

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

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

**Forty-seventh session
UNESCO, Paris
6 – 16 July 2025**

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

Summary

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/47COM/documents>

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

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

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

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I. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

1. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

2. Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2025, the State Party submitted a progress report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/154/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The State Party has completed priority mapping and initiated gully restoration efforts to reduce sediment runoff. Joint federal-state programs have been launched with a focus on high-pollution catchments (including Burdekin, Fitzroy, Burnett Mary);
- The Reef Water Quality Report Card released in May 2024 shows progress made toward 2025 water quality targets, particularly on particulate nutrient reduction. However, sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen targets remain challenging;
- A review of the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) is on track for mid-2025, informed by the recently published 2022 Scientific Consensus Statement with engagement of Traditional Owners and community members;
- Queensland has expanded compliance efforts to halt illegal land clearing and strengthen protection for remnant and high-value growth areas;
- Agricultural compliance activities have doubled, and industry engagement in best management practices has increased. The goal is for 50% of sugarcane and banana areas to operate above minimum practice standards by June 2026 (43.7% of cane land is third-party accredited as of September 2024);
- The elimination of gillnet fishing in the Reef is on track for the target of 2027. Additional net-free zones have been established in the Gulf of Carpentaria (outside the property) to strengthen protection of key habitats. Commercial fishing for hammerhead sharks is now prohibited;
- Implementation of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 is progressing, with most actions completed or on track for 2027;
- Legislation has been enacted to mandate independent monitoring on all commercial fishing vessels;
- Australia remains committed to its legislated targets of 43% emissions reduction by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Queensland has committed to similar targets but revised its energy transition plans, including the discontinuation of the world's largest Pioneer-Burdekin Hydro Energy Storage Project which will be replaced with a number of smaller pumped hydro projects. The State Party aims to increase renewable electricity generation to 82% by 2030;
- Ongoing climate adaptation research programs focus on reef resilience, including controlling crown-of-thorns (COTS) starfish and expanding field management;
- The 2023-2024 summer saw a marine heatwave resulting in a mass bleaching event affecting the whole property, with full assessment of the impacts expected in mid-2025. The Central Reef was impacted by Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily, exacerbating climate-related stressors;
- Over AUD\$5 billion has been committed from 2014-2015 to 2029-2030 for conservation measures;
- Increased participation of Traditional Owners in managing the Reef is reported with government partnerships supporting Indigenous-led conservation initiatives Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan and its taskforce established in July 2024.

On 15 July 2024, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a letter conveying third party concerns over the potential negative impacts of the Clarke Creek and Lotus Creek wind farms to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. On 8 August 2024, the State Party responded to indicate that the wind farms would not have a significant negative impact, citing conclusions from its environmental assessment framework.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The significant actions to address the Committee's concerns, particularly in addressing water quality, implementing sustainable fisheries management, and strengthening measures to increase the resilience of the property to climate change are welcomed. Nonetheless, the findings of the 2024 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report (published every five years by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) that the overall outlook for the property remains one of continued deterioration due largely to climate change, while the long-term outlook for the ecosystem of the property also remains 'very poor' since the 2019 Outlook Report is of utmost concern. Whilst recent recovery in some parts of the ecosystem, including improvements in coral cover and seagrass meadows, is encouraging and demonstrates the Reef retains

resilience, the Outlook Report concludes that the capacity of the reef to tolerate and recover is being compromised by a rapidly changing climate.

Measures taken to conserve the OUV of the property through fisheries management are welcomed, in particular the ongoing phase out of gillnet fishing licenses, establishment of additional net-free zones in the Gulf of Carpentaria; as well as the banned commercial fishing of hammerhead sharks. The State Party should be encouraged to ensure that these efforts are maintained, in particular completing the transition of the 28 remaining licenses towards their closure. The mandatory independent data validation for all commercial fishing vessels is noted with appreciation and should be expanded to include electronic monitoring on all trawl vessels, including adequate accountability and transparency mechanisms as soon as possible. Species harvest strategies should also ensure that the targets of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy are met. Moreover, recalling the recommendation of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake a comprehensive review of current coral harvesting practices, the State Party should undertake this process and report on the outcomes in order to ensure that coral harvesting does not negatively impact the OUV of the property.

Efforts to improve water quality in the property are noted, in particular mapping of priority gully erosion areas and implementing restoration programs in key catchments and expanding compliance measures for agricultural sectors to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. However, the latest Reef Water Quality Report Card as well as the 2022 Scientific Consensus Statement indicate that despite progress, achieving sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen reduction targets remains significantly challenging. The strengthened protection of remnant vegetation through regulatory enforcement and conservation programs is noted, however it is critical that clauses under existing laws are strengthened to ensure that all remnant and high value growth areas are protected, in line with the recommendation from the 2022 mission to the property. Furthermore, noting that the review of the Reef 2050 WQIP is reported to be on track for completion in mid-2025, it is essential that the State Party ensure that the targets and programmes in the updated 2025-2030 WQIP are sufficiently ambitious and funded to secure tangible results in achieving the water quality necessary to conserve the OUV of the property, including additional and strengthened programmes across key sectors that target priority areas (e.g. coastal wetlands and riparian ecosystems).

The targets and measures to mitigate climate change at the Australian and Queensland Government-level are noted, and the State Party should be requested once more to set further ambitious targets to limit temperature increases consistent with limiting global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and align its policies accordingly. Programmes to increase the property's resilience, such as the 'COTS Control Program' as well as the 'Reef Joint Field Management Program', are again welcomed and should be maintained, including ongoing adaptive management and corresponding innovation, based on the well-established monitoring framework and science used by the State Party in responding to climate change-related threats faced by the property. The damage reported due to Cyclones Jasper and Kirrily is also concerning, noting the potential for climate change to increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. The commitment by the State Party to monitor the full impact, with results expected in mid-2025 is noted, and the State Party should be encouraged to establish effective mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts to the OUV of the property during and after extreme weather events.

Strengthened governance by Traditional Owners across the property is noted with appreciation, and the State Party should be encouraged to support the Traditional Owner Taskforce in its mandate to lead the delivery of the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan.

Overall, while progress has been made, significant challenges remain in achieving water quality targets, managing extreme climate impacts, and ensuring the long-term resilience of the property. The preliminary results showing that the levels of heat stress and its spatial footprint were the highest on record across the property during the 2023/2024 mass bleaching event are deeply concerning. Noting that comprehensive results are not yet available, the State Party should be requested to submit these results in full, alongside further information and other key documents, including results from the five-year review of the Reef 2050 Plan and the updated WQIP, in its report anticipated for submission by 1 February 2026. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the timelines for implementation as addressed in the previous report, and that the Committee could consider the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 48th session in 2026.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.13** and **46 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,
3. Notes with utmost concern the conclusions of the 2024 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report that the overall long-term outlook of the property remains one of continued deterioration due largely to climate change, and the long-term outlook for the ecosystem of the property also remains 'very poor', and the negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) suffered through mass bleaching events, including the most recent event in 2023/2024;
4. Regrets that 2025 water quality targets for sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen were not achieved and requests the State Party to complete the updated Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) by 2025, and to ensure that water quality targets, and actions implemented through the updated WQIP are sufficiently ambitious and funded to ensure the OUV of the property is not further adversely impacted by low water quality, in particular to:
 - a) Continue early detection and intervention to halt illegal land clearing,
 - b) Strengthen clauses under existing laws to ensure that all remnant and high value growth areas are protected, including category X vegetation (under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act), and other high priority areas including riparian zones, lands vulnerable to degradation and areas contributing to sediment and nitrogen pollution,
 - c) Ensure full compliance with Queensland's Reef Protection Regulations,
 - d) Ensure that all Best Management Practice programmes effectively deliver water quality improvements;
5. Welcomes the ongoing efforts to increase the sustainability of fishing in and adjacent to the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that:
 - a) The property is fully gillnet-free by mid-2027 at the latest,
 - b) Monitoring of trawl fisheries includes comprehensive transparency and accountability mechanisms, based on adequate data,
 - c) All aspects of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy are fully implemented, in particular species harvest strategies;
6. Encourages the State Party to support the Traditional Owner Taskforce, as appropriate, in its mandate to lead the delivery of the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the Reef 2050 Plan is effectively implemented to limit the impacts of climate change on the property, and to set further ambitious targets to limit temperature increases consistent with limiting global temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and align its policies accordingly, and also encourages the State Party to establish effective mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts of extreme weather events to the OUV of the property;

8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2026, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and including the full impacts of the 2023/2024 bleaching event, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

3. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

4. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

5. Keoladeo National Park (India)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

6. Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1993-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 119,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; January – February 2002: joint UNESCO-UNEP-RARE Center for Tropical Conservation mission; March 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Illegal fishing
- Others (Anchoring in coral reefs)

- Management system / management plan (lack of enforcement)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Fire (wildfires) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Deer poaching) (issue resolved)
- Coral blasting, use of illegal dynamite and cyanide fishing (issues resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/documents> and reports the following:

- The *Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Komodo National Park and Labuan Bajo Flores* (ITMP) was finalised in 2023 as the policy framework to ensure that tourism development in Komodo National Park (KNP), Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas is carried out sustainably. A Presidential Regulation concerning the Labuan Bajo National Tourism Destination Master Plan 2024-2044 is being finalised by adopting the ITMP;
- Assurances are provided by the State Party that tourism development in Labuan Bajo will be conducted sustainably, and any potential environmental or social impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be mitigated. Projected visitor numbers are essential to generate greater economic benefits for the people of Labuan Bajo and Flores Island;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for KNP that assesses and identifies future tourism development in KNP, Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas, including existing tourism concessions within KNP, was issued in 2023. No expansion of tourism concessions will be permitted beyond the existing companies. The SEA provides comprehensive guidance for government agencies and private sector on permissible projects, potential risks, and appropriate mitigation measures. It will be integrated into national/regional planning processes;
- Several innovations aimed at delivering inclusive high-quality visitor experiences are being implemented including co-financing for the 2024-2029 GEF/UNDP IN-FLORES project, which aims to enhance implementation of the carrying capacity policy and enable sustainable tourism development in Labuan Bajo to disperse tourists and reduce potential impact on KNP notably through centralised ticketing and permitting while also promoting 'eco-edutourism'. Proactive monitoring and management measures are in place to not compromise the OUV. An inclusive community stakeholder forum to engage local communities in decision making is also planned;
- Annual monitoring of the Komodo dragon population continues, with land and marine patrols including use of SMART and community engagement programmes. The population is reported to remain stable with a slight increase over the last six years (since 2018). Upcoming programmes including prey population monitoring will reinforce existing management;
- Zoning refinements are considered necessary and conducted every five to ten years. A timely review of the zoning refinement will be conducted, with assurances that current and future zoning adjustments will not adversely affect the OUV and are provided when completed;
- The State Party reiterates its commitment to strengthen marine management and will ensure sufficient resources through annual budgets and co-financing. Efforts include marine patrols, staff capacity building and recruitment plans, installation of mooring buoys for boats, stakeholder partnerships to monitor ecosystems and address illegal fishing, and an Ecosystem Rehabilitation Plan. Additional plans include regulation of liveaboards and cruise ships, and to ensure revenue capture to feed into management;
- Further efforts to address the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission include a workshop planned on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training and visitor management for KNP staff; community and media engagement; and efforts to reactivate the Komodo Biosphere Reserve Coordinating Forum;
- An appended Retrospective Inventory document from the World Heritage Centre clarifies that the property encompasses the offshore island groups and not the buffer zone or the three forest reserves on Flores Island (Wae Wuul Nature Reserve, the Mburak Forest, and the Mbeliling and Nggorang Protected Forests) in line with the IUCN recommendation at the time of inscription.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is noted with appreciation that the State Party has responded to various recommendations of the 2022 mission and related Committee requests, including actions to address tourism pressure with support of the IN-FLORES project, complete an SEA with a focus on tourism development including the finalised ITMP, implement a new community engagement platform, and strengthen marine management.

Recalling concerns regarding the potential impact of projected tourism increases on the OUV of the property following the identification of Labuan Bajo and KNP as a priority national tourism destination, the government's assurances that tourism will be proactively planned and sustainably managed through the finalised ITMP, taking into consideration the findings of the SEA, and that any impacts on the OUV will be mitigated, are noted positively.

Whilst the ITMP objective to expand tourism in the wider setting and thereby reduce pressure on KNP is positive, the planned expansion of tourism, services and infrastructure facilities within KNP remains of concern. Specifically, the SEA, which provides a high-level analysis of potential impacts of the ITMP policies, plans and programmes on the OUV, identifies various potential impacts (including major impacts) of planned tourism services and infrastructure on the attributes of OUV (e.g., Komodo dragons, mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass, marine fauna, aesthetic of white beaches). Tourism services and infrastructure also pose the highest potential cumulative impact on the OUV according to the SEA. Specifically regarding the five already issued business licences for tourism within KNP (e.g., an exclusive ecotourism resort on Padar Island; tree houses/observation decks on Komodo Island; tourist accommodation on Tatawa Island), whilst the SEA proposes some mitigation measures (e.g., to avoid construction of docks near coral reefs), it is important to reiterate that a comprehensive project-specific assessment of potential impacts of each proposal on the OUV is required beyond the SEA, including to consider a 'no-project' option, prior to any approval. This is especially important for larger development proposals (e.g., ecotourism resorts). Although the SEA includes references to the mitigation hierarchy and avoidance, complete avoidance (i.e., 'no project' option) does not appear to be considered.

In this regard, the concerns over the 2020 Ministerial decree exempting tourism infrastructure within KNP from EIA requirements, and the State Party's confirmation to the 2022 mission that EIAs will be required going forward, are also recalled, and it remains essential to comprehensively assess the potential impacts of any development that may affect the OUV, including related to the five existing business licences, in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, prior to any decision to approve construction.

Overall, the SEA provides the authorities with useful information regarding potential impacts of the ITMP and should be used to inform the development of sustainable tourism that preserves the OUV.

Recalling concerns that amendments to the KNP zonation through a government decree in 2012 allow for potential tourism development not permitted at the time of inscription (areas amended from wilderness and core to utilisation zones), the assurances that current and future zoning adjustments will not adversely affect the OUV are noted. However, the requested review of whether the current zoning and resulting tourism development is adequate to ensure the protection status and the OUV of the property should be undertaken as soon as possible and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

It is positive that the Komodo dragon population remains stable, and that monitoring and management measures continue. The reiterated commitment to strengthen marine management and ensure resource allocation are noted positively, with further plans to address liveaboard and cruise ship regulation, and revenue generation for management. The establishment of a stakeholder engagement forum provides an opportunity to further strengthen participatory decision-making. Further plans for staff training, community and media engagement are noted.

Noting the clarification from the World Heritage Centre that the property boundaries should encompass the offshore island groups and not the buffer zone or the three forest reserves on Flores Island, as recommended in the IUCN Evaluation at the time of inscription, it is recommended that an updated map be submitted to correctly reflect the boundaries.

It is recommended that efforts are continued to fully implement the 2022 mission recommendations.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with appreciation that various tourism-related measures are being planned and implemented including a co-financing commitment for the 2024-2029 GEF/UNDP IN-FLORES project on the Komodo dragon, and requests the State Party to report on progress and implementation in relation to managing tourism pressures on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Takes note that the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Komodo National Park and Labuan Bajo Flores (ITMP) has been finalised as the policy framework to ensure that tourism development in Komodo National Park (KNP), Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas is carried out sustainably, and that a Presidential Regulation concerning the Labuan Bajo National Tourism Destination Master Plan 2024-2044 is being finalised by adopting the ITMP;
5. Welcomes the completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property including on tourism development projects in Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas, including existing tourism concessions within KNP, to inform planning and decision making for the property, as well as the State Party's assurances that tourism development will be conducted sustainably and that any potential environmental or social impacts on the OUV will be mitigated;
6. Notes with concern however that the SEA highlights various potential impacts of the ITMP on the OUV of the property, specifically regarding proposed tourism services and infrastructure within the property, including the five already issued business licences within KNP, and also requests the State Party to implement the findings of the SEA to inform decision making that ensures a sustainable tourism approach for the property and its wider setting, which protects the OUV, and that no proposed developments are approved that would negatively impact the OUV;
7. Also recalling its concern regarding the 2020 Ministerial decree exempting tourism infrastructure within KNP from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements, and the State Party's subsequent confirmation that EIAs for individual projects will be undertaken, reiterates its request for the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that all proposed development projects, including related to the five already issued business licences, are appropriately assessed for their potential impact on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including undertaking consultations with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders prior to the approval and construction of any project,
 - b) Ensure that no concessions or development projects are approved without an appropriate assessment and that no approval is issued for projects that would have a negative impact on the OUV;
8. Also notes the assurances that current and future zoning adjustments will not adversely affect the OUV of the property, and also reiterates its request for the State Party to review whether the current zoning and resulting tourism development is adequate to ensure the

protection status and the OUV of the property and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. Also notes with appreciation that the Komodo dragon population remains stable, and reiterates its request for the State Party to continue regular population monitoring and implement management measures that ensure the long-term protection of the species, especially in the context of tourism expansion;
10. Further notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to strengthening marine management and ensuring resource allocation, and urges the State Party to continue strengthening such measures, including to address liveaboard and cruise ship regulation, and revenue generation for management;
11. Also welcomes the implementation of an official stakeholder engagement forum including local communities, and strengthening of inclusive and participatory decision-making for the conservation of the property;
12. Further notes the Retrospective Inventory process clarification that the boundaries of the property should encompass the offshore island groups and not the buffer zone or the reserves on Flores Island in line with the IUCN Evaluation at the time of inscription, and further requests the State Party to provide a map of the property, as inscribed, following the current cartographic standards, including only the offshore island groups and surrounding marine areas;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

7. Shiretoko (Japan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2019: IUCN Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities (Management of the Western Steller sea lion population);
- Aquaculture (Management of commercial fisheries, including coordination and cooperation with neighboring States Parties);

- Other climate change impacts (Anticipated effects of climate change);
- Hyper-abundant species (Excessive population density of Sika Deer affecting forest regeneration and vegetation more broadly);
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Water infrastructure (River engineering, in particular dams, impeding or restricting fish migration, including major runs of salmonids)
- Management system/management plan (Tourism and visitor management).

