to the regulation of the oil and gas sector. A high coordinating committee consisting of representatives from relevant ministries has been established to monitor extraction activities;
- Various activities have been carried out to support traditional Ma'adan "Marsh Arabs" communities, including socio-economic surveys, training focused on the sustainability and preservation of traditional practices, and integration of local communities in the planning of projects intending to enhance cooperation and conflict resolution, among others;
- Permanent staff has been allocated and trained in surveying, conservation and monitoring;
- A Higher Ministerial Committee for the Implementation of the Management Plan has been set up;
- The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) has re-commenced partnerships with foreign archaeological missions at Uruk, Ur and Eridu, with focus on priority conservation plans and actions;
- At Uruk, plans for a drainage system to better protect the ziqqurat are being drawn up; a five-year research strategy is being developed that will include archaeological and geomorphological surveys; an archaeological survey of the buffer zone has already been carried out as a basis for regulating development; a Master Plan for visitation has been prepared, and a new Visitor Centre is being considered next to the entrance;
- At Ur, a detailed map of the sacred area has been created; documentation has been undertaken on the ziqqurat, the Dublamakh Temple, and the Royal Mausolea of the 3rd dynasty; a topographical laboratory is being established with Italian cooperation; visitation routes are also being considered;
- At Eridu, a landscape-based survey of the hinterland of the city is being planned to research the impact of climate change on the marshes, as is a survey of the city and a Conservation Plan; funding is being sought for a five-year research, excavation and enhancement project;

The State Party further notes that visitation is increasing, and that illegal bird hunting and overfishing remain significant challenges.

The State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for starting the design project in view of building a fishing pier in the marshes, in the Misan Governorate, with the aim of providing needed services for local communities.

On 9 May 2018, State Party provided additional information as follows:

- A decision issued by the Prime Minister's office in March 2018 designating the Minister of Water resources to head the inter-ministerial "National Committee for the management of the Ahwar World Heritage Site".
- Data on the water level in the marshes from 2009 to 2017.

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

The establishment of an inter-ministerial committee for the management of the property headed by the Minister of Water resources helps to clarify management responsibilities at the national level.

The completion of the SWLRI, and the recognition of the Iraqi marshlands as a legitimate water user are welcomed. While the State Party notes that 5.8 BCM of water are being allocated annually to the marshes based on hydrological modelling of southern Iraq, the minimum flows required by each of the components of the property are not provided, thereby not enabling an assessment of whether the minimum water flows needed to sustain the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property are being met. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows needed and take measures accordingly to ensure these minimum flows are met. The ongoing efforts for reform of water governance in Iraq, and for establishing regional cooperation with regard to water influx are important developments. It is therefore recommended that the Committee welcome the ongoing collaboration between Iraq, Iran and Turkey and underline the need that this cooperation ensures the sustaining of the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property through the provision of adequate amounts of water to each of its natural components.

While acknowledging the prevailing conditions in Iraq and the challenges associated with governance, concern nevertheless remains regarding the inadequate level of legal protection afforded to the property. Currently, only one of the components has a clear protected area status (Central Marshes National Park). Therefore, the protection status of most of the property continues to not meet the requirements

of the *Operational Guidelines*, representing a potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This is emphasized by the State Party's acknowledgement that law enforcement, illegal bird hunting, and overfishing remain significant challenges. The State Party provides no details of the scale of illegal bird hunting, but additional sources of information confirm the severity of the issue. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to address legal protection and enforcement, and sufficient management capacity to control illegal activities, as a matter of priority.

The vulnerability of the property to oil and gas developments continues to be of significant concern. Iraq's largest oil fields are found in the same area where the property is located, and there is a strong interest in developing these. Recalling the Committee's established position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to make a permanent commitment not to explore or exploit for hydrocarbons inside the property, and to ensure that any hydrocarbon exploration or exploitation activities in the vicinity of the property do not impact on its OUV.

It is also recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for the State Party to complete the designation of all of the components of the property as protected areas, as a matter of utmost urgency, and ensure effective legal protection to regulate existing oil and gas concessions and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property.

Given the lack of adequate consolidation and maintenance of the excavated areas of Uruk, Ur and Eridu at the time of inscription, and the on-going loss of the archaeological resource from erosion and collapse, the re-instatement of international archaeological teams at Uruk and Ur is welcomed as is the decision to concentrate on conservation. The work on creating detailed maps and surveys that has been started is absolutely essential in order to create a baseline for all future work, including monitoring.

The planned research on the settings of Uruk and Eridu should help inform a more appropriate delineation of their boundaries and buffer zones.

The increasing visitation of the property is also noted with concern. Local media reports suggest that large numbers of visitors are accessing sensitive areas both in the natural and in the cultural components of the property. Although the archaeological sites now have some human resources on site and works to consolidate the excavated remains are being undertaken, the conservation of the three archaeological sites is still not adequate for the arrival of visitors, as was the case at the time of inscription. It is noted that a Master Plan for visitors has been drafted for Uruk and that visitor routes are being planned for both Uruk and Ur.

What is still needed is the elaboration of full-fledged conservation plans for the archaeological attributes of the property that assess risks, problems, needs and priorities, and justify conservation approaches to be taken, coupled with an operational action plan. An overall tourism plan needs to be developed for the whole property to regulate visitation, ensure visitors' safety, as well as sustainable and adequate tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities.

The projects focusing on the Ma'adan that have been undertaken are noted, but little detail is provided. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide support for the maintenance of the traditional ecological knowledge held by the men and women of the Ma'adan "Marsh Arabs" communities, and for rights-based approaches to management, recognizing the customary use of the property. Such knowledge should also be applied for the new constructions planned to provide basic services within the marshes, and traditional construction techniques should be favored; projects for planned constructions should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their commencement.

Considering the concerns related to the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property in conjunction with water flows, continued lack of legal protection, and the challenges noted by the State Party relating to law enforcement, illegal bird hunting and overfishing at the natural sites, the continuing vulnerabilities of the cultural sites, and increasing pressure from visitation, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess its current state of conservation and whether the conditions for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.16**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes establishment of an inter-ministerial committee for the management of the property, the completion of the Strategy for Water and Land Resources in Iraq (SWLRI) and the recognition of the Iraqi marshlands as a legitimate water user and, noting the competing demands for water between different users in Iraq, also welcomes the ongoing efforts for reform of water governance;
4. Urges the State Party to take appropriate measures for providing the property with the adequate amount of water within its national capacity;
5. Further welcomes the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of long-term water sharing agreements between the States Parties of Iraq, Iran and Turkey and strongly encourages all three States Parties to continue these efforts, so as to ensure the provision of adequate amounts of water for the property that can sustain its biodiversity, and considers that non-fulfilment of minimum water requirements could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines ;
6. While acknowledging the prevailing conditions in Iraq, notes with significant concern the continued absence of adequate legal protection for the majority of the natural components in the property, as well as the State Party's statement that law enforcement remains a challenge, and also considers that this situation could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also notes with concern the significant challenges reported upon by the State Party, related to illegal bird hunting and overfishing, and further considers that in the continued absence of legal protection for most of the property and without sufficient management capacity, these issues are unlikely to be effectively controlled;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Conduct further studies regarding minimum water flows needed to sustain the biodiversity and ecological processes of the property, and demonstrate that these water flows are being provided,
 - b) Complete the designation of all of the natural components of the property as protected areas, as a matter of utmost urgency, and ensure effective legal protection to regulate oil and gas concessions, and other potentially impacting activities in the buffer zones of the property,
 - c) Provide support for the maintenance of the traditional ecological knowledge held by the men and women of the Ma'adan "Marsh Arabs" communities, and for rights-based approaches to management, recognising the customary use of the property;
9. Further notes with significant concern the continued vulnerability of the property to oil and gas developments and, recalling its established position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, strongly urges the State