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/>

Current conservation issues

On 21 June 2024, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party third party concerns regarding the construction of mobile phone communication bases and solar power facilities in the property. The State Party provided a response on 30 August 2024.

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/> and reports the following:

- The *Adaptive Management Strategy for Climate Change in the Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Site* (appended to report) was developed in 2024. It is reported to take into consideration the expected impact of climate change on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and identify adaptation measures;
- The Basic Management Policy (BMP) to manage Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) was revised in 2024 to reduce damage to fisheries and conserve the sea lion population. The BMP covers all Stellar sea lions migrating to Japan (including in Nemuro Strait, excluded in the initial BMP published in 2014), and catch limits for the two breeding populations in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kuril Islands were set below the “potential biological removal level”, based on population dynamics models for each population to ensure catches are based on the precautionary principle and implemented through adaptive management, addressing past overharvesting;
- The potential cause of some seabird populations (Japanese cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capillatus*), black-tailed gulls (*Larus crassirostris*), and slaty-backed gulls (*Larus schistisagus*)) decreasing by half will be identified through ongoing monitoring;
- The Phase II Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property (appended to report) was revised in 2024 to outline the monitoring indicators necessary to assess and evaluate the current status of the heritage values for adaptive management in line with the Management Plan for the property;
- Regarding the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations related to river ecosystems, various monitoring measures are being continued to improve the Rusha River; wooden debris from the upper reaches is trapped in the river’s natural topography and the effectiveness of a method for capturing debris will be monitored and studied; and various monitoring measures will be continued regarding fish runs including the use of the riverbed path as a route for salmonids to migrate upstream.

On 8 April 2025, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre and IUCN that plans for the construction of mobile phone communication bases had been cancelled.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Recalling that effects of climate change are generating greater concern and there has been a lack of data to monitor climate change impacts, it is welcomed that an adaptive management strategy for the property has been finalised to take into consideration expected climate change impacts on the OUV and identify adaptation measures. It is also positive that the revision of the 2022-2032 LTMP has been completed and is intended to guide monitoring over the next decade in line with the Management Plan for the property, and that the LTMP includes reference to various biodiversity values under criterion (x), including attributes of the OUV such as salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, as requested. It is recommended the State Party ensure effective implementation of the strategy and the LTMP as part of a long-term approach to monitor the state of conservation and inform management decisions that ensure the protection of the OUV.

It is positive that population dynamics models have been developed for the two breeding populations of Steller sea lions and that these informed the revision of the BMP, which is reported to include all sea lions migrating to Japan (including those previously excluded from management) and aims to reduce damage to fisheries whilst conserving the sea lion populations. Although it is unclear whether the IUCN Species Survival Commission was consulted, it is positive that these models have informed the setting of catch limits at a level that is considered to be below the “potential biological removal level” to address overharvesting which had resulted in the species’ population decline. It is recommended the State Party ensure that sustainable fisheries management measures continue to be informed by scientific population data to ensure the long-term conservation of the species as an attribute of the OUV.

The State Party’s intention to identify the cause of the previously reported reduction in certain seabird populations by half since the time of inscription, is noted. It is recommended the findings are included in the next state of conservation report and that the causes are addressed, as necessary.

The various efforts related to the monitoring and improvement of the river ecosystem in response to the 2019 Advisory mission that are reported to be continuing, including monitoring of topography, salmonids running upstream, spawning and juveniles, as well as to consider wooden debris and ensuring an unobstructed migration path for salmonids, are noted and should be continued.

The cancellation of the construction of a mobile phone infrastructure on the Shiretoko peninsula that would have included a power supply facility (6,946 m² including solar panels and a storage battery), monorail and buried pipes, is noted. The State Party is reminded that for any future developments within the property or in its vicinity, the potential impacts of a proposed infrastructure on the OUV are first assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before any decision is made to proceed.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.30**, **43 COM 7B.10**, **44 COM 7B.186** and **45 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the finalisation of an Adaptive Management Strategy for Climate Change to address climate change-driven impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that sufficient allocation of resources is provided for its implementation, including long-term monitoring of climate change impacts, and the ongoing protection of the OUV of the property;*
4. *Also welcomes that the Basic Management Policy for managing Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) has been revised based on new population dynamics models of the two breeding populations in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kuril Islands, and that catch levels have been set at limits that are considered to conserve the sea lion population, and also requests the State Party to continue implementing a sustainable fisheries management approach that is precautionary, adaptive and continues to be informed by scientific population data in order to ensure the long-term conservation of the species as an attribute of the OUV, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission as required;*
5. *Takes note that the cause for the reported decrease by half of some seabird populations since the inscription of the property will be identified through ongoing monitoring efforts, and further requests the State Party to report on its findings and address such causes, as necessary, to maintain species that are important attributes of the OUV;*

6. Notes with appreciation that the revision of the Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property has been completed, and that the revised 2022-2032 LTMP includes reference to various biodiversity values under criterion (x), including attributes of the OUV such as salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement the LTMP as part of a long-term approach to monitor the state of conservation and inform management decisions that ensure the protection of the OUV;
7. Also takes note of the State Party's ongoing response to the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations including through the monitoring and improvement of the river ecosystem, and encourages the State Party to continue to implement these actions;
8. Further notes the cancellation of the reported construction of a mobile phone infrastructure on Shiretoko peninsula, and reminds the State Party to ensure any future development proposals within the property or in its vicinity are subject to an Environment and Social Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to assess any potential impacts on the OUV, before any decision is made to proceed;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

8. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

9. Cold Winter Deserts of Turan (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

10. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2010

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 13,864 in 2008 through the Stakeholder Workshop for the Phoenix Islands nomination organized by the UNESCO Office in Apia with funding from the France/UNESCO Cooperation and UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 20,943 in 2008 to support the finalization of the nomination document.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal fishing and overfishing by licensed and unlicensed vessels
- Degradation of seamounts

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1325/>

Current conservation issues

No state of conservation report was submitted by the State Party as requested in Decision **46 COM 7B.66**.

It is recalled that in 2021, the World Heritage Centre was informed through third party information about the State Party's decision to lift the closure of the property as a no-take zone to commercial fisheries and introduce a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) programme that would allow for the sustainable use of marine resources. On 19 November 2021, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a letter to the State Party, requesting the submission of a state of conservation report by 1 February 2022, including details about the decision made, an assessment of possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, mapping of the changes in protection, and measures foreseen to enforce sustainable fishing under the envisaged MSP, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session in 2023. However, no official reply to the letter nor a state of conservation report has been received.

At its extended 45th session, the Committee regretted that no report had been submitted and requested the State Party to submit a state of conservation report for consideration at its 46th session (Decision **45 COM 7B.17**), which was again requested for its 47th session (Decision **46 COM 7B.66**). The Committee also continues requesting the State Party to invite the pending joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Since 2023, the World Heritage Centre has been made aware of satellite data from the publicly accessible Global Fishing Watch platform, which indicates that commercial fishing activity is being detected within the property.

Following the lack of State Party response, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, together with UNESCO Office in Apia and IUCN Oceania Regional Office, have continued efforts to actively follow up with the State Party through different channels, to discuss the matter and provide support. Replies remain sporadic and there is no clear update on the state of conservation of the property, with the most recent State Party reply in October 2024 stating that internal discussions would be held, and a commitment could be made after the presidential elections scheduled in October 2024. Unfortunately, no official reply has been received from the State Party after the elections despite the follow-ups from the World Heritage Centre.

IUCN continues to provide technical support on MSP to the State Party through the IUCN Oceania Regional Office including capacity building workshops on GIS and bioregion mapping.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that the State Party has not provided an official response to the various requests of the World Heritage Committee, nor a report on the state of conservation of the property for two consecutive years. In the absence of information from the State Party, the current state of conservation of the property cannot be adequately assessed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. It is also regrettable that the State Party has still not invited the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the continuous follow-up of the World Heritage Centre.

Recalling the State Party's commitments to progressively expand no-take zones to ensure the integrity of the property at the time of inscription, and to close the entire property to commercial fishing in 2015, its subsequent decision to allow the resumption of commercial fishing activities within the property,

without clear information on the potential implications of this decision on the OUV, remains of concern. It is concerning that satellite data from the Global Fishing Watch platform continues indicating the presence of commercial fishing within the property. The State Party's objective to implement a MSP programme to strike a balance between sustainable use of natural resources to benefit the Kiribati people's livelihoods and the protection of the property's OUV, is acknowledged. It remains important however that the State Party provide details of its decision to reopen the property to commercial fisheries, including an assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property, as well as measures to ensure sustainable fishing practices as part of the implementation of a MSP programme.

In the absence of updated information, the requested Reactive Monitoring mission will be an opportunity to reinitiate contact with the management authorities, and to engage in constructive discussions on the state of conservation of the property, and provide technical recommendations to support the State Party's efforts to protect and manage the OUV of the property, whilst securing sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Therefore, it is recommended that the State Party invite the mission as soon as possible to urgently assess the state of conservation of the property, provide recommendations and guidance to the State Party to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while securing sustainable livelihoods for local communities, and evaluate whether, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the property thus meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN, together with UNESCO Office in Apia and IUCN Oceania Regional Office, are continuing to follow up with the State Party to reactivate dialogue and provide support.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2**, **39 COM 7B.14**, **45 COM 7B.17** and **46 COM 7B.66** adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010), 39th (Bonn, 2015), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party again did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in the last two consecutive years;*
4. *Reiterates its deep regret regarding the State Party's decision to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and expresses its ongoing concern about the continued lack of details and clarity concerning the decision made and the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) programme to replace the no-take zone including its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Recalls again the importance to the OUV of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;*
6. *Strongly urges the State Party to invite the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to assess its state of conservation including the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, evaluate whether, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;*

7. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to continue to follow up closely on the state of conservation of the property, and continue their efforts to engage with the State Party and provide support;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, 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 48th session.*

11. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia, Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1448/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 December 2024, the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1448/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Onon-Ulz Dam project remains suspended pending the completion of a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that requires approval by the Mongolian authorities. The EIA conducted for this project in 2022 was not approved due to insufficient findings;
- Further scientific research undertaken by the Russian Federation concludes that the construction and operation of the dam poses a serious threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the

property, as well as to the broader Daurian ecoregion. Based on these findings, the State Party of the Russian Federation considers that the project should be suspended indefinitely;

- A mining company conducted gold prospecting activities in 2022 at a site located in the Trans-Baikal Territory, Ononsky District of the Russian Federation, on the Imalka River, immediately upstream of the World Heritage property and adjacent to its buffer zone. The company has been granted a licence for exploration and production of minerals for the site from 2023 to 2033. While no mining activities are currently underway, there is uncertainty as to whether they will resume in the future;
- Trilateral cooperation continues under the framework of the long-standing Chinese-Mongolian-Russian Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA). Details are provided on the scientific research, ecosystem monitoring, biodiversity protection, and educational activities undertaken, including those by the Transboundary Environmental Monitoring Network (TEMN) that examine the impacts of climate change on the area. The DIPA Working Group met in May 2022 and April 2024, during which new annual workplans were adopted; the Onon-Ulz Dam project was also discussed;
- Following the expansion of the Daursky State Nature Reserve in 2021, which is currently pending approval at the national level, the States Parties will submit a boundary modification to formally recognise the extension of this component part of the property, which provides a critical habitat for a number of bird species and the Mongolian gazelle;
- Preliminary discussions are taking place on the possible extension of the property to include the Hulun Lake National Nature Reserve in China, which is part of the larger DIPA zone and provides critical habitat for nesting and migratory waterfowl and semi-aquatic birds;
- Meetings have been held with a range of stakeholders, including local communities, to finalise the 10-year conservation management plans (2024-2033) for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area component parts of the property in Mongolia.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The joint submission of the state of conservation report by the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation is welcomed and encouraged to be continued, as per standard practice for transboundary properties.

The confirmation that the Onon-Ulz Dam project remains suspended until a new EIA is approved is noted. Recalling the previously raised concerns that the project would have serious impacts on surrounding local communities and the OUV of the property, the additional research findings by the Russian Federation that potential impacts on the OUV of the property are wide ranging, severe and potentially irreversible, are highly concerning. The State Party of Mongolia should therefore be urged to continue to maintain the suspension of any activities associated with the project, and to ensure that an EIA in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* is undertaken prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. It is recalled that, in accordance with the previously reported DIPA agreement, the EIA should be undertaken in consultation with the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China to assess the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, including consideration of future climate scenarios and the potential for the project to compound the negative impacts of climate change on the property's OUV. It is also recalled that the State Party of the Russian Federation previously reported that the project is likely to have an indirect negative impact on the World Heritage property 'Lake Baikal' and it is recommended that this is also assessed in the EIA. It is recommended that the project not be permitted to proceed if it has a negative impact on the OUV of either property.

It is also concerning that a private company has been granted a 10-year mining licence to explore and extract minerals at a site on the Imalka River in the Russian Federation, just outside the buffer zone of the property. This could pose a threat to the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area and Daursky State Nature Reserve, both of which are component parts of the property. While it is noted that the prospecting activities that took place in 2022 have since ceased, it remains unclear whether operations will resume. Recalling that third party information from May 2022 indicates that the site is only 900 metres from the boundary of the property, any potential downstream impacts on the OUV of the property, particularly in relation to water levels and pollution in the vulnerable Torey Lakes complex, which is critical to the hydrological integrity of the broader region and provide habitat for key species, require careful

assessment. The State Party of the Russian Federation should be requested to provide further details on the discontinued prospecting activities and to submit to the World Heritage Centre an EIA that addresses all of the above, before any further mining operations are permitted.

It is encouraging that a number of potential extensions of the property to include important adjacent protected areas are under consideration, in line with the Committee's recommendation at the time of inscription. The intention to submit a boundary modification request to include an expanded Daursky State Nature Reserve is noted with appreciation, as are the preliminary discussions with the State Party of China regarding the inclusion of additional important Daurian Steppe ecosystems as part of the World Heritage property. It should be noted that any modification to the boundaries of the property shall be submitted in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines. Moreover, in case of transboundary properties, any modifications will need an agreement of all the States Parties concerned.

The ongoing transboundary cooperation under the DIPA framework between the States Parties of Mongolia, the Russian Federation and China to maintain and enhance conservation objectives of the shared Daurian ecoregion are welcomed and should be continued.