Party to make a permanent commitment not to explore for or exploit oil and gas within the property, and to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not cause a negative impact on its OUV;

10. *Welcomes furthermore the re-instatement of international archaeological teams at Uruk, Ur and Eridu, and the decision to concentrate on conservation; notes progress with work on detailed maps and surveys; nevertheless, in the light of the dire state of conservation at the time of inscription and on-going losses of archaeological layers, also urges the State Party to accelerate work on surveys and maps in order, to develop baseline data for all future work, including monitoring;*
11. *Requests the State Party to put in place a structured approach for overall conservation work through the development of conservation plans for each of the three archaeological sites, coupled with operational action plans;*
12. *Takes note with concern of the increasing tourism interest in the property in light of the lack of adequate consolidation and maintenance of the excavated areas of Uruk, Ur and Eridu at the time of inscription, the on-going loss of the archaeological remains from erosion and collapse, and the sensitive ecosystem of the marshes, also requests the State Party to develop and implement an overall tourism plan for the whole property, to regulate visitation, ensure visitors' safety, and sustainable and adequate tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities;*
13. *Recalls to the State Party its obligation to submit any planned construction projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their commencement;*
14. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to assess its current state of conservation and the potential impact of water flow, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, illegal bird hunting, over-fishing, archaeological conservation needs, increased visitation and lack of adequate legal protection, on the property's OUV;*
15. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.*

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

69. Western Tien Shan (Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan) (N 1490)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2008 to 2008) – not implemented

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management systems / Management Plan (Need to finalize the transboundary management framework for the property); Need to further develop collaboration between the States Parties in the framework of a tripartite Memorandum for management of the property; Need to review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to criterion (x))
- Human resources (Lack of capacity on transnational management)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/>

Current conservation issues

Uzbekistan

On 1 February 2018, the State Party of Uzbekistan submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Uzbek components of this serial property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/documents/>, and provides the following information:

- A draft Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on Management and Protection of the property has been developed by the Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Various actions, including establishment of a coordinating working group and a monitoring programme for the property, have been planned. Coordination between the States Parties continues for the signing of the MoC;
- Two decrees were adopted in Uzbekistan in 2016-2017, which concern conservation and management of the Chatkal Biosphere Reserve component of the property. Specifically, protection activities in the Bashkizilsay area and the Maydantal area of the biosphere reserve

were entrusted to the Uzbekistan National Railway Company and the State Committee for Forestry, respectively;

- A buffer zone for the Chatkal Biosphere Reserve is planned to be established as part of a joint UNDP/Global Environment Facility (GEF)/State Committee project for sustainable management of natural and forest resources.

Kazakhstan

On 9 April 2018, the State Party of Kazakhstan submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, also available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/documents/>. With regards to the trilateral MoC, the State Party provides some further details regarding the process by which the draft was developed and notes that signing of the MoC has been delayed since mid-2017, due to significant ongoing changes in the management system of protected areas in Uzbekistan. A copy of the MoC (in Russian) was submitted by the State Party with its report.

Regarding the Kazakh components of the property, the State Party informs that the boundaries of the Sairam-Ugam component have been revised. Specifically, the areas within the Limited Economic Use zone of the Sairam-Ugam National Park (ca. 60,628 ha according to the information provided in the report) are proposed to be included in the buffer zone of the property. Some technical mistakes regarding the boundaries of the property were also noted and maps of the proposed revised and adjusted boundaries have been submitted by the State Party with its report.

Kyrgyzstan

The State Party of Kyrgyzstan did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information provided by the States Parties of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan regarding the elaboration of a trilateral MoC on the management and protection of the property is welcomed. It is, however, regrettable that it has not yet been signed by all three States Parties and it is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the States Parties to complete the signing of the MoC as soon as possible and to expedite the actions required to operationalize the MoC, once duly signed by all three States Parties, particularly with regards to the establishment of the planned joint steering committee, which would assume coordinating functions. Development of a functioning transboundary management framework for the property will require additional efforts and in this regard, it should be recalled that in its Decision **40 COM 8B.9**, the Committee also requested the States Parties to work in consultation with IUCN to build capacity on transnational management of the property.

With regards to the information provided by the State Party of Uzbekistan regarding the management provisions for the Bashkizilsay and Maydantal areas of the Chatkal Biosphere Reserve component of the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify the role of the railway company in the protection of the property, and provide more detailed information regarding potential changes in the management system that result from these decrees, and possible impacts on the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding the revision of the boundaries on the Sayram-Ugam component of the property is noted. However, it should be recalled that any proposed changes to the boundaries of the property should be officially submitted by the States Parties in the form of a proposal for boundary modifications. It is noted with concern that some of the changes outlined in the information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan appear to propose exclusion of a large area from the boundaries of the property, to be instead included in its buffer zone. It should be stressed that changes to the boundaries should only be proposed with the aim of enhancing representation and protection of the property's OUV, and that in its Decision **40 COM 8B.9**, the Committee requested the States Parties to review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to criterion (x), follow ecological principles and address connectivity. Areas originally included into the property for their paleontological values in relation to criterion (viii) should also be excluded, since the property was inscribed under criterion (x) only. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the States Parties to review and rationalize the boundaries of the property, and to develop, as a matter of priority, a joint proposal for a significant boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is further recommended that the Committee encourage the States Parties to consider, as part of the boundary modification process, the potential of the property to also meet criterion (ix), in addition to criterion (x).