While the participatory approach to finalising the conservation management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area component parts of the property in Mongolia is commendable, the remaining steps and timeline for finalising the plans have not been outlined. It is critical that the appropriate resources are allocated to complete this process as soon as possible and ensure the effective implementation of the management plans as part of the overall management system for the transboundary property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Notes with appreciation that the state of conservation report was submitted jointly by the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation, and requests the States Parties to continue submitting joint reports for the transboundary property in the future;*
4. *Takes note of the confirmation that the Onon-Ulz Dam project remains suspended pending the completion of a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and notes with significant concern that further scientific research by the Russian Federation reports that the project could have potentially wide-ranging, severe and irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the broader Daurian ecoregion;*
5. *Urges therefore the State Party of Mongolia to continue maintaining the suspension of all activities associated with the Onon-Ulz Dam project, and to:*
 - a) *Ensure that an EIA is undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and in consultation with the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China, to assess the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, taking into account future climate scenarios and the potential for the project to compound the negative impacts of climate change, as well as the potential impacts on the World Heritage property 'Lake Baikal', and submit this EIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse,*
 - b) *Not proceed with the project should the EIA conclude that it will negatively impact on the OUV of either of the two properties;*

6. *Notes with significant concern that a 10-year mining licence has been granted for the exploration and production of minerals at a site on the Imalka River in the Russian Federation, immediately upstream of the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area and Daurisky State Nature Reserve component parts of the property, requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit to the World Heritage Centre further details of the gold prospecting activities that have since ceased, and to ensure that any gold mining operations on the Imalka River are subject to an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the hydrological integrity of the Torey Lakes complex and important habitats for key species supporting the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party of the Russian Federation not to permit any further mining operations until the EIA has been considered by the Committee;*
7. *Commends the States Parties of Mongolia, the Russian Federation and China for their ongoing cooperation in scientific research, ecosystem monitoring, biodiversity protection and education activities within the framework of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA), and requests that this cooperation continue to ensure the ecological integrity of the transboundary property;*
8. *Notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts to extend the existing component parts of the World Heritage property, including the Daurisky State Nature Reserve in the Russian Federation, invites the States Parties to submit a boundary modification request in accordance with the Operational Guidelines as well as to consider the inclusion of new adjacent areas of importance in China, as recommended at the time of inscription, and encourages continued trilateral dialogue and consultation with the World Heritage Centre in this regard;*
9. *Notes the continued efforts to engage the public in the development of the conservation management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area component parts of the property in Mongolia, and reiterates its request to the State Party of Mongolia to expedite their finalisation and to strengthen the resources and capacity available for the effective implementation of the updated management plans, once adopted;*
10. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 49th session.*

12. Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

13. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

14. Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

15. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

16. Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago (Viet Nam)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

17. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 19. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 20. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 21. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 22. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Kingdom of the Netherlands)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 23. Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (France)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

- 24. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro)**

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

25. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

26. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

27. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

28. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

29. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

30. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

31. Doñana National Park (Spain)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

32. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2001

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for firefighting planning

Previous monitoring missions

March 1999: IUCN mission; April 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Water infrastructure (construction of a hydropower dam)
- Ground transport infrastructure (draft law and pressure to re-open an illegal road) (issue resolved)
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)
- Governance (need for strengthened transboundary cooperation)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (issues associated with public use and lack of a public use plan) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/> and reports the following:

- Operation of the Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant (HPP) continues and the established monitoring mechanisms are functioning as expected. There have been no noted impacts to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, specifically, the water flow rate over the Iguaçu Falls and the biodiversity of aquatic and semi-aquatic species in the Iguaçu River;
- Diverse monitoring and conservation programmes are being implemented, including the “Baixo Iguaçu Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation Program” and the new Action Plan for the Conservation of Fish Species in the Iguaçu River (PAN Iguaçu), the latter currently under development;
- The two legislative proposals to reopen the Colono Road have not advanced, with one being archived in 2022. According to a government poll, there is strong public opposition to the proposition and advancement in Congress of the remaining Bill 984/2019 is considered highly unlikely; nevertheless, the State Party continues to monitor its status;

- The Public Use Plan (PUP), which outlines strategic actions for sustainable use and development in the property, is being implemented at a pace considered adequate by management authorities. Further, a Visitation Guiding Number Monitoring Plan will be drafted to measure carrying capacity and to monitor the impacts of visitation at various points in the property;
- The States Parties of Brazil and Argentina are developing an international cooperation agreement that would provide a legal framework for joint action plans to support coordinated conservation and management efforts of the two contiguous properties;
- Specific collaboration initiatives between the two States Parties include the long-standing jaguar monitoring project (which is demonstrating positive population recovery), information exchanges on harmonizing biodiversity monitoring, and invitations to advisory meetings;
- The new comprehensive tourism infrastructure improvement program is aligned with the property's management plan and the PUP. Interventions are subject to guidelines supporting the property's integrity and conservation objectives, as well as an impact assessment process that includes evaluating potential impacts to the property's OUV;
- The proposed cable car project is considered to be a mandatory investment for the property's visitor services concession contract holder; its exact location is still to be determined based on impact assessments but is likely to be situated at the mouth of the São João River, approximately 8.5 km downstream from Iguaçu Falls.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is noted that, based on the available monitoring programme results, the HPP's operation has not resulted in impacts to the property's OUV, particularly as related to water flow rates and aquatic and semi-aquatic biodiversity. It is imperative that the monitoring programmes continue and are modified, as necessary, to ensure adequate and adaptive conservation measures for the property. It remains unclear to what extent the State Party of Argentina is involved in monitoring efforts led by the HPP company, and the resulting conservation and management decisions that affect the contiguous properties.

The State Party's continued investments in biodiversity conservation programmes, particularly those related to the protection of key species that are attributes of the property's OUV, such as the jaguar, should continue.

Whilst noting that the two legislative proposals to re-open the Colono Road have not advanced in recent years, and the apparent lack of public support and political interest, it will be important to continue monitoring the one remaining and any similar future legislative proposals. As noted in previous Committee decisions, advances towards re-opening the road could represent a potential threat to the property's OUV and create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is encouraging that implementation of the PUP for the property is well underway and forms an integral part of management planning as it relates to visitation, interpretation, community participation and infrastructure development. The preparation of the Visitation Guiding Number Monitoring Plan will provide an additional strategic tool for ensuring an appropriate carrying capacity is respected at key locations in the property.

The initiative underway by the States Parties of Brazil and Argentina to develop a formal international cooperation agreement to enhance coordination of conservation and management efforts for the two contiguous properties, including biodiversity monitoring, control and surveillance, and tourism development, is encouraging. The two States Parties will need to ensure adequate financial and human resources are made available to guarantee the successful implementation of the agreement and its joint action plans.

While the comprehensive tourism infrastructure improvement programme and the goal of expanding visitation numbers are subject to established legislation, regulations, and impact assessment processes, it is imperative that conservation objectives and protection of the property's OUV remain central to tourism planning decisions. Noting that the location of the proposed cable car is still to be determined, it remains important that the impact assessment process consider the potential impacts on the property's OUV, including the visual impact of the cable car on the integrity of the property, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.64** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes that the monitoring efforts undertaken by the Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant (HPP) company report that no impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been identified, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure adequate monitoring programmes continue and are adapted, as needed, to inform appropriate management responses to the project's operations;
4. Strongly encourages the State Party of Brazil to cooperate with the State Party of Argentina in monitoring and responding to any impacts of the HPP on the contiguous properties of Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) and Iguazu National Park (Argentina), as needed;
5. Welcomes the continued efforts by the State Party to implement strategic conservation initiatives, particularly those targeting key species that support the property's OUV, such as the jaguar monitoring project undertaken in coordination with the State Party of Argentina;
6. Also notes that the two legislative proposals to re-open the Colono Road have not advanced in recent years, and urges again the State Party to continue monitoring any future legislative proposals that may seek to re-open the road, which could, if approved, represent a potential threat to the property's OUV and create the conditions for its re-inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Requests the State Party to continue implementation of the Public Use Plan (PUP) for the property and further notes the intention to develop a Visitation Guiding Number Monitoring Plan to identify and guarantee an appropriate carrying capacity for key locations within the property;
8. Commends the States Parties of Brazil and Argentina on taking steps towards the development of an international cooperation agreement to enhance coordination of conservation and management efforts for the two contiguous properties, including joint patrolling and biodiversity monitoring programmes as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, and encourages the two States Parties to ensure adequate resources are secured for its effective implementation;
9. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the protection of the OUV of the property remains central to all major tourism planning decisions including as part of the comprehensive tourism infrastructure improvement programme;
10. Notes with concern the intention to construct a cable car project within or in the immediate vicinity of the property, and urges the State Party to complete an impact assessment that considers the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the visual impact on the integrity of the property, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2027, 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 50th session.*

33. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

34. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (weak control over commercial and artisanal fishing)
- Ground transportation infrastructure (Pan-American Highway that bisects the property)
- Human resources
- Illegal activities
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Renewable energy facilities (Las Pailas I and II geothermal and windpower projects development adjacent to the property)
- Water extraction
- Other Threats: fire (intentional and accidental fires, particularly affecting the dry forests); longstanding subsistence and commercial use of land and resources, prior to inscription on the World Heritage List, with impacts stemming from farming, ranching, logging, pesticide use, introduction of exotic species, sulphur mining, amongst others

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/>, which reports as follows:

- The State Party received and is evaluating a new interoceanic dry canal initiative proposal that includes two seaports, a six-lane highway, and a four-track railway;
- Efforts to improve the property's resilience to climate change continue, including biodiversity management policies, addressing marine sector impacts, and implementing a mangrove restoration project. Mangroves have been affected by sedimentation from heavy rains linked to extreme weather events;
- The proposed Playa Santo Tomás hotel complex project has not materialized;
- The requested Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for renewable energy projects has not been conducted to date due to lack of funding;
- The State Party announced plans to enhance its renewable energy matrix, and is proposing a solar energy project within the Horizontes Experimental Forest Station (EEFH) sector in the property;
- Research and mitigation measures are being implemented for the Inter-American Highway to reduce wildlife roadkill, and the local government is promoting the "living green tunnel". No further progress has been made on upgrading Ecological National Route 918 or in exploring the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;
- The State Party reaffirms its commitment to incorporate the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (AMMBSE) into the property via a minor boundary modification (MBM). Personnel and financial constraints have limited their capacity to manage the protected area, a situation that has prevented progress on the MBM to date;
- Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF) acquired 16,000 hectares of land for perpetual conservation in the surroundings of the property, and is exploring incorporating this area into the property;
- The State Party asserts that the agro-landscape surrounding the property already functions as a de facto buffer zone, even though it is not formally inscribed;
- Wildfires affected 451 hectares of dry forest within the property in 2023, increasing to 1,241 hectares in 2024. Fire management capabilities are being enhanced with new equipment and improved training for brigades;
- The management effectiveness of protected areas within the property improved from "acceptable" in 2022 to "very good" in 2023, according to a national management effectiveness evaluation tool.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued efforts to improve the property's resilience to climate change, the adoption of policies to manage biodiversity and marine ecosystems, and the improvement in management effectiveness, are welcomed. The increase in area affected by wildfires nonetheless between 2023 and 2024 is of concern and, in the face of climate change, can be expected to exacerbate further in the future. The reported enhancement of the State Party's capabilities is appreciated and should be encouraged to continue.

Recalling the State Party's previous formal rejection of an interoceanic dry canal initiative, it is of concern that a new proposal, the 'SOTC-CR Sistema Operacional de Trasiego de Carga Costa Rica Sociedad Anónima', is now being tabled. Whilst the location of the proposed project is unclear from the documents provided, the Committee considered that the previous proposal would have been incompatible with World Heritage status (Decision **43 COM 7B.24**) and therefore this position should be an important consideration in screening and scoping for impacts, and updates should be reported to the World Heritage Centre.

The continued efforts of the State Party to improve the property's resilience to climate change including through the adoption of biodiversity and marine ecosystem management policies, attention to mangroves, as well as improved management effectiveness, should be welcomed.

The State Party's focus on renewable energy is well noted, however, the proposed construction of a solar energy facility within the property raises serious concerns given the potential negative impact such a facility could pose on biodiversity, and therefore on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It should be recalled that since 2019, the Committee has been requesting the State Party to undertake a SEA before the development of any further renewable energy projects. It is therefore urgent that the State Party conducts the SEA, considering the cumulative effects of the multiple existing and

proposed projects near the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to prioritize the allocation of funds for the SEA before permitting the solar energy project proponent to proceed with an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) so that the SEA can provide context and framework for considering individual projects and their EIAs, which should be undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. Similarly for the proposed Playa Santo Tomás project, the State Party should ensure that an EIA follows the above Guidance, if it is to proceed.

Efforts to reduce wildlife roadkill on the Inter-American Highway and to preserve the “green living tunnel” are noted positively. Since the State Party reports no progress on upgrading the Ecological National Route 918 and to exploring the feasibility of improving National Road 4 as alternative routes, these recommendations should be reiterated. Monitoring and measures to mitigate impacts from roads should continue. The commitment of the State Party to submit a MBM to incorporate the AMMBSE to the property, as recommended by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission and requested by the Committee (Decisions **43 COM 7B.24**, **44 COM 7B.196** and **45 COM 7B.65**) is welcomed, whilst noting that resource constraints have not made this possible to date. The acquisition of land to further consolidate the block of protected ecosystems dedicated to perpetual conservation by GDFCF is positive and helps buffer impacts on the property. It is recalled that the Committee has encouraged the State Party to establish a buffer zone on several occasions (Decisions **44 COM 7.2** and **45 COM 7B.65**) due to their increasingly important role to support the protection and management of the OUV and building greater resilience of properties to external threats. In this regard it is noted that the State Party is not considering formalizing a buffer zone as the agro-landscape surrounding the property acts as de facto buffer zone. It then remains important that there is effective conservation consideration on these lands, that support the protection of the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.24**, **44 COM 7B.196** and **45 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to improve the property’s resilience to climate change, including through the adoption of biodiversity and marine ecosystem management policies, as well as improved management effectiveness, but however, notes with concern an increase in wildfire-affected areas within the property from 2023 to 2024, and encourages the State Party to further strengthen its capacity for wildfire prevention, monitoring and rapid response;*
4. *Also recalling the State Party’s previous confirmation that the authorization for a proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project, which would have been incompatible with World Heritage status was rejected, notes with significant concern that a new Interoceanic Dry Canal initiative is under consideration, the precise location for which in relation to the property boundaries is unclear, and requests the State Party to ensure any potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are carefully assessed and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any further developments on this proposal;*
5. *Also notes with concern the potential cumulative impacts of the multiple existing and proposed renewable energy projects and their infrastructures near and within the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) before approving any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and the conservation*

of the property's OUV, and also requests the State Party to submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further notes with concern the proposed solar energy facility within the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken, informed by the outcomes of the abovementioned SEA, to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Takes note that the proposed Playa Santo Tomás project has not progressed, and reiterates its request to ensure an EIA is completed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, if it is to proceed;
8. Further notes with appreciation the research and mitigation efforts to reduce wildlife roadkill impacts on the Inter-American Highway and other roads, and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to ensure the best possible management of all road infrastructure within and bordering the property and potentially impacting on the OUV of the property, including, but not limited to, the upgrading of Ecological National Route 918, the Inter-American Highway, and the exploration of the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;
9. Also welcomes the State Party's commitment to submit a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to incorporate the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area into the property and encourages again the State Party to submit the corresponding MBM once the necessary conditions to ensure the effective protection and management requirements are in place;
10. Also notes with appreciation that 16,000 hectares of land have been acquired for conservation and to further consolidate the block of protected ecosystems, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide further details on this area in relation to the protection of the OUV of the property, and on the measures taken in the agro-landscape surrounding the property to ensure they effectively support the protection of the OUV ;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

35. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 276,350

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the Rapid Response Facility

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure - Construction of hydroelectric dams near the property in Panama and associated effects (greater human presence near the property, interruption of aquatic species migratory corridor) - Approval of a new hydropower project (Changuinola II or CHAN 140) without prior finalization of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property
- Lack of a long-term biological monitoring program to implement mitigation measures that minimize the negative impacts on the property caused by hydroelectric projects
- Land conversion (Encroachment) and Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals (settlements, cattle ranching)
- Planned road construction, which would traverse the property on the side of Panama (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities
- Management systems / management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the States Parties submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>, which reports progress in a number of conservation issues, as follows:

- Monitoring activities continue at the property on both national and transboundary levels to address threats such as illegal hunting, logging, wildlife and flora extraction, wildfires, illegal tourism-related activities, land encroachment. Land use changes have been identified within the La Amistad International Park (PILA) to expand livestock activities (cattle and sheep);
- Indigenous peoples and local communities actively participate in surveillance, conservation, and monitoring efforts. They receive training in environmental education, sustainable tourism, and community biological monitoring, engaging children, youth, and adults;
- The regional "Linking the Central American Landscape" project, funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), continues to support both countries. A Control and Surveillance Plan for PILA on the Panamanian side has been developed, aiming to ensure conservation and protection through coordinated actions involving government authorities and indigenous

communities. Equipment such as vehicles, GPS devices, and camera traps has been provided through the project;

- Costa Rica has adopted a Regional Prevention, Protection, and Control Plan for the Pacific sector of the property, identifying threats to key management elements and defining strategies to mitigate pressures. A strategy for the participatory management of the property's natural resources is being implemented in the Caribbean sector of Costa Rica, as a mechanism for conservation and economic revitalization, including a cultural tourism route within indigenous territories and sustainable local initiatives. Costa Rica has also developed a Management Plan for the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves and a Climate Change Plan for 2025–2029 to strengthen ecosystems and community resilience;
- The PILA Management Plan in Panama has been updated, pending adoption in early 2025;
- Through the Binational Technical Executive Unit and with the support of the “Linking the Central American Landscape” project, the States Parties have harmonized Management Plans for the PILA, establishing a Strategic Framework for the Integrated Binational Management of the protected area;
- The Changuinola II hydropower project (CHAN II) remains on hold;
- In Panama, water quality and biological monitoring (flora and fauna) continue for the CHAN I and Bonyic projects;
- Buffer zones for PILA have been identified by Panama, though they lack legal regulations for management.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Efforts by both States Parties to implement a participatory approach in the management and surveillance of the property with indigenous and local communities should be commended, continued, and strengthened. These efforts contribute to building a more resilient and sustainable management framework for the property. Capacity building among civil society is also essential, particularly in times of public financial constraints, as local communities can serve as strong allies in monitoring the property. When managed well, the property can also provide an important source of income for these communities. The States Parties should also be commended for their efforts to more fairly distribute the benefits generated by the property.

Although the States Parties report patrolling the property and identifying illegal logging, land-use changes, livestock activities, encroachment, fires, and flora and fauna extraction, no additional information is provided regarding the impact of these threats on the property.

The transboundary coordination, planning, and patrolling efforts are commendable. It is appreciated that the State Party of Panama has completed the process of updating the Management Plan for PILA and that Management Plans in both countries are now harmonized to manage the property under a single framework. The State Party of Panama is encouraged to formally adopt this instrument as soon as possible. The State Party of Costa Rica's adoption of a Regional Prevention, Protection, and Control Plan for the Pacific sector of the property, and development of a Management Plan for the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves and a Climate Change Plan for 2025–2029 are likewise commendable.

One of the main drivers for the request for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which the States Parties submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2022, was to understand the potential cumulative impacts of future developments, particularly hydropower developments, and subsequently to inform a strategic approach to management and planning development projects to avoid negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The SEA, however, excludes hydropower development from the 'preferred' strategic options and therefore does not offer strategic approaches to hydropower development. Recalling the Committee's position that any new hydropower projects should not be developed prior to the finalization and review of the SEA, the CHAN II project should then remain suspended in the absence of strategic consideration.

The ongoing monitoring efforts by both States Parties, including efforts of the State Party of Panama to monitor activities of the CHAN I and Bonyic projects, are appreciated. However, in the case of Panama, it is strongly recommended once again to move beyond project-based activities and establish reliable funding mechanisms for long-term monitoring. Such monitoring should aim to inform concrete mitigation measures to ensure that the OUV of the property is not adversely affected.

While both States Parties have identified protected or other areas surrounding the property that function as de facto buffer zones, it is important to clarify that these areas are not formally inscribed as buffer zones for the property. The States Parties are encouraged to build on the enhanced protection of these areas by identifying and establishing a formal buffer zone through the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification. As previously reported by the States Parties, the “Linking the Central American Landscape” project could support them in the process.

Overall, the States Parties have made significant progress in addressing the majority of the Committee's recommendations and should be commended for their efforts.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.25**, **44 COM 7B.197** and **45 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the States Parties of Costa Rica and Panama for their efforts on surveillance, conservation and monitoring of the property with active participation of local and indigenous communities, as well as for adopting public policies to ensure this participation and to more fairly distribute the benefits generated by the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that illegal hunting, logging, land use change, wildlife and flora extraction, wildfires, illegal tourism-related activities, land encroachment and livestock continue threatening the property, and encourages the States Parties to continue control and surveillance activities with the participation of local and indigenous communities;*
5. *Welcomes the update of the La Amistad International Park Management Plan on the Panamanian side of the property and the Management Plan and Climate Change Plan on the Costa Rican side of the property, and also commends the States Parties for the harmonization of management plans on both sides of the protected area to ensure protection is consistent across this contiguous transboundary area of the property;*
6. *Recalls with appreciation the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was to inform the strategic approach to management and planning of developments, particularly hydropower projects, to avoid negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notes the absence of a strategic consideration of hydropower development in the SEA, and reiterates that the Changuinola II (CHAN II) dam should not be permitted to be re-activated before the above has been adequately considered;*
7. *Also notes the efforts of the State Party of Panama to monitor activities of the CHAN I and Bonyic projects, and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts to establish long-term monitoring programmes with reliable funding mechanisms for the projects, and use the findings to design appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted, and integrate the monitoring processes and findings into the overall SEA for the entire property;*
8. *Also encourages the States Parties to enhance the protection of the surrounding areas of the property by formally establishing a buffer zone through the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification;*

9. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2027, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

36. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2007-2010

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 26 (from 1979-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 627,825

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million for the capitalization of an introduced species Trust Fund, management of introduced species, tourism management studies and other technical support.

Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); February 2003: UNESCO mission; June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit; April-May 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing / collection of aquatic resources)
- Legal framework (inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos)
- Governance
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (high immigration rate)
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Invasive Alien Species / biosecurity (inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Galápagos Biosecurity Agency (GBA) has overseen improvements to infrastructure and programs that have contributed to a reduction in the rate of both entry and spread of introduced species. Implementation of the 10-Year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan continues, providing both immediate responses and preventive actions. Further investment is required for infrastructure development (particularly at the Guayaquil port and for inter-island transport routes) and monitoring, among other aspects;

- The integration of indicators for attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the management framework has been hindered by a lack of inter-institutional coordination and consideration of the indicators as a means for strategic planning and operational decisions. The goal remains to integrate the OUV indicators into the new version of the property's management plan to be updated in 2025;
- A series of 36 proposed strategic actions provides a synthesis of the current approach to tourism development for the coming years, aiming to balance environmental conservation with economic needs of the local population through a regenerative tourism approach. The “zero-growth” tourism scenario continues to guide policy and decision-making, but the focus is on managing tourism impacts in a wholistic manner. Many of these actions stem from a multi-stakeholder workshop in 2023 dedicated to formulating the strategic vision for tourism development in the property;
- The Galapagos Tourism Observatory has been revitalized, which will provide detailed data and analysis on tourism in the islands to help inform decision-making institutions;
- The Galápagos Hotel Regulation Plan 2023-2030 (GHRP) was approved in 2024 to guide the strategic planning, management, regulation and control of accommodation infrastructure, including in residential real estate;
- For the first time in 26 years, an increase in the entrance fee for visitors to the Galápagos National Park and Galápagos Marine Reserve was implemented in 2024. This fee increase will benefit expanding management and conservation activities and the provision of adequate visitor services, in light of a declining operational budget;
- Monitoring of fishing vessels in the Galápagos Marine Reserve continues, with an average of 2.5 patrols per day, and has been extended to include the new Hermandad Marine Reserve (HMR), which has its own Management Plan approved in 2023. Monitoring capacity remains a challenge, and requires additional training, strengthening of electronic technologies for monitoring, and expansion of patrol operations. A new fishing regulation and calendar is under development to support sustainable artisanal fisheries within the property;
- Through the Galapagos Life Fund, a comprehensive control and surveillance system has been established for the HMR, including support for regional agreements and coordinated strategies to reduce illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR);
- The State Party continues to participate in action planning and cooperation activities with CMAR counterparts, including for the development of a new CMAR Action Plan 2025-2035;
- The State Party is in the process of expanding and consolidating the Galápagos Biosphere Reserve (GBR) to include the HMR;
- The presence of plastic pollution arriving primarily from international sources is highlighted as a significant threat to marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the property. Work has been undertaken to develop baseline data for plastic pollution. A Coastal and Marine Plastic Pollution Management Plan 2030 will be launched by management authorities in 2025 along with a new ordinance to reduce plastic pollution in populated areas.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress reported in implementation of the 10-Year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan and other positive results related to biosecurity are encouraging, and the State Party will need to ensure adequate resources are made available to consolidate these gains and further strengthen infrastructure and capacity, where needed.

It is noted with appreciation that, despite some constraints, the new 10-year Management Plan to be developed in 2025 will incorporate the indicators developed for the attributes that support the OUV of the property and the various threats to its protection. This important feature will help support effective long-term monitoring and adaptive management.

In relation to tourism development for the property, it is noted that the “zero-growth” scenario remains central to strategic planning and that the focus has shifted to a regenerative tourism model argued to bring benefits for both ecosystem restoration and community wellbeing. While the benefit of a wholistic approach to measuring the range of impacts brought by tourism on the ecological and social environments of the Galápagos Islands is noted, it must be undertaken in a data-driven manner that still

recognizes the need for clear limits to tourism growth, including tourism arrivals, and must retain the protection of the OUV of the property at its core. The revitalization of the Galápagos Tourism Observatory, implementation of the GHRP, and the increase in the entrance fee for visitors are all encouraging developments that will support tourism planning and benefit ongoing conservation and management actions. Of particular note, the Tourism Observatory will support better planning and monitoring of tourism infrastructure and activities in the islands but requires long-term funding, and the GHRP will help to address the expansion of irregular tourism accommodations and ensure that existing and future infrastructure aligns with overall tourism planning for the property.

The issue of monitoring capacity for the Galápagos Marine Reserve and the HMR for any IUU fishing vessels that may encroach on or operate at the peripheries of the property remains a challenge. Additional resources should be provided by the State Party to ensure adequate training, availability of technological equipment and expansion of patrol operations.

The State Party's continued collaboration with the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama on the sustainable management of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), including the development of a new CMAR Action Plan 2025-2035, should be welcomed. The Committee may wish to encourage these States Parties to continue their collaboration on important issues of marine conservation, including IUU, and work towards the potential establishment of a transboundary marine biosphere reserve as outlined in its Decision **45 COM 7B.67**.

The planned extension of the GBR under the Man and the Biosphere Reserve Programme to incorporate the newly established HMR will support efforts to address IUU and protect this critical corridor for migratory species. For consistency, the State Party should be encouraged to consider recognizing this extended area under the World Heritage Convention through the submission of a Significant Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines.

The State Party's continued efforts to address the problem of plastic pollution in the property, including the launch of the new Coastal and Marine Plastic Pollution Management Plan 2030 and a local ordinance, as well as its collaboration with other island states at the international level on this topic, should be noted with appreciation. The State Party should be requested to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are dedicated to this growing concern and to facilitate implementation of these new management instruments.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.67** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in implementing the 10-Year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan and other biosecurity measures that have resulted in reduced entry and spread of introduced species, and requests the State Party to provide adequate resources to consolidate these gains and further strengthen infrastructure and capacity to address this continued threat;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to integrate the indicators and identification of threats related to attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the updated version of the Management Plan for the property expected in 2025, in close collaboration with the relevant local institutions;*
5. *Notes the efforts dedicated to creating a clear vision for tourism planning for the property and the shift towards a regenerative tourism model that aims to support both environmental restoration and community development, while maintaining the principle of "zero-growth" as the optimal scenario for long-term protection of the OUV, and urges the State Party to retain the protection of the OUV of the property at its core of tourism*

planning, which may require limits on factors such as visitor numbers and flight frequencies;

6. Also notes the initiatives underway to support tourism data collection, regularization and controls on accommodation infrastructure, and securing additional funding for conservation and management activities through the revitalization of the Galápagos Tourism Observatory, implementation of the new Galápagos Hotel Regulation Plan 2023-2030 and the increase to visitor fees, respectively;
7. Further notes that monitoring capacity for the Galápagos Marine Reserve and the Hermandad Marine Reserve for any illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing vessels remains a challenge, and encourages the State Party to secure additional resources to ensure adequate training, availability of technological equipment and expansion of patrol operations for monitoring in the property with regards to IUU fishing;
8. Welcomes the continued collaboration between the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama on important issues of marine conservation and management, including IUU, in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), and the development and implementation of the new CMAR Action Plan 2025-2035, and encourages these States Parties to continue their collaboration and their work towards the potential establishment of a transboundary marine biosphere reserve as outlined in Decision **45 COM 7B.67**;
9. Also encourages the State Party to consider developing a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, to incorporate the Hermandad Marine Reserve, consistent with the planned extension of the Galápagos Biosphere Reserve, which would enhance the integrity of the property and ensure coherence between the international designations;
10. Also notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to address the persistent problem of plastic pollution in the property, including through the launch of the new Coastal and Marine Plastic Pollution Management Plan 2030 and a local ordinance, as well as its collaboration with other island states at the international level, and further requests the State Party ensure that adequate financial and human resources are dedicated to this threat to the property's OUV and to facilitate implementation of the new management instruments dedicated to this issue;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

37. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

38. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities - Illegal logging
- Land conversion - Agricultural encroachment
- Forest fires
- Decline in the overwintering population of Monarch butterflies in the property
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (tourism pressures associated with growth in visitor numbers and heavy concentration in specific areas)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Mining in the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/>

Current conservation issues

On 10 October 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1290/documents/>, which reports progress in a number of conservation issues, as follows:

- In 2023, eight unauthorized avocado crops resulting in land-use change were identified in the buffer zone and shut down;
- Illegal logging continues to affect the property, with a substantial decrease reported from 13,406 hectares in the previous period to 3,734 hectares between 2022 and 2023;
- Mining concessions, exploration, and exploitation within Natural Protected Areas, including the property, are prohibited by law (Mining Law). The Angangueo mining project located in the buffer zone, does not have authorization for land use change and therefore cannot carry out any mining activities;
- Interinstitutional efforts, with the participation of local and indigenous communities, combat illegal logging and environmental crimes through patrols, inspections, and capacity building;
- Monitoring and preservation of ecosystems include citizen science and satellite surveillance systems that detect illegal land-use activities and notify authorities;
- Between 2023 and 2024, 28 wildfires affected 62 hectares, with 12.33 hectares located within the property. Fire prevention and control brigades and fire management measures have been established;
- Reforestation and maintenance activities have been carried out within the property and buffer zone. 90 hectares were fenced for reforestation protection;

- In 2023, 14 hectares of forest were affected by pests and diseases, but no cases were recorded in 2024;
- In 2023, a total of nine Monarch butterfly colonies occupied 0.9 hectares of forest, a decrease from 11 colonies (2.21 hectares) in 2022. Five colonies (0.273 hectares) were within the property while four (0.627 hectares), including the largest ones, were outside. This marks the second-lowest occupied area since 1993;
- Tourist visitation declined from 293,106 visitors in 2022–2023 to 227,698 in 2023–2024, with a 192% increase in the Senguio sector;
- The States Parties of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America (USA) continue cooperation by identifying actions to preserve the Monarch butterfly, including reducing agrochemical use, promoting sustainable agriculture, and strengthening climate resilience, among others. In 2023, Canada designated the species as endangered. In the USA, inclusion of the species on the list of threatened or endangered species has been justified since 2020, with an official decision yet to be made.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is noted with appreciation that the State Party has implemented actions to strengthen participation of local and indigenous communities, maintain ecological integrity, restore degraded areas, and continue interinstitutional and transboundary coordination.

Efforts to reduce bushfires and land clearing within the property are welcomed, as these have resulted in a significant decrease in both issues. Even though monitoring and alert systems are in place, the land use changes in the buffer zone remain a concern and a potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as noted in past reports. Although avocado production is located outside the property, the potential cumulative impacts on the OUV are concerning, especially in the context of the marked decline in Monarch butterfly colonies and their occupied area, with most individuals reported outside the property. It is also noted with concern that illegal logging continues to affect the property. Therefore, efforts to address these threats should be continued, including programmes supporting involvement of local and indigenous communities in conservation activities, as well as providing alternative income for these communities.

It is deeply concerning that the 2023-2024 figure for the Monarch butterfly is the second worst year since monitoring began in 1993, and that a mere 0.9 hectare coverage amounts to 59% less than a year ago. Strengthening legal protection for overwintering areas is critical to prevent the further decline of the species. Once again, the consistent occurrence of overwintering colonies outside the property highlights the need to strengthen protection not only within but also outside the property, particularly in the context of climate change. Therefore, it is again recommended that the State Party be strongly encouraged to submit a boundary modification request to include areas consistently occupied by overwintering colonies. This recommendation, previously requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.68**, has not been addressed.

The confirmation that national legislation prohibits mining activities in protected areas and that no mining projects in the property or buffer zone are authorized is welcomed. However, the potential threat from the Anganguero project in the buffer zone, where no prohibition exists, remains a concern. The 2018 mission's recommendation to develop strict regulations for mining in the buffer zone to prevent impacts on the OUV remains necessary.

The significant increase in tourism in the Senguio sector should be carefully analyzed and effectively managed to avoid or minimize any potential negative impacts on the overwintering habitat of the Monarch butterflies.

The ongoing trilateral cooperation between the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the USA is noted with appreciation. Efforts to protect the Monarch butterfly through strategic measures, including legislative protection, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience, should continue and be strengthened, as identified by the States Parties. Noting that Canada and Mexico have legislated special protection for the Monarch butterfly, but remains pending in the USA, the strengthening of measures should continue.