Finally, it is regrettable that the State Party of Kyrgyzstan did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the Kyrgyz components of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to submit joint reports on the state of conservation of the entire transboundary property for examination by the Committee in the future.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 8B.9**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regretting that the State Party of Kyrgyzstan did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the Kyrgyz components of the property, recalls that for transboundary properties, States Parties should submit a joint report, rather than individual reports on their national components, and strongly encourages all three States Parties involved in this serial transnational property to submit joint reports in the future;
4. Noting the elaboration of a trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation on protection and management of the property and the delay in signing it, urges all three States Parties to complete the signing of the Memorandum as soon as possible, and requests them to expedite the actions required for its operationalization, particularly with regards to the establishment of a joint steering committee which would assume coordinating functions;
5. Reiterates its request to the States Parties to work in consultation with IUCN to build capacity on transnational management of the property;
6. Notes the information provided by the State Party of Uzbekistan regarding the decrees adopted for the management of the Bashkizilsay and Maydantal areas of the Chatkal Biosphere Reserve component of the property, and requests the State Party to clarify the role of the Uzbekistan National Railway Company in the protection of the property, and to provide more detailed information regarding the changes in the management system resulting from these decrees, and their possible impacts on the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
7. Also noting the information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding the revision of the boundaries on the Sayram-Ugam component of the property, expresses its concern that some of the proposed boundary changes would exclude a significant area of the property, to be instead included in its buffer zone, and also recalls that changes to the boundaries should only be proposed with the aim of enhancing representation and protection of the property's OUV;
8. Also reiterates its request to the States Parties to review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to criterion (x), follow ecological principles and address connectivity, exclude areas originally included for their paleontological values and to develop, as a matter of priority, a joint proposal for a significant boundary modification in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the States Parties to seek further advice from IUCN on the proposal before submitting it;
9. Encourages the States Parties to consider as part of the boundary modification process, the potential of the property to also meet criterion (ix), in addition to criterion (x);

10. *Further requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2019, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the entire property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.*

70. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criterion (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (between 1980 and 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 232,097

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 1985: UNESCO mission; December 2002: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2005: Fact-finding mission; May 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Rapid increase and commercialization of mountaineering tourism, including resort and trail development)
- Inadequate solid and liquid waste management
- Noise pollution and visual impacts from helicopter use
- Unclear legal basis for establishment and operation of Kongde View Resort, including access trails
- Firewood collection and harvesting of non-timber forest products
- Quarrying
- Illegal activities, in particular concerns about poaching
- Localized grazing of pack animals
- Human-wildlife conflict
- Climate change impacts

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2017, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents/> and primarily responds to Decision **40 COM 7B.89**, as follows:

- The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) and local staff of Sagarmatha National Park closely coordinate with the UNDP-funded “Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction project” and report effective project implementation in terms of the environmental, social and cultural dimensions;
- The 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone is being implemented, reportedly having taken recommendations of the IUCN Advisory mission into account;
- The full text of the Supreme Court’s final verdict regarding the Kongde View Resort remains to be released; however, no timeframes are provided. Upon receipt, DNPWC will inform the World Heritage Centre of the final verdict;

- The National Park Authority has been engaged in monitoring the resort; a joint monitoring bringing together pertinent governmental institutions has been proposed;
- Law enforcement activities are conducted in close collaboration with local communities and the Nepalese Army. More systematic patrolling and visitor tracking is in planning;
- The authorities cooperate with the non-governmental Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) to address solid waste management;
- Helicopters are reported to be mostly used for rescue and relief works and are subject to monitoring;
- An updated map of the property and its buffer zone is provided, noting that all settlements inside the park and property are likewise considered buffer zones, as per the declaration in the Nepal Gazette concerning the buffer zone;
- Consultations with local stakeholders suggest no current support for a formalization of the existing buffer zone under the *World Heritage Convention*;
- Climate change is acknowledged as a severe concern, both from a biodiversity conservation and a disaster risk perspective;
- An optical fiber line along the existing trekking routes from Lukla to Everest base camp is in planning, the EIA remains to be conducted;
- The proposed ropeway project from Lukla to Namche to transport goods is currently undergoing a feasibility study.

On 27 March 2018, the State Party of Nepal has separately submitted the approved Management Plan of Sagarmatha National Park to the World Heritage Centre which is being reviewed by IUCN.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The completion and official approval as well as the implementation of the 2016-2020 Management Plan are welcome.

In its Decision **40 COM 7B.89** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), the Committee had expressed concerns about illegal firewood collection, waste management and other tourism impacts, including from helicopter use, requesting the State Party to incorporate adequate management responses in the new Management Plan, “based on the recommendations of the Advisory mission and, where necessary, additional assessments of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property”. While the reported activities are welcome, they do not amount to comprehensive responses to well-documented challenges. For example, waste management goes beyond the exemplary commitment of SPCC, and must cope with rapidly increasing amounts of solid and liquid waste, including human waste and other debris, such as discarded pipelines formerly used in the small Thamo hydropower plant. Similarly, unambiguous rules for, and systematic monitoring of, helicopter use remain to be established and are not addressed by the 2016-2020 Management Plan. Illegal firewood collection is likewise not comprehensively addressed, beyond an objective to promote alternative energy. Further work to incorporate adequate management responses to these issues in the management plan, based on the Advisory Mission recommendations, is therefore required.

The legal status of the Kongde View Resort remains unclear, despite the Supreme Court having reportedly decided its verdict, as the latter has not yet been communicated to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party and is necessary to clarify the situation. In the meantime the resort continues to operate and systematic monitoring is strongly recommended as a basis for understanding and mitigating inevitable impacts. A different set of monitoring and mitigation measures would be required in the event of a decision to demolish and rehabilitate the site of the Kongde View Resort.

It is encouraging that DNPWC and the local park authority directly engage with the UNDP-funded risk reduction project on flood and glacial lake outburst hazards. The information provided, however, makes it difficult to judge how the cultural and spiritual values and practices of local communities could be integrated in project planning, implementation and monitoring.

The map showing the property and the nationally designated buffer zone is appreciated. There is a need to distinguish zonation as a management instrument within the property and the separate issue of the adjacent buffer zone. The approved Management Plan recognizes the need for an effective internal zonation system for the property, and proposes to distinguish three different zones. This proposal should be supported, and developing such a zonation system should include adequate consultation with local communities, in particular to ensure adequate provisions for the village enclaves located within the property. While these villages are reported to be subject to the same legal provisions as the nationally designated buffer zone to the national park, the designation of a buffer zone inside the property would

be impractical. This situation could be more appropriately addressed through internal zonation. The property shares boundaries with three large protected areas to the west, north and east, respectively. To the south, a buffer zone was established in 2002 at the national level, which the Management Plan explicitly recognizes along with the property. Therefore, the property enjoys surrounding legal protection. It is important to recall that a buffer zone is not formally part of an inscribed property therefore the formalization of the existing buffer zone would not result in an enlargement of the property and would not imply any constraints to local communities beyond the legal provisions that already exist at the national level.