The reported implementation of the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly in Mexico (2018-2024) is acknowledged. Noting that the plan expired in 2024, it would be important for the State Party to ensure that measures are in place to extend or replace this, and to report on the

revision of the “Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program” as previously requested by the Committee. These updates are critical to ensure the continuation of conservation efforts.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.198** and **45 COM 7B.68** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Appreciates the measures taken to improve ecological integrity and restore degraded areas, with the participation of public institutions and local and indigenous communities;
4. Also appreciates that in 2023-2024, there was a decrease in the number of bushfires and land clearing, and reiterates its request for the State Party to continue taking appropriate actions, including by fully implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to ensure these threats do not impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular to:
 - a) *Ensure that inter-institutional efforts to detect and prevent illegal logging activities within the property are further strengthened in the longer-term and ensure reforestation activities are continued in areas of the property impacted by illegal logging,*
 - b) *Develop and implement additional surveillance programmes to halt deforestation in the buffer zone caused by the expansion of avocado production, and reclaim and restore the affected areas,*
 - c) *Continue programmes supporting involvement of local and indigenous communities in conservation activities and develop additional ways of providing alternative income for these communities;*
5. Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that mining is legally prohibited within the property, and also reiterates its request to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not negatively impact its OUV, including through impact assessment processes in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Notes with deep concern that the 2023-2024 data for the Monarch butterfly is the second worst year since monitoring began in 1993, occupying only 0.9 hectares of forest in total, of which 0.273 hectares (30%) are within the property boundaries, highlighting the need for urgent measures to prevent a further decline in their population;
7. Further reiterates its request that the State Party finalize as soon as possible the ‘Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program’ and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, and continue implementing the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly, and confirm what measures will be implemented following its expiration;
8. Also recalling the consistent occurrence of colonies of Monarch Butterfly establishing themselves outside the boundaries of the property, again strongly encourages the State Party to develop a proposal for an extension of the property to ensure that areas consistently occupied by overwintering colonies of Monarch Butterfly outside the

property are appropriately protected and to increase the potential of the property to effectively conserve its OUV under changing climatic conditions, and to provide an update on the progress of submitting a boundary modification in the next state of conservation report;

9. *Requests the State Party to provide information on the measures taken to manage the increase in tourism in the Senguio sector, ensuring that any negative impacts on the property's OUV are avoided, and to clarify this location in relation to the boundaries of the property;*
10. *Further appreciates the ongoing transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America to conserve the Monarch butterfly, and encourages the States Parties to continue their actions to conserve the species in their territories, in particular through national-level protective legislation and minimizing the loss and restoring milkweed habitat, as well as through the trinational collaboration to provide adequate protection to the Monarch Butterfly and its habitat throughout its migratory corridor;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

39. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation

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

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>, reporting as follows:

- The draft management plan for Coiba National Park is under review and will incorporate the results of the completed Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is pending approval. The SEA is submitted with the report for IUCN review. Meanwhile, the implementation period of the current management plan has been extended by two years;
- Rehabilitation works of the Administrative Headquarters in Gambute are limited to structures essential for the property's operation. These works will undergo an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), then scheduled to commence works in May 2025;
- Efforts to eradicate feral livestock from the property continue, with evidence of five buffaloes still present within the property;
- Fisheries management measures have been introduced in the Special Zone for Marine Protection (SZMP), including mandatory satellite monitoring, restrictions on fishing authorizations and the number of hooks allowed. Currently, 28 commercial vessels are authorized for fishing. No additional no-take zones are under consideration at this time;
- The State Party remains committed to strengthening its monitoring and surveillance system. It has established a Coordination Center for the Monitoring, Preservation, and Protection of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems to address issues such as pollution and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Surveillance efforts continue, supported by new technologies;
- An IUCN Advisory mission to further refine fishing regulations will be invited in the second quarter of 2025;
- Collaborative efforts between the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama are ongoing to establish a transboundary marine biosphere reserve, encompassing the Cocos Island National Park, Galápagos Islands, Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary, and Coiba National Park and its SZMP. The joint nomination file will be submitted to UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme by September 2025.

On 23 April 2024, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third party information to the State Party regarding the proposed construction of the Port Barú development project in David, Chiriquí in the vicinity of the property. On 28 May 2024, the State Party provided a response to the World Heritage Centre.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing updating of the management plan for Coiba National Park and confirmation that it will incorporate the results of the completed SEA are appreciated. The focus of the SEA on evaluating the management plan provides a solid starting point for its update, addressing aspects related to governance, zoning, sustainable use of resources, and other key management issues. However, the assessment still lacks a comprehensive analysis of how potential infrastructure or other development initiatives could directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). In addition to the SEA, any proposed project should be subject to an ESIA in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse. The SEA report also highlights growing tourism-related risks, including pollution, illegal activities, and overfishing, which should be fully addressed in the management plan to ensure the protection of the OUV.

It is positive that improvements in fishing regulations in the SZMP, and in monitoring, and enforcement have been achieved. However, it is also noted that the SEA report identifies that overexploitation, bycatch, and illegal fishing have negatively impacted the volume and quality of fishery resources. Given that several of the 10 recommendations from the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission remain unaddressed, and regulations in the SZMP continue to remain weaker than in Coiba National Park, the recommendations should be fully implemented as a matter of priority to ensure the protection of the property's OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee once again urge the State Party to

continue strengthening the SZMP's fishing regulations, particularly by implementing seasonal closures in critical replenishing zones, as recommended in the 2014 and 2016 missions. The IUCN Advisory mission, planned for 2025, remains a key opportunity to support the refinement of the regulations and offer guidance in their implementation. It is recommended that the State Party also be encouraged to continue improving its monitoring and surveillance capacity to prevent and sanction illegal activities throughout the property. Efforts to monitor flagship species should be maintained.

It is positive that the State Party is intending to limit the rehabilitation of the Gambute Administrative Headquarters to activities necessary for the operation of the property, and to conduct an ESIA, as requested. The ESIA should be completed in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The efforts to monitor invasive alien species trends are commendable. However, the continued presence of water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) remains a concern. The State Party should be encouraged to finalize the removal of feral livestock as soon as possible.

The ESIA of the proposed Port Barú project did not consider the OUV of the property or a no-project option and therefore it is questionable how it reached the conclusion that there will be no direct or indirect impact on the property. The cumulative impacts of increased vessel traffic, dredging and the risk of pollution require careful analysis in relation to their potential impacts on the OUV.

The joint efforts to establish a transboundary marine biosphere reserve among Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama, encompassing four World Heritage properties, are commendable.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.115** and **45 COM 7B.69** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,*
3. *Notes with appreciation the ongoing update of the management plan for the property and the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to this end, and requests the State Party to complete the SEA to ensure that it fully considers any potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of possible infrastructure or other development initiatives on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Also notes with appreciation the confirmation that rehabilitation works at Gambute are being limited to structures that are necessary to ensure the functioning management of the property and will be subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to revise the ESIA for the proposed Port Barú port development project in the vicinity of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to ensure that the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative impacts of vessel traffic and the risk of pollution, among others, are fully considered, and to avoid any negative impacts, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
6. *Appreciates the ongoing monitoring efforts to assess the conservation status of species which contribute to the OUV of the property and to remove feral livestock from the property, and encourages again the State Party and its partners to continue with the eradication of the domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and to maintain efforts to*

ensure the long-term ecological monitoring of species that constitute the OUV of the property;

7. Notes with appreciation that fisheries management measures have been introduced in the Special Zone for Marine Protection (SZMP), however reiterates its concern that several of the recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions are still not implemented, and urges again the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the SZMP, in line with the recommendations of the missions, by:
 - a) Establishing additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, considering the significantly larger percentage of area covered by no-take zones within the Coiba National Park,
 - b) Implementing seasonal closures to fishing in critical replenishing zones,
 - c) Reconsidering the current approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP in line with regulations in place for Coiba National Park, in order to further reduce pressures from fishing on the property;
8. Also appreciates the ongoing efforts made in monitoring and enforcing the compliance of fishing regulations in the SZMP and the Coiba National Park through increased technological resources, and also encourages the State Party to continue with the measures to prevent and sanction illegal activities throughout the property and its zone of influence;
9. Also notes that the State Party intends to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to the property in 2025 to help further refine the fishing regulations and provide advice on their implementation, and further encourages the State Party to continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake the mission as soon as possible;
10. Commends the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama for continuing their efforts to establish a transboundary marine biosphere reserve encompassing the World Heritage properties of Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama), and encourages them to continue working towards the creation of the biosphere reserve;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

40. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2002-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 27,822

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study completed in 2013 was incorporated under the Physical Planning and Development Act (PPDA) of Saint Lucia by means of Statutory Instrument, 2024, No. 107 in July 2024, making the study's recommendations legally binding. The Statutory Instrument also resulted in the property being designated an Environmental Protection Area (EPA);
- The Sugar Beach Resort has undertaken efforts to ensure that its operations align with the LAC study and has provided support to several conservation, maintenance, and community awareness initiatives to the benefit of the World Heritage property. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Pitons Management Area authorities and the resort has been drafted, with the aim of facilitating cooperation and the resort's compliance with the new Statutory Instrument;
- The Management Plan for the property was reviewed and updated in 2024 through a participatory process involving relevant authorities and local stakeholders. The Plan emphasizes the area as being a 'living landscape' that encompasses a variety of social and economic activities, which will continue to be managed in a sustainable manner that supports the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The potential areas for geothermal energy exploration under the Renewable Energy Sector Development Project (RESDP) are noted as Belle-Plaine (within the 'Green Buffer Zone' (GBZ) of Pitons Management Area), Belvedere, Saltibus, and Fond St. Jacques (outside of the buffer zone). An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was completed for the exploratory drilling phase of the project at the Belle-Plaine site and annexed, reflecting the requirements of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- The exercise to delineate the boundaries of the property and the GBZ is underway and reported as being approximately 50% complete in August 2024. The process, which involves mapping and

the installation of physical markers, will help improve management of the area and ensure that activities are aligned with the updated Management Plan;

- A number of public education and awareness activities have been implemented with local communities to promote a sense of common stewardship and an understanding of the shared benefits from the protection of the property's OUV.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The incorporation of the LAC study findings into the PPDA by means of the Statutory Instrument is a significant step forward in ensuring that the OUV of the property remains central to future development planning and proposals. While the State Party underlines the subsequent designation as an EPA to be an important additional protection measure, it is unclear whether this is a new designation or whether the property was already an EPA at the time of inscription, as indicated in the Statement of OUV. It is recommended that the State Party clarify this point, as well as explain what additional protection measures this designation provides for the property.

It is encouraging that the management authorities of the Sugar Beach Resort have committed to ensuring that the resort operations and any further interventions will not negatively impact the OUV of the property. The planned signature and implementation of the MoU between the resort and the Pitons Management Area authorities would strengthen ongoing cooperation. The State Party's assurance that any potential future development projects will be subject to the Statutory Instrument is also appreciated.

The draft updated Management Plan for the property provides a comprehensive framework for the governance and protection of the property, and reflects the legislative requirements outlined in the Statutory Instrument and its designation as an EPA. It will be important to ensure that it is updated regularly to reflect evolving challenges and opportunities. The State Party should ensure that the updated Management Plan is formally adopted, disseminated to relevant stakeholders including local communities, and that the annual work programmes and budgets based on priority actions are implemented with the appropriate resources.

The information provided on the activities undertaken through the RESDP in the Soufrière region is noted. The submission of the ESIA for the drilling phase at Belle-Plaine, undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, is appreciated, noting that a separate ESIA will be undertaken for the development of a power plant should it proceed. The ESIA concludes that all negative impacts of the project could be avoided or mitigated by implementing the identified mitigation measures, assessed against the key values and attributes of the property. It is recommended that any issues with implementing the mitigation measures be raised early to ensure the protection of the OUV, and clarification should be sought on the status of the other exploratory drilling sites reported to be outside the GBZ. Finally, it is important the State Party clearly confirm that no geothermal energy projects will be permitted within the property limits, including exploratory activities.

The efforts undertaken by the State Party to demarcate the boundaries of the property and of the GBZ should be commended, though the timeline for completion is not confirmed. It is however concerning that the maps provided by the State Party, including in the updated Management Plan, of the boundaries of the property, as well as the various 'policy areas' or 'zones', do not align with the original map of the inscribed property. There is also a discrepancy in the size of the property, given that the Statutory Instrument recognizes a smaller area than that identified at the time of inscription and in the updated Management Plan. Furthermore, given the important additional support for conservation objectives and protection against development pressures provided by the GBZ, it would be recommendable to formally recognize this area as a buffer zone under the World Heritage Convention. It is therefore recommended that the State Party clarify the boundaries of the property and formalize the buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. **Recalling** Decision **45 COM 7B.70** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with appreciation that the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study for the property has been included under the Physical Planning and Development Act of Saint Lucia through Statutory Instrument, 2024, No. 107, making the recommendations of the study legally binding, and that this is a significant step forward in ensuring that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains central to future development planning and proposals;
4. Notes that the adoption of the Statutory Instrument is reported to have designated the property as an Environmental Protection Area (EPA), and requests the State Party to clarify whether this is a new designation or whether the property was already an EPA at the time of inscription, as indicated in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to clarify what additional protection measures this designation affords;
5. Also notes the further engagement with the Sugar Beach Resort and the intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate ongoing cooperation and compliance with the Statutory Instrument to protect the OUV of the property in relation to any future renovations, maintenance, and expansion activities, and strongly encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the MoU;
6. Also notes with appreciation the assurance by the State Party that any future projects considered for development will be subject to the provisions outlined in Statutory Instrument, 2024, No. 107;
7. Commends the State Party on the revision and update of the Management Plan for the property with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, and also requests that the plan be formally approved, disseminated, adequately resourced, and reviewed, as needed;
8. Appreciates that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for an exploratory drilling phase of a geothermal energy project at Belle-Plaine, located outside of the property in an area referred to as the 'Green Buffer zone' (GBZ), was undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and further requests the State Party to report on any issues concerning the implementation of the mitigation measures and to clarify the status of the other proposed exploratory drilling sites mentioned to be outside of the GBZ;
9. Urges again the State Party to confirm that exploratory drilling will not be undertaken in the property and to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any geothermal development activities in the future in line with previous Committee decisions, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any potential impacts from geothermal energy development activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive ESIA, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that no such activities are approved that would threaten the OUV of the property;
10. Welcomes the progress reported on the demarcation of the boundaries of the property and the GBZ, and urges the State Party to complete this process;
11. Notes with concern that there appear to be discrepancies in the boundaries and the total size of the property when comparing the maps provided in the updated Management Plan, the new Statutory Instrument, and the original map at the time of inscription, and requests the State Party to provide as a matter of urgency:
 - a) A high-resolution topographic map of the property, including the various 'policy areas' or 'zones' and the GBZ, and

- b) *A detailed clarification of any discrepancy between the boundaries and size of the property compared to the map at the time of inscription;*
12. *Also recalling the importance of buffer zones as an added layer of protection for conservation and integrity of the property, urges again the State Party to formalise the status of the GBZ as a formal buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

41. Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

AFRICA

42. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/749/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1997-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 135,440

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/749/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 40,000 from the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) in 2022;

USD 247,870 from the Government of Norway in 2020-2025

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/RAMSAR mission, May 2004; World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission, January 2022.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Phosphate mining project (issue resolved)
- Dam project (issue resolved)
- Lack of monitoring of the implementation of the Management Plan
- Transhumance
- Insecurity
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/749/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 January 2025, the States Parties of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/749/documents/>, and informing that:

- the implementation of corrective measures from the 2022 reactive monitoring mission continued, as did the monitoring efforts of anti-poaching teams supported by the Defence and Security Forces, and the strengthening of the human and material capacities of teams in the field;
- the West African Savannah Foundation has been strengthened and is now operational in all three countries, with a regional office in the process of being set up. Other public and private financial partners are also contributing to sustainable financing efforts;
- an aerial wildlife survey was carried out in 2024, using the same methodology as in 2019, and covering only the Benin components of the property, due to the security threat in Burkina Faso and Niger;
- although several translocation projects are being considered in Benin, no translocation of species has yet been carried out, and the project involving Derby elands between Benin and the Central African Republic has been abandoned. A regional workshop was held on 3 and 4 October 2024 to take stock of all potential species translocation projects;

- environmental and social management plans are being implemented for the Niger-Benin oil pipeline project and the Banikoara - Kérérou - Burkina-Faso border road development and asphaltting project;
- a request for a minor boundary modification of the property in the Benin component will be submitted shortly;
- the establishment of the Executive Secretariat of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex is scheduled for the end of the first half of 2025;
- the States Parties remain willing to host the reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee.

From 16 to 19 December 2024, the World Heritage Centre facilitated the organisation in Burkina Faso and Benin of the two remaining national consultations in the framework of the *“Initiative to support the sustainable management of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex”*.