The proposed optical fiber line and ropeway are well noted and should undergo the applicable Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), including possible cultural and spiritual concerns. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the assessments to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the completion and on-going implementation of the 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property and its nationally designated buffer zone, and urges the State Party to pay particular attention to the recommendations of the 2016 Advisory mission, including but not limited to firewood collection, tourism management, management of solid and liquid waste, and unregulated and poorly controlled helicopter use resulting in noise pollution, visual impacts and disturbance of wildlife;
4. Welcoming the information that the Supreme Court has reached a verdict regarding the Kongde View Resort, requests the State Party to submit this verdict upon its completion to the World Heritage Centre;
5. Notes with appreciation the reported close coordination between the National Park authorities and the UNDP-funded "Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction" project, and also requests the State Party to continue monitoring of compliance with environmental measures and to fully involve local communities to ensure respect of their cultural and spiritual values and practices throughout the project cycle;
6. Also notes with appreciation the submission of an improved map displaying the property and its nationally designated buffer zone, as well as the proposal in the Management Plan to consider introducing zonation as a management instrument within the property, and further requests the State Party to develop such a zonation system, including as a means to ensure appropriate provisions for enclave villages located within the property;
7. Noting that consultations with local communities suggest no current support for the formalization of the nationally designated buffer zone to the national park as a buffer zone to the property, nevertheless reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification, consistent with the Operational Guidelines, to establish a buffer zone as such formalization will neither increase the size of the property nor impose any limitations on the local communities beyond the existing legal provisions at the national level;

8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the Social and Environmental Impact Assessments for the proposed optical fibre and ropeway projects include a specific assessment of potential impacts on Outstanding Universal Value, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to 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 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.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

72. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225bis)



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 24,915 of financial support from the Participation Programme of UNESCO for development of a strategy for sustainable tourism (2010)

Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2018: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development (developments in the Bansko ski zone)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of effective management mechanisms)
- Management and institutional factors (boundary issues)
- Illegal activities (illegal logging)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>. Additional information was submitted on 11 January, 4 and 19 April 2018 following the World Heritage Centre's letters seeking clarifications on third party information regarding amendments to the current Management Plan of the property. These documents report the following:

- A new draft Management Plan for Pirin National Park has been further revised and reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW), which subsequently decided that there would not be a need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This decision has been challenged in court and therefore the plan could not yet be adopted. This delay has prevented further progress with the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2011 Reactive Monitoring mission, such as the development of a monitoring programme for impacts on the property from skiing activities in its buffer zone;
- In December 2017, the Bulgarian Council of Ministers adopted amendments to the current Management Plan, which remains in force until the new plan is adopted. The amendments allow for the replacement and increase in capacity of the existing ski facilities and the construction of associated infrastructure in the buffer zone of the property, as well as permitting construction of water catchment facilities inside the property (within the zone for protection of forest ecosystems and recreation). All possible projects that could be allowed with the introduction of these amendments will be subject to the necessary impact assessments. Following the adoption of these amendments, a development plan for the buffer zone will also be drafted, which will outline

- parameters for potential development and will be subject to the necessary procedures, including SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA);
- During the reporting period, no new significant developments or projects related to construction of new infrastructure have been approved or implemented within the property and its buffer zone. Only proposals related to maintenance of existing infrastructure were approved.

On 5-9 March 2018, an IUCN Advisory mission visited the property at the request of the State Party to review the draft of the new management plan and the amendments introduced to the current Management Plan of the property.

On 25 May 2018, another letter was sent by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party seeking clarifications regarding third party information reporting that the Supreme Administrative Court of Bulgaria decided to reject the decision of the MOEW to not subject the draft new Management Plan of Pirin National Park to full SEA and AA.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Regarding the new Management Plan for the property, it is noted that it could not yet be finalized due to Court proceedings. The ruling of the Supreme Administrative Court rejects the decision of the MOEW not to undertake a full SEA for the new Management Plan. This is welcome as the SEA can be an opportunity to address questions regarding the assurance of protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is recommended that the Committee seek official confirmation from the State Party regarding the process it will follow subsequent to the Court decision. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that a full SEA for the new Management Plan for the property is undertaken as a matter of priority, which should include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including from potential development in areas located within its buffer zone. The State Party should be requested to submit a copy of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

Regarding the current Management Plan for Pirin National Park, it is noted that the amendments adopted in December 2017 provide for the construction of water catchment facilities within the zone for protection of forest ecosystems and recreation. As these constructions would take place inside the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide more detailed information clarifying their potential extent and impacts and in how far these facilities would be related to potential developments in the property's buffer zone. It is of concern that the amendments would also provide for expansion of skiing infrastructure in the buffer zone of the property. It should be recalled that the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7B.17**, requested the State Party to undertake a SEA of the development of the buffer zone, including consultations with stakeholders. The SEA for the new Management Plan should also address this request. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to implement the amendments to the current Management Plan and not to introduce any new amendments, until the SEA of the new draft Management Plan has been completed.

Once the results of the SEA are available, it is considered crucial to ensure that the new Management Plan comprehensively addresses all potential threats to the OUV of the property and clearly outlines how the management objectives, zoning and land use within Pirin National Park will contribute to protecting, and where possible enhancing the OUV of the property, and preventing any degradation of its integrity, including from socio-economic activities located outside its boundaries, based on the best available scientific knowledge.

It should be noted that the IUCN Advisory mission concluded that development of a clear and comprehensive long-term vision of the socioeconomic development in the buffer zone of the property and the broader region, which would be in line with the goal of long-term protection of the property's OUV, is also necessary. Such a vision should provide a strategic framework for development, while also ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process, facilitated by external mediation, if necessary, in order to achieve a situation where the vision is shared by all stakeholders concerned and provides clear provisions to protect the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Notes that the new Management Plan for the property could not yet be finalized due to Court proceedings and welcomes the recent ruling of the Supreme Administrative Court of Bulgaria to reject the decision of the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) not to undertake a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the new Management Plan;
4. Noting the amendments to the current Management Plan for Pirin National Park adopted in December 2017 providing for the construction of water catchment facilities within the property, requests the State Party to provide more detailed information on their potential extent, impacts and their relation to potential developments in the property's buffer zone;
5. Notes with concern that the amendments to the current Management Plan would provide for replacement and increase in capacity of skiing infrastructure in the buffer zone of the property;
6. Reiterates that any future developments within the buffer zone of the property need to be guided through strategic planning, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Confirm its response to the Supreme Administrative Court's Decision regarding the SEA procedure for the new Management Plan of the property,
 - b) Ensure that a full SEA for the new Management Plan for the property is undertaken as a matter of priority, which should include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including from potential development in areas located within the property and its buffer zone, and submit a copy of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, once it becomes available,
 - c) Not implement the December 2017 amendments to the current Management Plan and refrain from introducing any new amendments, until the SEA of the draft new Management Plan has been completed,
 - d) Once the results of the SEA are available, ensure that the new Management Plan comprehensively addresses all potential threats to the OUV of the property and clearly outlines how the management objectives, zoning and land use within Pirin National Park will contribute to enhancing the OUV of the property and preventing any degradation of its integrity, and to take into account the recommendations of the IUCN 2018 Advisory mission in the above process;
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to develop a clear and comprehensive long-term vision for socio-economic development in the buffer zone of the property and the broader region, which would be in line with the goal of long-term protection of the property's OUV, ensuring that all relevant stakeholders are appropriately involved in the process, facilitated by external mediation, if necessary;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019.