On the night of 24-25 July 2024, five forest rangers and seven soldiers were killed in the W national park, and on 8 January 2025, another attack took place in northern Benin at "Point Triple", costing the lives of almost thirty Beninese soldiers.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The security situation seemed to have improved in recent months, but the deadly attack in northern Benin in January 2025 and the lack of management in Burkina Faso and Niger are still a cause for concern.

The continued implementation of the corrective measures of the 2022 mission, the surveillance and anti-poaching efforts, and the strengthening of human and material capacities, are all welcomed. However, precise data on the property's surveillance coverage and its effectiveness, as previously requested, are still insufficient. It is recommended that the States Parties be encouraged to continue their efforts and transboundary cooperation to fully implement the recommendations, including better monitoring and securing of the property.

The 2024 aerial survey, based on the 2019 methodology and carried out exclusively in Benin, shows an increase in elephant (4,641), buffalo (8,464) and hartebeest (425) populations, but a decline in damalisks and hippotragues. The numbers of elephants, buffalo and hartebeest are encouraging and reaffirm the idea that Benin's components serve as refuges for the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). However, the decline in the number of damalisks and hippotragues, and the large number of domestic cattle (32,663 head) are cause for concern. It is recommended that the causes of the decline in damalisks and hippotragues be investigated further, and that aerial surveys covering the entire property be carried out as soon as possible. With regard to transhumance, it is recommended that regional discussions be held to identify the causes and find sustainable solutions with the involvement of local communities and transhumant herders.

The strengthening of the West African Savannah Foundation, the operationalisation of the national windows and the ongoing operation of the regional window, coupled with the support of public and private financial partners, are contributing to efforts to ensure the sustainability of funding. The establishment of the Executive Secretariat of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (SE-WAP) by mid-2025 is a significant step forward, as is the organisation of the last two national consultations for the *“Initiative to support the sustainable management of W-Arly-Pendjari Complex”*, as a prelude to the Regional Emergency Plan for the property. It is recommended that the States Parties and their partners be encouraged to finalise the operationalisation of the SE-WAP to ensure sustainable funding.

The abandonment of the Derby eland translocation project between Benin and the Central African Republic, due to the high risks involved, and the regional discussions on all the translocation projects in the WAP-Benin complex, are welcomed. Recalling that any translocation operation must comply with international standards and benefit from the relevant expert technical advice of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate to States Parties the need to inform it of the progress of projects, to carry out the planned in-depth studies, and to share the results of these studies with the World Heritage Centre for examination by IUCN, before any final decision is taken.

IUCN's evaluation of the preliminary report on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Niger-Benin pipeline project also highlighted the absence of any analysis of the specific impacts on the OUV, and the current implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

is noted. In addition, the attempts at sabotage perpetrated in 2024 have accentuated the risks of pollution and fire that could affect the property. It is recommended that the States Parties pursue these actions and take all necessary precautions to avoid negative impacts on the OUV.

Construction and asphaltting work on the Banikoara - Kérérou - Burkina-Faso border road has been suspended due to the security situation in the area. IUCN's analysis of the ESIA noted negative impacts on soil, vegetation, water and air. As the ESMP as implemented does not provide any guarantee that the impacts of the project on the OUV of the property will be mitigated, States Parties are therefore invited to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information on additional measures taken to avoid any negative impacts on the OUV of the property prior to any decision to proceed with the implementation of the project.

The request for a minor boundary modification of the Benin component of the property, which was due to be finalised on 1 February 2025, has not been submitted.

Finally, despite the fact that the Reactive Monitoring Mission has been invited on two occasions, the general security situation remains unstable. It is recommended that the Committee ask the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the situation closely and carry out this mission as soon as the security situation in the three countries permits.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.3** and **46 COM 7B.56** adopted during its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,*
3. *Deplores the continuing insecurity in the region of the property, marked by the presence of armed groups and further loss of life among the Benin Defence and Security Forces (FDS) and African Parks rangers following the attacks in 2024 and January 2025, expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all conservation staff on the ground, and appreciates the efforts of the States Parties to maintain a presence on the ground;*
4. *Welcomes the continued implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the difficult security context, encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts and transboundary cooperation for the full implementation of the recommendations, including better monitoring and securing of the property, and requests the States Parties to provide accurate data on the monitoring coverage of the property as well as its effectiveness;*
5. *Takes note of the strengthening of the West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA), the forthcoming operationalisation of its regional window, the establishment of the Executive Secretariat of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (SE-WAP) by mid-2025, and the organisation of the last two national consultations for the 'Initiative to support the sustainable management of the WAP Complex', as a prelude to the Regional Emergency Plan for the property, thanks the various technical and financial partners who continue to support the States Parties in their efforts to conserve and secure the property, and also calls on the States Parties to finalise the operationalisation of the SE-WAP for sustainable financing of the property;*
6. *Noting that the 2024 aerial inventory, based on the 2019 methodology and carried out exclusively in Benin, shows an increase in elephant, buffalo and hartebeest populations, but a decrease in damalisks and hippotragues, as well as a significant presence of domestic livestock, further requests to investigate the causes of the decrease in*

damalisks and hippotragues, reiterates its request to the States Parties to carry out aerial inventories covering the entire property as soon as the security situation permits, and also encourages them to conduct regional discussions to identify the causes of transhumance and find sustainable solutions with the involvement of local communities and transhumant herders;

7. Also notes the abandonment of the Derby eland translocation project between Benin and the Central African Republic due to the high risks, and of the regional reflections on all translocation projects in WAP-Benin, recalls that any translocation operation must respect international standards and benefit from the technical advice of relevant experts of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and requests furthermore the States Parties to inform it of the progress of the projects, to carry out the planned in-depth studies, and to share the results of these studies with the World Heritage Centre for examination by the IUCN, before any final decision is taken;
8. Recalling also that the IUCN evaluation of the preliminary report of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Niger-Benin oil pipeline project had highlighted the absence of an analysis of the specific impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), expresses its concern that sabotage attempts against the pipeline could increase the risk of hydrocarbon pollution and conflagration along the pipeline route, notes the current implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and further encourages the States Parties to continue these actions and to take all necessary precautions to avoid negative impacts on OUV;
9. Further recalling that IUCN's analysis of the ESIA of the Banikoara - Kérékou - Burkina-Faso border road construction and asphaltting project had revealed negative impacts on soil, vegetation, water and air, also notes the suspension of works due to the security situation in the portion of the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information concerning additional measures taken to avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property in addition to the ESMP already in place, prior to any decision to continue the implementation of the project;
10. Regrets that the request for a minor boundary modification of the property in its Benin component to strengthen its protection, due by 1 February 2025 as recommended in Decision **46 COM 7B.56**, has not been submitted, and invites the State Party of Benin to finalise this process, with the support of the other two States Parties, and to submit this request as soon as possible for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
11. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to follow closely the evolution of the situation on the ground, and to carry out the joint reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decisions **45 COM 7B.3** and **46 COM 7B.56** in order to assess the measures undertaken by the States Parties to restore security, strengthen the management of the property and determine whether the OUV remains under threat, as soon as security conditions permit in the three countries;
12. Finally requests that the States Parties submit by **1 February 2026**, to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its outstanding universal value, including possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

43. Okavango Delta (Botswana)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

44. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroun)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1987-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 114,395

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 60,000, UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 263,700 from Franz Weber Foundation (2012 to 2017); USD 600,000 in the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) (2017 to 2021); and USD 250,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 2021-2025.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1998: UNESCO monitoring mission; June 2006, December 2009, February-March 2012 and November-December 2015: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2019 and January 2020: UNESCO advisory missions organized in the framework of CAWHFI to evaluate the ESIA of the Hévéa SUDCAM plantation and the Mékin hydroelectric dam.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining exploitation project close to the property
- Lack of implementation and full approval of the management plan
- Agricultural and forest encroachment
- Industrial agriculture of Hévéa in the contiguous zone
- Threats exerted by commercial hunting and deforestation around the property
- Mekin hydroelectric dam
- Poaching
- Risk of loss of ecological connectivity

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 October 2024, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/407/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The fight against poaching, raising awareness among communities and monitoring the dynamics of animal populations are ongoing;
- The implementation of the Development Plan (2020-2024) (*Plan d'Aménagement*) is continuing and provides for an extension of the buffer zone to all the boundaries of the property, in line with the MAB Programme;
- The SUDCAM company continues to fulfil its environmental obligations in accordance with the independent ISO 9001/2015, 14001/2015 and LATEX Pro certifications. Unlike the Mékin hydroelectric dam project, where the implementation of the Environmental and Social

Management Plan (*Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale* – PGES) is significantly behind schedule;

- The ecological continuity between the South-Eastern part of the property and the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (*Paysage Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé* - TRIDOM) is taken into account in the deliverables of the National Land-use and Sustainable Development Scheme (*Schéma National d'Aménagement et de Développement Durable* - SNADDT) and the Regional Land-use and Sustainable Development Schemes (*Schémas Régionaux d'Aménagement et de Développement Durable du Territoire* - SRADDT) for the Southern and Eastern territories, enshrined in Law no. 2024/008 of 24 July 2024 on the Forest and Wildlife Regime (*loi sur le régime des Forêts et de la Faune*);
- The reports on the Eastern and Southern SRADDTs submitted with this report complete the final report of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for development projects in and around the Dja Faunal Reserve submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2023 for review by IUCN;
- Although negotiations are in progress, the Lomié cobalt, nickel and manganese mining project (GEOVIC) and those planned as part of the PADI-DJA 'have not progressed significantly';
- The creation of the Somalomo communal forest to the north of the Dja Faunal Reserve could constitute a threat to the property;
- The populations of elephants and great apes remain relatively stable according to the attached report on the 'Fauna inventory of the Dja Fauna Reserve 2021' (*Inventaire faunique de la Réserve de Faune du Dja de 2021*).

The project to 'Strengthen surveillance to fight against illegal activities around the Dja Faunal Reserve' (*Renforcement de la surveillance pour lutter contre les activités illégales autour de la Réserve de faune du Dja*), funded by the International Assistance and approved in May 2024, is currently being implemented.

On 2 January 2025, the World Heritage Centre forwarded to the State Party the IUCN technical review of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for development projects in and around the Dja Faunal Reserve.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts of the State Party and its partners to strengthen the management of the property are welcomed. The enactment of the Forest and Wildlife Regime Law, and other actions, have led to encouraging results, including the stability of elephant and great ape populations, the conviction of poachers and the confiscation of key species (pangolin, chimpanzee, gray parrot, gorilla and crocodile). In addition, the use of the Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART), camera traps and drones has strengthened surveillance and ecological monitoring. However, considering the diversity of conservation actors active around and in the property, and as part of the project funded by the International Assistance, it is recommended that a collaborative platform be created to coordinate all efforts, harmonize methodologies for monitoring emblematic species and centralize data in a common database, under the main responsibility of the property's management team.

Concerning the implementation of the Development Plan 2020-2024, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to accelerate discussions on the expansion of the functional buffer zone around the property in order to align it with the boundaries of the biosphere reserve. The State Party is also encouraged to register this buffer zone once designated, in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Furthermore, it is recommended that a participatory update of the Development and Management Plan (*Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion*) be considered, in accordance with best practices.

The integration of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (TRIDOM) into the deliverables of the SNADDT and the SRADDTs for the Southern and Eastern territories, as well as the envisaged materialization and securing of the Southern-Eastern corridor ensuring connectivity between the property and the other protected areas of the TRIDOM Landscape, represent positive steps forward. Recalling the importance of this ecological continuity for maintaining the integrity of the property, it is strongly recommended that any development proposal in this area be properly evaluated to prevent any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The information provided on the status of development and infrastructure projects in and around the property, particularly in the context of the PADI-DJA and the GEOVIC mining project, is noted. However, it is very concerning to note the persistent delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 advisory mission and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (PGES) associated with the Mékin hydroelectric dam project. It should be recalled that this structure has already caused the flooding of more than 8,000 hectares of vegetation within the boundaries of the property, seriously compromising its ecological integrity. It is recommended once again that their implementation be accelerated and that a detailed report on the progress achieved be submitted.

It is noted that the final SESA report on development projects in and around the Dja Faunal Reserve has been submitted. However, IUCN believes that there is a significant divergence between the analysis of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property and the final conclusion of the SESA according to which the most appropriate option is to maintain the Dja Faunal Reserve and to carry out all current and planned projects (*status quo*). As indicated in the SESA, the individual and cumulative negative impacts of the current and planned projects on the OUV, as well as on the communities of the surrounding villages, are significant if the *status quo* option is chosen. Consequently, IUCN recommends that the SESA be re-examined and revised to ensure that its conclusions are based on solid analyses, fully integrating environmental, social and heritage considerations.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.1**, **34 COM 7B.1**, **35 COM 7B.1**, **36 COM 7B.1**, **40 COM 7B.79**, **43 COM 7B.29**, **44 COM 7B.173** and **45 COM 7B.5** adopted respectively at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasília, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Commends the State Party and its partners for the significant efforts made to strengthen the management of the property, notably through the enactment of the Forestry and Wildlife Regime Law (loi sur le régime des Forêts et de la Faune), capacity building of management teams and monitoring initiatives, which have led to the conviction of poachers and the confiscation of key species, and thanks the technical and financial partners who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the European Commission and the World Heritage Fund through the Government of Norway;
4. Takes note of the stability of the populations of emblematic species such as elephants and great apes in the property, and calls on the State Party to consider conducting regular wildlife inventories in the property with a particular focus on emblematic species, using the same methods, in order to confirm the trends observed, and to submit the detailed wildlife inventory report to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;
5. Encourages the State Party to set up a collaborative platform bringing together all the actors involved in the conservation of the property, including local authorities, NGOs, neighboring communities and international partners, in order to coordinate efforts, harmonize methodologies for monitoring emblematic species, centralize data in a common database accessible to all partners, under the main responsibility of the management team, and regularly share results with the World Heritage Centre;
6. Welcomes the improvements in ecological monitoring thanks to the use of the SMART tool, camera traps and drones, and also encourages the State Party to continue its ecological monitoring and surveillance efforts by strengthening the fight against poaching

and the involvement of local communities in consultation meetings such as the Stakeholder Forum to improve the effectiveness of the management of the property;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to accelerate discussions on the enlargement of the functional buffer zone around the property in order to align it with the boundaries of the biosphere reserve, further encourages the State Party to register this buffer zone once designated, in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines, and encourages furthermore the State Party to consider updating the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion - PAG) in accordance with international best practices, ensuring the participation and consultation of local communities and stakeholders;
8. Notes the progress made in the planned materialization and securing of the South-East corridor ensuring connectivity between the property and the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (TRIDOM), recalls the importance of maintaining this ecological continuity to guarantee the long-term integrity of the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any development proposal in this area is properly evaluated in order to prevent any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
9. Expresses its concern at the persistent delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 advisory mission and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale – PGES) associated with the Mékin hydroelectric dam project, and urges the State Party to take immediate actions to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations and to submit a detailed report to the World Heritage Centre on the actions taken to mitigate these impacts and on the progress made;
10. Also takes note of the submission of the final report of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for development projects in and around the Dja Faunal Reserve, expresses its deep concern at the major divergence between the analysis of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property and the conclusion of the SESA, recommending the status quo option, which would authorize the realization of all current and planned projects despite their significant individual and cumulative negative impacts, as identified in the SESA report;
11. Recalls that since 2012, the Committee has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding the various development projects in the vicinity of the property and their individual and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to review and revise the SESA in order to ensure that the preferred option is based on a rigorous and objective analysis, fully integrating environmental, social and heritage considerations, so as to address the pressures related to the preservation of the integrity and values of the property, and to submit the revised SESA to the World Heritage Centre, for further review by IUCN, prior to any final decision;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

45. Sangha Trinational (Cameroun, Central African Republic, Congo)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2024, the States Parties submitted a joint State of conservation report on the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Several initiatives have been taken to strengthen the recognition, involvement and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in the property. They include the training of ecoguards, continuing the project "Promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and the Ba'aka culture in the heart of the Congo Basin" in the Central African Republic (CAR), the ongoing update of the mechanism for complaints management in Congo, the 2023 revision of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (*Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune* - MINFOF) and the Sanguia Baka Buma'a Kpode Association (ASBABUK), and the validation of a code of ethics and conduct for ecoguards with the establishment of a mechanism for complaints management in 2024 in Cameroon;
- Efforts in the fight against poaching continue through the acquisition of equipment for patrols and surveillance, capacity building for teams, and collaboration with the justice system and the defense and security forces. Tools such as SMART, Earth Rangers, Excel 3D Maps, ArcGIS, Cyber Tracker, GPS and SAPELLI have been implemented;
- Despite cross-border cooperation, poaching (seized wire ropes, bush meat, weapons and ivory pieces) is increasing in some components of the property, with 47 elephants poached in the CAR since 2022. No elephant or gorilla carcasses have been reported in Cameroon and Congo in 2023.
- Conflicts between humans and wildlife involving elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees are increasing around the property;

- Since 2022, around 700 patrols per year have led to arrests and convictions;
- The planning of the synchronized wildlife inventories of 2025 has been brought forward with harmonized methodologies and a single database has been created;
- The new Law no. 24 008 establishing the Mining Code in the CAR (2024) formally prohibits all mining activities in protected areas, national parks and reserves. In Congo, no mining or oil exploration or exploitation is currently encroaching on the property;
- The project to open a cross-border road between Congo and Cameroon, passing through the property, stays in the conceptual phase;
- The property and its buffer zone are not encroached upon by a new timber sale or forest concession in Cameroon, although two concessions in the CAR are not yet certified;
- The States Parties wish to invite an Advisory mission concerning the major infrastructure projects currently underway and proposed. In addition, they are committed to carrying out Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for any new projects in and around the property, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The pursuit of initiatives to promote and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), through the training of ecoguards, formal agreements and policies, as well as their inclusion in management and decision-making structures, is a significant step forward in the implementation of the recommendations of the WWF International independent review, carried out as part of the report published in November 2020 on *"Embedding human rights into nature conservation: from intention to action - Report of the Independent Expert Panel of the Independent Review of allegations raised in the media regarding human rights violations in the context of WWF's conservation work"*. It is recommended that these efforts be pursued, harmonizing approaches at the property level and ensuring full implementation of the recommendations resulting from the WWF International independent review.