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/900/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of Management Plan)
- Legal framework (Weakening of conservation controls and laws)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Impacts of proposed tourism infrastructure development)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Road construction)
- Illegal activities (Deforestation)

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

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/900/documents/>, and providing the following information:

- A number of legislative changes were introduced in 2016-2017, however, the adopted legislative acts do not impact on the obligations of the State Party under the Convention to preserve and transfer the heritage object to future generations in an unchanged state and none of them are intended to be used to the detriment of World Heritage properties;
- Provisions were introduced in the regulations established for the nature monuments located within the property to prohibit felling, including for sanitary purposes. The construction of any linear infrastructure (roads, overpasses, powerlines) has also been prohibited;
- No construction of any tourist, sport or recreational infrastructure is planned on the Lagonaki Plateau;
- The leopard reintroduction programme has continued;
- In 2014-2017, the entire area of Colchic Boxwood forests in Western Caucasus was affected by an insect pest;
- In 2016-2017, 311 violations of protection regime were detected within the property, including mainly cases of illegal presence on the territory of strictly protected areas, but also 19 cases of illegal hunting and fishing.

On 16 May and 3 July 2017, the World Heritage Centre requested clarifications regarding third party information noting the lease of land plots for large-scale investment projects related to the development of recreational facilities on the territory of Sochi Wildlife Refuge bordering the property. On 7 June 2017, the State Party asserted that (1) tourism infrastructure development plans have not been adopted, (2) no decision to create "biosphere polygons" within the boundaries of state nature biosphere reserves have been made and (3) the preparation of relevant legislative amendments has been suspended.

On 28 August 2017, the State Party noted that leased land plots are located outside the boundaries of the property and that the development of the plots can only proceed once specific plans have undergone the necessary evaluations, including environmental impact assessment. The State Party also noted that it has no intentions to develop the territory of the property for recreational, tourism or sport purposes.

On 2 March 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent another letter to the State Party to seek clarifications regarding further third party information, which provided additional information on this matter, including maps and a government order. No response has been received at the time of writing this report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The confirmation that the recent legislative changes do not impact on the obligations of the State Party under the Convention to preserve and transfer the heritage object to future generations in an unchanged state is appreciated. However, the State Party has not provided any specific information about these changes. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.8**, in which the Committee considered that the continuous degradation of the legal protection regime of protected areas comprising the property represents a potential danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide detailed information about all recently adopted legislative changes and measures taken to avoid negative impacts on the property.

It is further noted that, beyond the statement that no construction of tourism, recreational or sports facilities is planned on the Lagonaki plateau, the State Party report did not provide any information regarding the current status of any existing plans for large-scale tourism and sport infrastructure within the entire property, as was requested by the Committee. However, it is welcomed that, in its letter of August 2017, the State Party indicates that it has no intentions to develop the territory of the property for recreational, tourism or sport purposes. It should be recalled that the 2016 IUCN Advisory mission concluded that the plans it was shown for development of skiing facilities within the property, which the mission evaluated, may have significant impacts on the OUV of the property.

The lease of land plots for the development of large-scale investment projects related to sports and recreational activities directly bordering the property also raises serious concerns. It should be recalled that in Decision **40 COM 7B.101**, the Committee expressed its concern regarding the potential negative impacts on the property resulting from legislative changes adopted in 2015 to the Decrees on the Sochi National Park (SNP) and the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge (SFWR). These decrees provide for expansion of recreational zones and construction of large-scale tourism infrastructure in these protected areas, which could also undermine the efforts to reintroduce the Persian leopard to the property, by disrupting the connectivity of its natural habitat. It further needs to be noted that as part of the "Plan of measures for the restoration of Mzymta river, comprehensive environmental monitoring and preparation of compensatory measures as part of environmental component of preparation for the XXII Winter Olympic and XI Paralympic Games in Sochi in 2014", it was foreseen to expand the Caucasus State Nature Reserve by the inclusion of the SFWR and the core zone of the SNP in the upper Mzymta valley where the projects are reportedly planned. These areas were also part of the proposed boundary modification of the property, which was withdrawn by the State Party in 2016.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party not to permit any construction of such infrastructure in areas immediately adjacent to the property, particularly on the territory of other protected areas, if such construction can have negative impacts on the property's OUV. These impacts need to be assessed carefully by Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment. Otherwise, it can be concluded that plans for large-scale tourism infrastructure development within the property and directly on its boundaries could constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in line with paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is further recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide detailed information on the status of any such projects. In the absence of a comprehensive response on this matter, or in the case of projects proceeding to implementation inside the property or adjacent to the property without prior assessment of impacts on OUV, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee consider inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 43rd session in 2019.

The destruction of Colchic Boxwood forests in the property by an invasive insect pest is noted with utmost concern. There is evidence that this invasive alien species (IAS), the box tree moth, was accidentally introduced with *Buxus sempervirens* plants imported from Italy during the preparations for the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess the damage incurred by this invasion on the OUV of the property and to develop with the help of specialists a set of urgent measures to control the box tree moth invasion and to restore Colchic Boxwood within the property and in its surroundings. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess the risks posed to the OUV of the property by other potential IAS which may have also been introduced to the property or the broader region.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **41COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the State Party's statement that the recent legislative changes do not impact on the obligations of the State Party under the Convention to preserve and transfer the heritage object to future generations in an unchanged state, but regrets that no detailed information about these changes has been provided and therefore reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information about all recently adopted legislative changes and measures taken to avoid negative impacts on the property;
4. Also recalling that the Committee has on several occasions reiterated its position that the installation of construction of large-scale infrastructure on the Lagonaki Plateau, or in any other area inside the property 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, also welcomes the statement of the State Party in its August 2017 letter addressed to the World Heritage Centre that no plans exist for construction of large-scale infrastructure on Lagonaki Plateau, nor any intentions to develop the territory of the property for recreational, tourism or sport purposes;
5. Reiterates its concern expressed in Decision **40 COM 7B.101** on legislative changes providing for expansion of recreational zones and construction of large-scale tourism infrastructure in the protected areas adjoining the property, which could have negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including on efforts to reintroduce the Persian leopard to the property, by disrupting the connectivity of its natural habitat;
6. Expresses serious concern regarding the reported lease of land plots for the development of large-scale investment projects related to sports and recreational activities directly bordering the property and located on the territory of Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge and Sochi National Park, and requests the State Party not to permit any construction of large-scale infrastructure in areas immediately adjacent to the property, particularly if located on the territory of other protected areas, if such construction could have negative impact on the property's OUV, which should be assessed as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for each proposed project, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
7. Also regrets that the State Party did not provide information regarding the current status of any existing plans for large-scale tourism and sport infrastructure on the territory of Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge and Sochi National Park property and also requests the State Party to urgently provide this information;