The efforts made to fight against illegal activities and poaching on the property are noted. However, the increase in seized evidence of poaching, with 47 cases of elephant poaching in the CAR since 2022, remains a concern. It is recommended that cross-border collaboration be strengthened through information sharing, joint patrols, training of customs officers and strict enforcement of sanctions. In addition, conflicts between humans and wildlife on the outskirts of the property are also a concern. The strategy currently being developed should therefore include deterrence techniques and the promotion of crops that are less attractive to wildlife. In view of the importance of these species in criterion (x), a reinforcement of the surveillance system is recommended at the property level.

Progress in the planning of synchronized wildlife inventories for 2025 and the creation of a single database are noted. It is recommended to ensure that the inventories include all species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that the methodologies adopted are comparable and reproducible. The results should be shared with the World Heritage Centre.

Regarding infrastructure projects, the absence of progress in the project to open a Congo-Cameroon cross-border road is noted, as is the commitment of the States Parties to guarantee the completion of ESIAs for any new projects, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**. The desire of the States Parties to invite an Advisory mission requires clarification of its aims and objectives, and whether this implies the participation of IUCN. Further discussions between the States Parties, UNESCO and IUCN on this matter should take place.

An earlier IUCN analysis of the ESIAs for the Ouesso-Bangui-Ndjamena road project noted that the impacts of the Pokola-Enyellé section on the OUV of the property, particularly in its Congolese component, have not been addressed. It is recommended that the ESIA be revised in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**, and that a comprehensive review of all current and planned projects be requested in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context mentioned in the above-referenced decision.

The enactment of the Mining Code of the Central African Republic (2024) and the lapse of the KOLI exploration permit, issued in 2018 in Congo, constitute significant progress in preventing exploration and mining in the property. However, no information has yet been provided regarding the SCED-Ndéléngué artisanal mining zone (*Zone d'exploitation artisanale* - ZEA) project, for which an ESIA report should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The absence of progress in the certification of the two logging concessions located in the buffer zone of the property in the CAR remains a concern. It is recommended that the urgency of prioritizing the certification of these two concessions be reiterated once again to the State Party of the CAR.

No updates have been provided regarding the management plans for the Cameroonian and Congolese components, although they are crucial in guiding conservation actions. It is recommended that updates be provided concerning these plans and that the development of a harmonized management plan covering the whole of the property be considered, particularly in the context of the forthcoming discussions with the World Heritage Centre on funding from the Government of Norway for the benefit of the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the States Parties continue to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission and provide detailed information on the status of implementation of each recommendation in the near future.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.174** and **45 COM 7B.72**, adopted respectively at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,*
3. *Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties and their partners to improve the efficiency of the management of the property through the continued capacity building of the ecoguards, the acquisition of equipment for ecological monitoring and surveillance of the property, and the consolidation of cross-border cooperation;*
4. *Also welcomes the sustained efforts of the States Parties to promote, engage and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), particularly in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the WWF International independent review, and calls on the States Parties to continue these efforts by harmonizing approaches at the property level while ensuring the comprehensive implementation of these recommendations;*
5. *Notes with concern the significant increase in poaching rates, in particular the 47 cases of elephant killing since 2022 in the Central African Republic (CAR), and urges the States Parties to strengthen cross-border collaboration through joint patrols, information sharing, training of customs officers, and the harmonization and strict enforcement of sanctions, while increasing the number of personnel and surveillance resources;*
6. *Also notes with concern the upsurge in conflicts between humans and wildlife in the villages adjacent to the property, and encourages the States Parties to step up the efforts to reduce these conflicts by adopting deterrence techniques and promoting crops that are less attractive to the species involved, while raising awareness among local communities;*
7. *Further welcomes the progress in the planning of synchronized wildlife inventories planned for 2025 and the creation of a single database for the property, and also requests that the methodologies adopted be comparable and reproducible, considering all the species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that the results of these inventories be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
8. *Also recalling that an earlier assessment of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Ouesso-Bangui-Ndjamena road project by IUCN had shown*

that the impacts of the Pokola-Enyellé section on the OUV of the property, in its Congolese component, had not been addressed, reiterates its request to the State Party of Congo that this ESIA be revised in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**;

9. Takes note of the absence of progress in the project to open a Congo-Cameroon cross-border road, expresses its concern about the potential individual and cumulative impacts of major infrastructure projects on the OUV of the property, and further requests the States Parties to submit an updated comprehensive review of all ongoing and planned projects in the area;
10. Also takes note of the commitment of the States Parties to ensure that the ESIAs for all new projects in and around the property are carried out in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**, and their wish to invite an Advisory mission for this purpose, and also encourages the States Parties to engage in further exchanges with UNESCO and IUCN to discuss the most effective approach as well as the specific expectations of the States Parties and to disseminate the use of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context among key stakeholders;
11. Welcomes furthermore the progress made in preventing mining activities in the property, in particular the lapse of the KOLI exploration permit in Congo and the enactment of the Mining Code of the Central African Republic, and requests the State Party of the CAR to submit the ESIA report for the SCED-Ndéléngué artisanal mining zone (zone d'exploitation artisanale – ZEA) project to the World Heritage Centre;
12. Regrets the absence of progress in the environmental certification of the two logging concessions located in the buffer zone in the CAR and also reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize this certification in order to avoid any potential impact on the property's OUV;
13. Noting the lack of recent information on the updating of the management plans for the Cameroonian and Congolese components, also requests the States Parties to provide an update on these plans and to consider the development of a harmonized management plan covering the whole of the property;
14. Further reiterates its request to the States Parties to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission and to provide a comprehensive report on the status of their respective implementation;
15. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

46. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2021

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1985-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 149,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 320,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Governments of Italy and Belgium; USD 250,000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2025)

Previous monitoring missions

2007, 2012 and 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict, lack of security and political instability (issue resolved)
- Poaching by the army and armed groups (issue resolved)
- Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries
- Impact of villages located within the property
- Threat of oil exploitation
- Poaching

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/280/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The strengthening of the human, technical and financial capacities dedicated to the fight against poaching, both in terms of staff, including the recruitment of younger personnel (after the retirement of 31 ecoguards aged over 65), and their training, with a view to achieving a surveillance rate of 80% of the property, is ongoing;
- The involvement of local communities in the governance of the property is reflected in the adoption of the Salonga Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework, the holding of meetings of the Salonga National Park Steering Committee (CPPNS) and the Site Coordination Committee (CoCosi), as well as regular exchanges between park managers and customary authorities;
- The independently managed complaints and appeals mechanism has led to a significant reduction in cases of human rights violations;
- The capacity building of officers is continuing, particularly with regard to the use of the SMART mobile tool and the intensification of patrols. In 2024, the patrols led to the arrest of 92 poachers, 39 of whom were interrogated and transferred to the station;
- In 2024, monitoring of large mammal presence using camera traps resulted in several sightings, mainly of forest elephants, leopards and several species of large and medium-sized ungulates. Transects allowed bonobos to be recorded, and an increased presence of lethal traps was detected in the Watsi Kengo sector;
- Significant progress has been made in the bonobo habituation programme launched in 2023;
- Local communities have become more aware of the preservation of the property and the sustainable management of natural resources. Empowerment activities have been undertaken in

the fields of sustainable fishing and hunting, of beekeeping, and of sustainable agricultural and forestry production;

- The 2021 co-management agreement between the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (*Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature* - ICCN) and WWF prohibits any involuntary relocation of communities living in the park, with a support programme currently being developed;
- The process of finalizing the demarcation of the non-natural boundaries of the property is progressing with information meetings, awareness-raising among local communities and training for local cartographers. It will continue in 2025 ;
- 94% of the 2024 Salonga National Park budget was provided by various partners, around 1% by ICCN, and 5% remained to be found;
- The call for tenders for 27 oil blocks, one of which overlapped the property, has been canceled.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Although the report submitted by the State Party essentially responds to the paragraphs of Decision **44 COM 7A.44**, the efforts made with the support of its partners in implementing the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission of 2020 are encouraging and must be sustained. Noting that 94% of the 2024 Salonga National Park budget was provided by various partners, approximately 1% by ICCN, and 5% remained to be found, it would be useful to provide more information regarding the establishment of a funding mechanism for the implementation of all property management functions, as previously requested (Decision **45 COM 7B.6**).

In view of the persistent threats and the numerous signs of poaching still visible in the property, efforts to reinforce the operational capacities of park rangers, particularly in the areas of anti-poaching and conservation, including respect for the rights of local communities, are welcomed and should be strengthened. It is also noted that 31 ecoguards have been retired, and that recruitment has been announced for 2025 to enhance the property's patrol and surveillance capacities. It is also recommended that this process of rejuvenating the workforce be accelerated and that the career plans of the ecoguards be anticipated to ensure an adequate presence in the field at all times.

The significant decrease in alleged violations of the population's rights and the improvement in the relationship between the communities and the park represent positive progress. To guarantee their long-term viability, it is imperative that the complaints and appeals management mechanism, the CPPNS and the Site Coordination Committee are fully operational and regularly evaluated in order to draw lessons applicable to other World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The programme to support the Yaelima and Kitawala communities, currently being developed to limit the negative impacts on the park's resources, is also positive and should be encouraged.

The efforts to improve the level of knowledge about large mammals through ecological monitoring are positive. Concerning bonobos, habituation is a very sensitive process that requires officers to be in regular contact with the animals, so it is recommended to follow best practices, such as the IUCN's [Best practice guidelines for health monitoring and disease control in great ape populations](#). Rigorous planning, careful execution and continuous evaluation are essential.

The cancellation of the 2022 call for tenders for 27 oil blocks, one of which affected the property, is welcomed. However, the three gas blocks located on Lake Kivu, two of which have found buyers, are not covered by this cancellation. Recalling the incompatibility of oil, mining and gas exploitation with World Heritage status, it is recommended that the State Party be encouraged to definitively cancel the oil concession overlapping the property.

Noting that the process of demarcating the non-natural boundaries of the property is progressing and will continue in 2025, and recalling the contribution of the Government of Norway to the realization of this activity, it is recommended that the State Party be encouraged to finalize it as soon as possible. As for the creation of forest concessions, although 50% of this process was evaluated in 2020, it is unfortunate that it has not yet been completed, despite its importance in ensuring key ecological functions between the two blocks of the property. It is also recommended that the State Party be encouraged to finalize, as soon as possible, the creation of forest concessions for local communities with a vocation for conservation and to provide this space with a protection status and a simple management plan.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.40**, **43 COM 7A.10**, **44 COM 7A.44** and **45 COM 7B.6** adopted respectively at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts, with the support of its partners, to reinforce the operational capacities of park officers, promote conservation while respecting the rights of local communities and improve the relationship between the populations and the park, and requests the State Party to continue implementing the Committee's decisions and the recommendations of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Takes note with satisfaction of the reduction in alleged violations of the communities' rights and encourages the State party to guarantee the full functioning of the complaints and appeals mechanism, the Salonga National Park Steering Committee (CPPNS) and the Site Coordination Committee (CoCosi), while ensuring regular evaluation to draw lessons applicable to other properties of the State Party;
5. Also encourages the State Party to finalize the Yaelima and Kitawala communities' supervision programme to limit the negative impacts on the park's resources, recalls the need to consult the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as part of this constructive dialogue in accordance with Decision **40 COM 7A.40**, and insists that any future relocation be voluntary and in line with the principles of the Convention and relevant international standards;
6. Takes note of the retirement of 31 ecoguards and of the recruitment planned for 2025, and also requests the State Party to accelerate the process of rejuvenating the workforce, while putting in place a proactive strategy to manage the career plans of the ecoguards in order to ensure a sufficient presence in the field at all times;
7. Notes with concern the persistence of illegal activities as well as the numerous signs of poaching still visible in the property and further encourages the State Party and its partners to continue strengthening the human, technical and financial capacities dedicated to the fight against poaching, both in terms of staffing and training, and to accelerate the establishment of a funding mechanism for the implementation of all property management functions;
8. Notes positively the ecological monitoring efforts of the emblematic species in the property, in particular the advances achieved in monitoring bonobos and other large mammals, and encourages furthermore the State Party to guarantee the continuity of these efforts;
9. Also takes note of the progress made in the bonobo habituation programme, which could help generate additional resources for the park through tourism, and further requests the State Party to ensure rigorous planning, careful execution and ongoing evaluation of the programme and to follow best practices, such as the IUCN's "Best practice guidelines for health monitoring and disease control in great ape populations";
10. Also welcomes the cancellation of the call for tenders for 27 oil blocks, including the one adjacent to the property, but also reiterates its position that gas, oil and mining

exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a position supported by the commitments made by the leaders of these industries not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties, and encourages moreover the State Party to definitively cancel the oil concession overlapping the property;

11. *Also noting that the process of demarcating the property's non-natural boundaries is progressing and will continue in 2025 with the contribution of the Government of Norway, finally encourages the State Party to finalize it as soon as possible;*
12. *Noting further and with regret that the process of creating forest concessions has not yet been completed, despite its importance in ensuring key ecological functions between the two blocks of the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize as soon as possible the creation of forest concessions for local communities with a vocation for conservation and to provide this space with a protection status and a simple management plan;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

47. Simien National Park (Ethiopia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996-2017

- Major declines of the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations and of other large mammals
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property
- Impacts of road construction through the property

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 12 (from 1978-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 427,396

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 (2012-2015) in support of community conservation programme with co-financing from Global Environment Fund (GEF) and development of the grazing pressure reduction strategy (UNESCO-Spain-Funds-in Trust and UNESCO-Netherlands-Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Road construction through the property
- Power transmission line affecting exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property and crop cultivation in the property

- Growing resource-dependent, economically poor population around the national park
- Overgrazing by livestock
- Human-wildlife conflict, including fatal leopard attacks, livestock predation and crop-raiding
- Declining populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species
- Poaching in remote areas, including of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf
- Impacts and risks associated with tourism development and visitation
- Management suffering from scarce human and financial resources
- Limited local participation in management and governance
- Pending Significant Boundary Modification to recognize the substantial expansion of the national park
- Uncommon precipitation and temperature patterns over recent years attributed to climate change

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>, and reports the following:

- The General Management Plan (GMP), which includes six management objectives, has been fully implemented since 2020 through 181 management actions;
- A 2024 Ethiopian wolves direct observation census recorded 80 individuals, showing a 9.5% decline compared to 2023 survey;
- A 2024 Walia ibex census recorded 306 individuals, reflecting a 50.9% decline from 2023, potentially due to poaching, habitat degradation, prey-predator dynamics, and local migrations. In addition, the conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia, is considered to be a main contributing factor as it has increased hunting. A National recovery action plan for the species is being developed;
- Gelada monkey population has shown an increase since the 2019 census, now exceeding 18,000 individuals, attributed to normal monitoring and law enforcement practices;
- To complement ongoing monitoring efforts for the Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex and Gelada, the State Party seeks international advice and support from the IUCN Species Survival Commission;
- A draft Tourism Management Plan (TMP) addressing the issue of tourism development and proper visitor's management has been under implementation for the last three years;
- Development intervention (like tourism infrastructures and other risk activities), must comply with the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF), with bigger investments like eco-lodge development requiring acceptable Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- Lodges receiving official permission from the State Party have fulfilled EIA requirements, and authorities have ensured all steps were completed before land handover;
- Several activities including habitat rehabilitation, grazing management, monitoring, training for stakeholders and experts have been implemented under the Fire Management Plan;
- Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other antelopes have started expanding their habitat within the property as a result of the implementation of the 2025 Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy (GPRS) in collaboration with the local community and stakeholders;
- A total of 252 households from the relocated Gich community have already benefited from the sustainable livelihood programs implemented in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and the Germany Development Bank (KfW);
- A Significant Boundary Modification (SBM) process including the establishment of a buffer zone for the property is underway through International Assistance support, with the process expected to be completed by mid-2025;
- The new road construction project aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road is 75% completed. However, the power transmission re-alignment project has not progressed since the last report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts of the State Party, supported by its partners AWF and KfW to ensure the protection and conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are welcomed, as are the reported progress towards developing a SBM proposal in line with previous Committee decisions, and the continued support to provide sustainable livelihoods to the relocated Gich community and other local communities. However, while the GMP has reportedly been under implementation since 2020, the Committee's request for a copy of the plan remains unfulfilled. Without access to this document, it is challenging to determine whether the OUV of the property is fully considered in its implementation. The State Party should be requested to provide a detailed report on its implementation progress.