8. Notes with utmost concern that part of the Colchic Boxwood forests in the property have been destroyed by the invasive box tree moth, and further requests the State Party to:
- a) Assess the extent of the damage and its impact on the OUV of the property,
 - b) Develop in cooperation with relevant specialists, including IUCN's Invasive Species Specialist Group a set of urgent measures for the restoration of Colchic Boxwood within the property and its surroundings, and to control the box tree moth invasion,
 - c) Assess risks posed to the OUV of the property by other potential invasive alien species, which may have also been introduced to the property or the broader region;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019, **with a view to considering, in the case of infrastructure projects proceeding to implementation in proximity of the property without prior assessment of impacts on OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 9 February 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report for the property. A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 11 to 17 February 2018. Both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1182/documents>. The State Party reports that important efforts have been undertaken to implement the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission:

- On 30 June 2017, a decree was issued by the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, which permanently bans the use of gillnets in the vaquita refuge, prohibits night fishing and enforces the control and monitoring of small vessels;
- Important resources are being mobilized to enforce the ban and curb illegal fishing. Through the Comprehensive Attention Programme of the Upper Gulf of California (COI), different law enforcement agencies cooperate, including the Navy, the Army, the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the newly established Environmental Gendarmerie, the National Fisheries Authority (CONAPESCA) and the National Commission on Natural Protected Areas (CONANP). Fourteen vessels, including two ocean patrol vessels as well as two helicopters, two aircraft and several smaller boats are permanently mobilized in the operation. The total costs of the operation since its start exceeds USD 27 million in operational costs and USD 16 million in investment costs;
- In addition, several NGO vessels are permanently retrieving illegal nets. Government law enforcement staff is now present on the NGO vessels;



- The Attorney General Office has established an office in San Felipe, allowing more efficient investigation and prosecution. The federal law against organized crime has been reformed and now includes wildlife trafficking;
- The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Institute (INAPESCA) continues its research into alternative fishing gear;
- In August 2017, Mexico organized a trilateral meeting in the framework of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) with representatives of China and the United States of America to discuss the illegal trafficking of totoaba swim bladder. The meeting agreed to establish a contact group and to carry out joint operations when required. A follow up meeting was held in January 2018. The three countries also submitted a joint report to the 69th session of the CITES Standing Committee (SC69) on the efforts to protect the totoaba. The SC69 requested the CITES Secretariat to commission a study on the current status of the totoaba and vaquita, and information on illegal trade and markets in totoaba;
- The Vaquita Conservation, Protection and Recovery programme (CPR) had the objective to establish a small captive population in order to avoid extinction of the species but had to be abandoned after one of the captured animals died. Based on the results of the acoustic detection undertaken during the CPR, the vaquita refuge area was increased. Other data collected are still being analyzed, but the report notes that the detections of both grown up and young animals were encouraging.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The important efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2017 mission should be welcomed. Although the State Party had only seven months to act on these recommendations, the 2018 mission concluded that significant progress was made on 3 of the 4 priority recommendations. Law enforcement procedures have been significantly strengthened by the enactment of the permanent gillnet ban, the allocation of greater resources to the upper Gulf and improvements to legal procedures associated with gathering data and investigating illegal activities. The COI programme has mobilized multiple law enforcement agencies and unprecedented financial and operational resources and incorporated the assistance of civil society. Net retrieval operations have significantly increased and progress has been made in streamlining and simplifying procedures for the enforcement of regulations. Efforts have been made, at the highest level, to address the issue of the international trade in totoaba with the most important transit and destination countries, the United States of America and China, both through bilateral channels and CITES.

However, the mission considered that progress made to introduce alternative fishing gear remains insufficient and that efforts to trial and integrate alternative fishing gear that does not endanger the vaquita and other non-target species must be expedited. Fishing communities must be fully engaged in this process and the expertise and experience of the Expert Committee on Fishing Technologies (ECOFT) should be the foundation of all future actions so that transition to sustainable and viable fisheries is swift and successful.

The outcome of the CPR has clearly established that removing vaquita to a temporary sanctuary is not a viable option and the only way to safeguard the species from extinction is the cessation of illegal fishing activities within its habitat. It is encouraging that so far only one net entanglement fatality has been recorded during 2018 but even with the increased at-sea surveillance, illegal totoaba nets continue to be recovered on a regular basis, demonstrating that illegal fishing activities still occur.

The mission concluded that it is too early to determine how effectively the efforts undertaken by the State Party to implement the 2017 recommendations have averted the risk of extinction of the vaquita and it is therefore recommended that the Committee postpone a decision on the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to its 43rd session in 2019, when more data from the 2018-2019 season when illegal totoaba fishing occurs are available and once the above mentioned CITES study has been completed.

In order to prevent the extinction of the vaquita and thus prevent iconic attributes of the OUV from becoming irreversibly lost, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to address four additional key recommendations, made by the mission and summarized in the Draft Decision, to further strengthen surveillance and monitoring, speed up the introduction of viable alternative fishing gears, strengthen the legal status of the permanent gillnet ban and more effectively address the illegal trafficking of totoaba products.

The mission also considers that the results of the CITES study will be key in mapping trafficking routes and in identifying appropriate strategies to combat illegal trade in totoaba, the implementation of which will require a coordinated effort between the States Parties of Mexico, China and the United States of America.

In order to guarantee the long-term protection and maintenance of the OUV of the property, and further improve its conservation and strengthen its management, the mission further proposes long term recommendations on sustainable fisheries, the integration of local communities and the development of an integrated management framework.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the critical status of the vaquita population, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California;*
4. *Welcomes the important efforts by the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2017 mission, in particular the significant progress made in strengthening surveillance efforts in the Upper Gulf of California, the enactment of the permanent gillnet ban, the increased net retrieval operations, progress made in coordinating the different law enforcement agencies and in streamlining the enforcement of regulations, as well as the efforts made to address the illegal international trade in totoaba through bilateral channels and the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and appreciates the unprecedented level of financial and operational resources made available by the State Party for these efforts;*
5. *Expresses its concern that insufficient progress has been made on the development and introduction of multiple and viable alternative fishing gears that do not endanger vaquita and other non-target marine mammals, sharks and turtles;*
6. *Regrets that the Vaquita Conservation, Protection and Recovery programme (CPR), set-up to establish a small captive population in order to avoid extinction of the species, had to be abandoned after one of the captured animals died, and takes note of the conclusion that removing vaquita to a temporary sanctuary is not a viable option and that the only way to safeguard the species from extinction is therefore the cessation of illegal fishing activities within its habitat;*
7. *Notes the conclusion of the 2018 mission that it is too early to determine if the efforts undertaken by the State Party have averted the risk of extinction of the vaquita and postpones its decision on the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger to its 43rd session in 2019, when more data from the 2018-2019 season when illegal totoaba fishing occurs are available and once the CITES study on the current status of totoaba and vaquita, and information on illegal trade and markets in totoaba, is completed;*
8. *Requests the State Party to urgently address the following recommendations of the 2018 mission in order to prevent the extinction of the vaquita and thus prevent iconic attributes of the OUV of the property from becoming irreversibly lost:*

- a) *Maintain a high level of surveillance and monitoring activities, particularly during the season when illegal totoaba fishing occurs, in the Upper Gulf of California and increase resources, either by area or by type of personnel, to better pursue and subsequently prosecute the most determined fishermen who continue to evade the law,*
 - b) *Expedite the development, testing and application of multiple alternative fishing gears, in close cooperation with local fishermen and based on the recommendations by the Expert Committee on Fishing Technologies (ECOFT) and review and transform the current economic compensation programme for fishermen into an initiative to incentivize them to develop and use alternative fishing gear,*
 - c) *Ensure that the Decree that bans all commercial fishing using gillnet and/or longline fishing in the northern Gulf of California, decided between the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, is formalized via a legislative branch of government, by a Presidential Decree or by jurisprudence created by the federal court,*
 - d) *Strengthen efforts to investigate the national and international networks involved in the illegal fishing operations and the illegal trafficking of totoaba swim bladders, making full use of the new provisions for wildlife trafficking under Mexican Federal Law;*
9. *Considers that the results of the study requested by the CITES Standing Committee on the current status of totoaba and vaquita, and on the illegal trade and markets will be key in mapping trafficking routes and in identifying appropriate strategies to combat illegal trade in totoaba products, which will require a concerted effort between the States Parties of Mexico, China and the United States of America;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to address the following recommendations of the 2018 mission in order to guarantee the long-term protection of the OUV of the property, further improve the conservation of the property and strengthen its management:*
- a) *Continue to develop a programme of transition from unregulated fisheries into regulated practices, that adhere to clear guidelines for sustainable catch, throughout the property, with defined timelines and regular assessment of programme targets,*
 - b) *Continue to support the highly successful community programmes that aim to strengthen the involvement of local communities into the protection of the property and their transition into sustainable livelihoods, as well as climate change adaptation programmes,*
 - c) *Develop an integrated management framework for the property in its entirety including a formal coordination structure;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2018 mission on providing clarifications regarding the new General Law on Biodiversity, the report on the status of the totoaba in the Gulf of California and the publication of the results of the enforcement activities;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 43rd session in 2019, **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.

AFRICA

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



Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1986-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 147,423

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 2 March 2017, the State Party submitted a progress report and on 3 April 2018 an updated report on the state of conservation of the property; both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>, and provide the following information:

- A technical team is considering the options and risks of oil exploration techniques;
- The property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is maintained, and the policy framework for protection is strong, but there are a number of challenges, including illegal use of natural resources, a fast-growing human population outside the property, lack of a buffer zone, limited equipment to ensure systematic monitoring and research, risk of inappropriate tourism developments, commercial fishing and fish farming, overfishing, fish trade for aquariums, tourism-related and household waste and pollution, deforestation, land degradation, erosion and siltation in the catchment area, and lack of resources to ensure effective management;
- Vegetation is being cleared under a power line passing through the property;
- A water supply tank has been constructed inside the property;
- Enclave settlements in the property continue to expand and are now believed to include 25 000 inhabitants;
- The demarcation of the property's terrestrial boundary was completed and is ongoing for the aquatic zone;
- Patrol efforts and equipment have been improved, fishing restrictions have been enforced and illegal fishing settlements have been removed from the property;

- An ecological monitoring protocol for the property is being established to support management;
- 25% of the revenue collected by the national park is shared with the local communities, who also participate in monitoring resource use;
- A sustainable tourism strategy has been adopted and is being implemented;
- An international expert contracted by UNESCO visited Malawi in March 2018 to support the on-going International Assistance project to update the property's management plan and establish the fish monitoring protocol.

On 10 August 2017, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party in response to the progress report, and encouraged it to pursue close dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, particularly on the possible oil exploration activities.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The conservation efforts that are underway, notably to demarcate the property's boundaries, improve monitoring, enforce fishing restrictions and support local communities, are welcomed. The State Party's assurance that the property's OUV is maintained and that the policy framework for protection is strong is also acknowledged. However, the State Party provides very limited information on how the major conservation concerns outlined in the report are being addressed. It is also unclear whether the overhead power line is a new construction within the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide up-to-date monitoring data and detailed information on management activities and any recent and planned constructions, including copies of their Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in order to enable an informed assessment of the property's current state of conservation.

The International Assistance project to update the property's management plan provides an important opportunity to identify and reinforce the required management responses to known threats. The project also supports the establishment of a comprehensive fish monitoring protocol, which is a welcome initiative, and continued close cooperation between the park, communities, and the competent research and government institutions should be secured to ensure its effective implementation.

The potential impact of the growing resident population inside the property is a matter of increasing concern, and the State Party should develop strategies on how to address this issue as part of its reflections on developing the management plan.

As the State Party has noted, the absence of a buffer zone and the small size of the property hinder effective conservation. In line with the 2014 mission recommendations, the State Party should examine, in consultation with the States Parties of Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, the feasibility of establishing a buffer zone and extending the boundaries of the property, particularly within the aquatic zone.

While noting the State Party's request to liaise with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the technical options for oil exploration in the lake, it is regrettable that no update is provided on the status of the oil exploration permits and on the activities carried out to date by the companies involved. The Committee has repeatedly expressed its concern over the oil exploration activities in Lake Malawi, which pose a potentially severe threat to the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, and called on Surestream and RAKGAS, which have been granted oil exploration concessions on the lake, to make a commitment to neither exploit nor explore for oil or gas in World Heritage properties. All development projects, including for oil exploration, infrastructure and tourism, which could have a potential impact on the property's OUV should be subject to an EIA, conducted in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any decisions being made that would be difficult to reverse. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are prepared to provide, through their respective networks, technical assistance to the State Party in undertaking such EIAs if such assistance is requested.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.92** and **40 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions respectively,
3. While welcoming the State Party's efforts for the property's conservation and the implementation of the 2014 mission recommendations and acknowledging the State Party's assurance that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is maintained and that the policy framework for protection is strong, requests the State Party to provide up-to-date monitoring data and detailed information on management activities and any recent and planned constructions, including clarification regarding whether or not the overhead power line is a new construction, in order to enable an informed assessment of the property's current state of conservation;
4. Welcomes the progress to update the property's management plan and to establish a fish monitoring protocol with support from the World Heritage Fund, and also requests the State Party to take this opportunity to identify and reinforce the required management responses to the various threats faced by the property, including the growing population pressure inside the property, and to ensure continued close cooperation between the park, communities, and the competent research and government institutions;
5. Further requests the State Party to examine, in consultation with the States Parties of Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, the feasibility of establishing a buffer zone and extending the boundaries of the property to strengthen its integrity;
6. Reiterating its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, reiterates its utmost concern over oil exploration activities in the lake, which pose a potentially severe risk to the OUV of the property including its conditions of integrity, and urges the State Party to confirm by **1 February 2019** the status of any oil exploration permits and activities, and reiterates its call on the companies Surestream and RAKGAS, which have been granted oil exploration concessions on the lake, to make a commitment to neither exploit nor explore for oil or gas in World Heritage properties;
7. Reiterates its request to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, on all development projects, including for oil exploration outside the property's boundaries and any infrastructure and tourism developments that may impact on the property's OUV, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as available, and prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

ARAB STATES

100. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

See Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add.2

II. OMNIBUS

As part of its functions and within the Reactive Monitoring process, each year the World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of a number of selected properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and those that are under threats (see Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*). To this effect, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prepare detailed reports on the state of conservation (“SOC reports”) of those properties which are presented for examination to the Committee (see Documents WHC/18/42.COM/7A, 7A.Add, 7A.Add.2, 7B, 7B.Add and 7B.Add.2).

On the basis of these reports, the World Heritage Committee decides, in consultation with the State Party concerned and as per Paragraph 24 of the *Operational Guidelines*, whether additional measures are required to protect the property.

However, after a careful review of the state of conservation reports submitted by the States Parties concerned, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that, in a number of cases, the requests made by the World Heritage Committee to the State Party have been responded to in a satisfactory manner by the authorities concerned and/or adequate measures have been taken (for example, a comprehensive Management Plan for the property has been finalized or a development project potentially affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been cancelled) and that the property can therefore no longer be considered under threat.

In this sense, and in the context of the ever-growing workload of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that it is not necessary to present yet another detailed SOC report for examination by the World Heritage Committee but rather a brief summary of the progress achieved for the conservation of such properties, which can therefore be removed from the Reactive Monitoring process.

With Draft Decision **42 COM 7B.104** proposed below, the World Heritage Committee is therefore invited to note with satisfaction that its requests have been addressed by the States Parties concerned and that in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties listed below is no longer under threat.

As a result, no further report on the state of conservation of these properties is required in the future, unless in the event of a new threat or development at the property.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

The Grand Canal (China) (C 1443bis)



On 1 December 2017, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1443/documents/> and provides detailed information on progress made with the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, as follows:

- The General Plan for the conservation and management of the Grand Canal (2012-2030) has been included in the urban and rural economic and social development plans of the related areas to form the basis for administrative decisions related to the Grand Canal and its buffer zone;
- Provinces along the property have improved and amended conservation and management laws and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of requirements for protection of the World Heritage property;
- Efforts to identify potential risks through continuous monitoring are systematically being carried out within the property, as are conservation and maintenance works of historic villages and structures.

Ecological environment improvement programmes have been launched for key sections under the guidance of the General Plan while the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) has guided plans for areas outside the buffer zones;

- Achievements in archaeological research and discoveries have further enriched cultural knowledge of the role of transportation on the Grand Canal;
- The State Party attaches immense importance to the monitoring of water quality. A series of studies and a monitoring system have been developed in close association with municipalities and regional offices, leading to strengthened accountability as well as improvements in waste management;
- Great improvements have been achieved in the property's presentation and interpretation through culture exhibition spaces and leisure parks, thereby leading to enriched quality of life of the residents along the Grand Canal;
- Since 2015, SACH has been organizing professional training on conservation and management for all implicated administrative institutions;
- For the time being, the State Party will not be considering a minor boundary modification but will continuously monitor the effectiveness of the management and conservation of the property and its buffer zone.

The extensive efforts of the State Party to respond to the numerous and complex conservation and management concerns are remarkable and significant. Conservation and management of the Grand Canal are undoubtedly very challenging due to the immensity, diversity and complexity of the property's conservation issues. In this respect, the achievements made by the State Party are particularly noteworthy. Progressively, the State Party has succeeded in putting an organizational structure into operation, while directives and regulations have been elaborated, diffused and implemented. Also significant are the achievements made in the integrated monitoring system of the property through the continuous collection and centralization of data and its analysis and evaluation, forming the basis of directives and decisions. Therefore, the Committee may have confidence in the State Party's sustainable efforts to manage the property and strengthen the landscape conservation, water quality and environmental stability.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the Committee's recommendations are being addressed continuously by the State Party and no further reporting is required in the short term. The State Party is encouraged to continue all its efforts to manage, monitor and conserve the property and to pay particular attention to sensitive tourism development.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey (Germany) (C 1447)



The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 8 December 2017, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1447/documents/>. The report provides information on the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations adopted during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

- A study was undertaken in order to analyse the possible impact of wind farm projects on the property's OUV, and identify potential threats. On 8 December 2017, the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), which follows the ICOMOS Guidelines, as well as several visual impact studies. The HIA shows that the development of wind farms around the municipal area of Höxter could have a visual impact on the integrity of the property, but that this impact is reversible. According to the report submitted by the State Party, the *"city of Höxter's planning department does not intend to authorize further construction of wind farms threatening the property's visual integrity according to the results of this study"*;
- The additional measures which have been implemented relate to: a comprehensive conditions assessment and long-term monitoring plan; a new set of proposed conservation measures for the

architecture and murals in the Carolingian Westwork and Choir of Saint John, expected to be completed in 2018; further systematic research and non-destructive archaeological investigation; and planned presentation on the “Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey” has for the museum and outside the Church, including a multimedia installation in the Choir of Saint John;

- The State Party has made significant progress on the implementation of conservation activities, including the development of the visitor centre in the “Vorburg”. Moreover, the State Party has stated that the management of “Civitas Corvey” has been transferred to a charitable organization “Corvey GmbH” with the purpose of ensuring long term and sustainable use of public or private funding for charitable purposes and that the State Party has successfully made available national funds of 2.7 million euros to the property for conservation measures and improvements for visitors to the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that there are no other current conservation issues, which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that the state of conservation of the property is being adequately addressed.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the Committee’s recommendations are being addressed continuously by the State Party and no further reporting is required in the short term. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of the measures requested by the Committee and with those envisaged in the Management Plan, notably the implementation of a Steering Committee, involving the offices and stakeholders that worked to develop the management and Master Plans, in order to ensure an appropriate state of conservation and to prevent threats from affecting its OUV.



Historic Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)

On 15 January 2018, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1170>, and which provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), as follows:

- Revision of the Urban Master Plan and formulating measures for a consistent urban planning and maintenance approach to all historic monuments within the property through development and adoption of relevant regulations and rules that take into consideration the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its buffer zone, including establishment of restricted land use and no-construction zones;
- Finalization of the Management Plan, including Conservation Strategy and regulations concerning ruinous monuments, planned by the end of 2018.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that the state of conservation of the property is being adequately addressed by the State Party. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and plans, defining appropriate degrees of intervention for each element of the property, in order to prevent any threats to its OUV.

Draft Decision: 42 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B.Add,

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:
 - **The Grand Canal (China) (C 1443bis)**
 - **Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey (Germany) (C 1447)**
 - **Historic Centre of the City of Yaroslavl (Russian Federation) (C 1170)**
3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;
4. Recalling the benefits to States Parties of systematically utilizing Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in the review of development projects, encourages States Parties to integrate the EIA/HIA processes into legislation, planning mechanisms and management plans, and reiterates its recommendation to States Parties to use these tools in assessing projects, including assessment of cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of properties, as early as possible and before any final decision is taken;
5. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.