Although the regular monitoring of flagship species is a positive development, the ongoing decline in the populations of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf is deeply concerning. Particularly alarming is the more than 50% reduction in the Walia ibex population in the park compared to 2023. In contrast, the slight increase in the Gelada population is encouraging, as this species now appears to be recovering. While more research is needed to further investigate the causes of the decline of the Ibex population, immediate and robust measures are required to address the decline in these two species, including deploying Rapid Response Teams, enhancing law enforcement, and adopting advanced technologies such as drones and GPS-enabled tracking systems for species monitoring. The State Party's interest in seeking international advice and support from the IUCN Species Survival Commission is noted and should be encouraged through the relevant Specialist Groups, especially for the Walia ibex National recovery action plan under development. The expansion of habitats for Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf, and other antelopes within the property due to the 2025 GPRS is a promising development. However, the negative ecological impacts of livestock grazing on the property's ecosystem remain a concern, and the State Party should continue addressing grazing pressures.

The TMP, which was requested by the Committee to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments, is reported in draft form and therefore the State Party should be encouraged to finalize this as soon as possible, whilst noting that it is already being implemented. Compliance with the ESMF and the requirement of EIA for eco-lodge development is encouraging for identifying the potential negative impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property. However, details of specific projects have not been outlined by the State Party and therefore it is not possible to determine if any new projects have been approved, and their location. It should be called that the Committee has requested that all new lodge developments are located outside the National Park boundary, and in line with the draft TMP previously reported. Recalling the Committee's position that the EIA of the Angobaras and Simien Mountains lodges do not sufficiently consider the OUV of the property in their respective site selection or project design, and its request not to permit the development of tourism infrastructure inside the property and to submit EIAs for all proposed lodges to the World Heritage Centre, it is regrettable that no updates were provided on these or the Jacaranda and Kibran lodges. The Committee should request the State Party to submit the TMP to the World Heritage Centre and reiterate its request not to continue these developments in their current locations before assessing the impacts of each project on the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The ongoing implementation of the Fire Management Strategy is noted, and in this regard further updates in relation to the recovery of affected vegetation and impacts on the OUV is encouraged in the next report. The Fire Management Strategy, which was previously reported to be under implementation and requested to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, remains outstanding.

The State Party's progress on the new road construction project, intended to reduce disturbances from the existing main road, is noted. With 75% of the project completed, the State Party should be reminded again to submit the EIA to ensure that OUV has been adequately considered. It is also recalled that the realignment of the transmission line may pose potential visual and ecological impacts on the property and that therefore an EIA should be completed before commencing any activities.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.81** and **45 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, with the support of its partners, in responding to past Committee decisions, including progress in the implementation of the 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP) and the Fire Management Plan, the monitoring of flagship species, and the continued support for sustainable livelihoods for the relocated Gich community and other local communities;
4. Takes note of the continued implementation of the GMP, regrets that the lack of submission of the GMP as previously requested makes it challenging to assess whether the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is adequately considered in its implementation, and therefore requests the State Party to submit a detailed progress report on its implementation, including specific measures to safeguard the OUV of the property;
5. While welcoming the regular monitoring of flagship species within the property and the reported increase in the Gelada population, which indicates encouraging signs of recovery for this species, notes with utmost concern the ongoing and severe decline in the population of the Walia ibex, including a reported reduction of more than 50% compared to 2023, and urges the State Party to prioritize and implement urgent and targeted measures to ascertain the root causes, and halt and reverse the decline of the Walia ibex population, including:
 - a) Strengthening anti-poaching initiatives by deploying Rapid Response Teams and increasing patrolling efforts,
 - b) Utilizing advanced monitoring technologies, such as drones and GPS-enabled tracking systems, to enhance surveillance and gather real-time data on the species,
 - c) Intensifying community engagement efforts to raise awareness and foster local support for Walia ibex conservation,
 - d) Enhancing law enforcement capacity within the property;
6. Encourages the State Party to expedite the development, finalization, and implementation of the Walia ibex National Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with international experts, particularly the Caprinae Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and to allocate sufficient resources for its execution;
7. Also takes note of the reported progress in habitat expansion for key species such as the Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other antelopes through the implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy, and also requests the State Party to continue addressing grazing pressures to reduce its ecological impacts;
8. Further noting that the draft Tourism Management Plan is being implemented, further requests the State Party to finalize the Plan as soon as possible to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments;
9. Noting furthermore of the State Party's compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for eco-lodge development, reiterates its concern that the EIAs for the Angobaras and Simien Mountains lodges did not sufficiently consider the OUV of the property in their site selection and design, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit EIAs for the Jacaranda and Kibran lodges previously reported;

10. Notes again with significant concern the continued construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property, requests moreover the State Party to provide clarification on the current status of all tourism infrastructure projects inside and in the buffer zone of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP), and urges once again the State Party not to continue these developments in their current locations before assessing the impacts of each project on the OUV, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the outstanding Fire Management Strategy and provide a detailed update on fire-affected areas and their recovery, particularly in relation to the property's OUV;
12. Also welcomes the progress on the development of a Significant Boundary Modification proposal for the property, including the formalization of a buffer zone;
13. Notes moreover the progress made by the State Party on the alternative road construction project intended to reduce disturbances from the existing main road, but that the EIA for the section of the new road crossing the SMNP was not submitted as requested, also urges once again the State Party to submit the required EIA to the World Heritage Centre;
14. Notes furthermore that the power transmission re-alignment project has not progressed since 2022, and that the required EIA was also not submitted, reiterates again its request to the State Party to assess the visual and ecological impacts on the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to the commencement of any activities;
15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

48. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1999-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 45,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 17,283 from UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (2015-2016), USD 45,500 from the Netherland Funds-in-Trust (2024-2025)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Renewable energy facilities (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/>

Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/> and reporting as follows:

- The persistent rise in water levels across the property and other Kenya Rift Valley lakes continues, with the underlying causes still not fully understood;
- Due to this ongoing water level rise, boundary surveys and markings have not yet been implemented;
- In 2025, a "Safeguarding Kenya Lake System's Unique Gem" project was initiated to assess the status and behavior of lesser flamingo populations within the property and other wetland habitats, to inform the completion of Kenya's National Action Plan for Lesser Flamingos and explore the development of a Regional Action Plan for Lesser Flamingos in collaboration with the United Republic of Tanzania and Ethiopia. The project also aims to explore the possibility of the nomination of a transnational serial World Heritage property;
- A technical expert has been appointed as the national focal point for the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) Working Group for Lesser Flamingos;
- Recommendations from the 2021 scoping report on the water levels have been largely implemented, including measures to address the impacts of rising water levels through government engagement with energy power companies operating in the area;
- The proposed wildlife corridor linking Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha has been suspended due to its potential impact on long-established communities in the area, who have lived there since the late 1800s;
- Under the 2020 framework, synchronized birdlife surveys and a review of the Lake Elementaita Management Plan have been implemented, with a new possibility to foster stakeholder collaboration across the three components of the property;
- The multi-agency taskforce enforces environmental laws and regulations, including mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for projects near fragile zones, to prevent inappropriate developments near buffer zones of the property;
- Multi-agency Rapid Ecological Assessments are being carried out regularly to monitor bird mortalities and implement appropriate mitigation measures along the high voltage powerline passing 5 km away from Lake Elementaita.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued rise in water levels both within the property and across other Kenya Rift Valley lakes remains a significant concern. While historical fluctuations in water levels have occurred in this region, the underlying causes of the current changes remain poorly understood, and the challenges previously reported most likely persist, including changes to lake boundaries, reduced pH and salinity levels, and negative effects on biodiversity. No update on the lesser flamingo population in the current reporting period was provided, a key attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; but recalling that the State Party previously reported its declining population due to rising water levels, it can be assumed that this trend has continued.

Regrettably, since the last report to the Committee, little to no significant progress has been reported towards mitigating the impacts of rising water levels, through the actions requested by the Committee such as conducting a joint survey between Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Ethiopia to better understand changes in lesser flamingo populations within the East African Rift, developing a

Regional Action Plan for Lesser Flamingos, and strengthening regional cooperation for the effective conservation of Lake Natron and other lakes.

While noting the significant delay in addressing these key issues and their potential impacts on the OUV of the property, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands-funded project, aiming to address some of the Committee's recommendations as described above, is welcome. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its decisions on these points and request the State Party to provide a comprehensive update in its next state of conservation report.

The reported implementation of the scoping report recommendations is positive, however, in the absence of any specifics provided by the State Party on the actions that have been taken, it is difficult to determine the progress of implementation. It is recommended that a detailed update be provided also in the next state of conservation report that addresses the specifics highlighted by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.7**.

The suspension of the proposed wildlife corridor linking Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha is noted. It should be recalled that the Committee requested that there is a more nuanced approach to site selection and design based on needs of specific species, and that at the time of inscription, the wildlife corridor raised for ecological connectivity was between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita. It is recommended therefore that the State Party be requested to provide an update in this regard, recalling previous Committee requests to the State Party to consider the possible extension and formalization of the buffer zone between Lakes Nakuru and Elementaita to restore connectivity and further strengthen protection, in consultation with local stakeholders and rightsholders.

The review of the Management Plan for Lake Elementaita, among other activities within the framework of the property's coordination management, is noted. However, the report of follow up actions to implement the decisions of the 2020 Naivasha coordination meeting remains outstanding. It is recommended that the State Party submit the pending report and consider the elaboration of a harmonised Management Plan for the entire property, possibly under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project.

The regular monitoring of bird mortalities and the deployment of mitigation measures along the powerline passing 5 km from Lake Elementaita are noted. However, given the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, as previously highlighted by the Committee, and the lack of updated information on the AEWA mission, it is recommended that the State Party provide an update on the implementation and report on the mitigation measures and their effectiveness to limit bird mortality.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.89** and **45 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with concern the persistent rise in water levels in the lakes within the property, the underlying causes of which remain poorly understood, and its resulting impact on wildlife species, particularly the lesser flamingo, a key attribute of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Appreciates the State Party and UNESCO initiative on a new project, funded through the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, which aims to address some of the pending actions requested previously by the World Heritage Committee, including to assess changes in lesser flamingo populations, developing a regional lesser flamingo action plan, strengthening regional cooperation for the conservation of Lake Natron and to consider further potential transnational serial extensions, thanks the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its support and requests the State Party to report on its implementation;*

5. Encourages again the State Party, with the support of the States Parties of Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania, to undertake a joint survey to better understand changes within the lesser flamingo populations in the East African Rift and develop a Lesser Flamingo Action Plan for the region, in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Flamingo Specialist Group and further encourages the State Party to request financial assistance from the World Heritage Centre for this work;
6. Takes note of the implementation of recommendations from the 2021 scoping report on the impacts of rising lake water levels and also requests the State Party to provide a detailed update on the implementation of these recommendations in its next state of conservation report;
7. Also takes note that the proposed wildlife corridor linking Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha is suspended, and recalling that, at the time of inscription, the ecological connectivity between Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita was recognized as important, further requests the State Party to provide an update on the progress to explore this matter based on an evaluation of relevant needs of specific species to allow the movement of each target species;
8. Acknowledges the review of the Management Plan for Lake Elementaita but also notes with concern the lack of follow-up actions to implement the decisions of the 2020 Naivasha coordination meeting, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the pending report and to consider developing a harmonized Management Plan for the entire property, possibly within the framework of the new project;
9. Further takes note of the regular monitoring of bird mortalities and deployment of mitigation measures along the powerline passing 5 km from Lake Elementaita, but reiterates its concern over the potential impact of the project on the OUV of the property, and requests moreover the State Party to report on the mitigation measures and assess their effectiveness in reducing bird mortality;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

49. Lake Malawi National park (Malawi)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

50. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2007-2024

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1982-2025)

Total amount approved: USD 246,729

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 250 000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2025)

Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2007 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2011: IUCN mission; 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2024: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching, capture and relocation of wildlife
- Drying up of ponds and invasive species
- Illegal logging
- Livestock grazing
- Road construction project
- Potential dam construction
- Potential mining exploration and exploitation
- Loss of chimpanzee habitat
- Water pollution (ground water and surface water) due to mining

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 February 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/153/documents>, reporting the following:

- The park's Development and Management Plan, which expired in 2023, is currently being updated with the support of ULB Cooperation and UNESCO;
- Ecological monitoring is continuing according to the 2016 protocol with the support of its partners Panthera, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Petowal Mining Company (PMC) and Recherche Chimpanzé Assirik (RCA), to estimate the relative abundance (RAI) of species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular lion, panther, wild dog, derby eland, hartebeest, chimpanzee and buffalo, between 2022 and 2024;
- 28 wild dogs were identified in 2023 in the central core of the park, representing a density of 0.46 adults per 100 km²;
- In 2024, 178 chimpanzee nests were recorded, with six direct observations in the PMC project's area of influence. Other key species have also been observed in this area, with varying abundances: buffalo, koba, hippopotamus, elephant, derby eland, lion and cheetah;
- In 2024, 979 sightings (direct and indirect) of various species were recorded during surveillance patrols;
- The State Party is seeking support from the International Assistance Fund to carry out an updated wildlife inventory;

- The strengthening of surveillance, through the acquisition of drones and the expansion and deployment of mobile brigades, has made it possible to increase SMART coverage from 33% in 2023 to 47.5% in 2024;
- Two joint operations were carried out with the security forces to reinforce the protection of the central and western parts of the property;
- The definitive and irrevocable closure of the Mansadala quarry will take effect on 31 August 2025, followed by the development of a rehabilitation plan for the site;
- A memorandum of understanding was signed with the High Commission of The Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) to finance the implementation of a specific action plan to reduce the dam's indirect negative impact on the modification of the hydrological regime of the Gambia River;
- Barrick-Gold's Massawa licence, on the periphery of the property, has been transferred to SGO ENDEAVOUR, which has already started mining after obtaining environmental approval.

In November 2024, during a routine patrol in the south-eastern part of the property, park officers apprehended 32 gold panners and seized a variety of poaching equipment in their possession.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Following the Committee's decision **46 COM 7A.54** to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the State Party continues to implement the recommendations of the 2024 mission. The current updating of the Development and Management Plan (PAG), carried out in a participatory manner, reflects a desire to maintain management based on best practice. The State Party is invited to speed up this process and to maintain a participatory and inclusive approach, involving local communities in all phases of its development.

Surveillance has been stepped up through the acquisition of drones, the deployment of mobile brigades and joint operations with the security forces, enabling surveillance coverage to be increased from 33% in 2023 to 47.5% in 2024. However, this significant progress must not lead to a reduction in surveillance efforts, which must continue in order to curb illegal activities. It is recommended that the State Party integrate a more sophisticated data management system to analyse in real time the information collected by drones and mobile brigades, thus improving responsiveness and decision-making in the face of potential threats.

Ecological monitoring, based on the 2016 protocol, and ecoguard patrols have provided essential information on changes in the populations of key species of OUV. While this monitoring provides important data on the relative abundance of these populations, it should be enriched by including data on ecological interactions and the state of habitats, as well as on population dynamics in order to establish the viability of each key species in the property. This is particularly urgent for the wild dogs, estimated at 28 individuals, with a relatively low density (0.46 adults per 100 km²), which could indicate future threats to the viability of their population.

Furthermore, once abundant, there were no direct sightings of elephants in the property in 2024. It is imperative that the current discussions on the possible translocation of elephants take into account the advice of the African Elephant Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). Given that current abundance indices remain very low compared to when the property was listed, it is essential to step up conservation efforts. Although financial support through an international assistance request may be an option for carrying out the updated wildlife inventory in the property, it is recommended that other complementary technical and financial partners be explored to ensure long-term monitoring of key species, noting that the property is inscribed on the basis of criterion (x) alone.

The closure of the Mansadala quarry and the rehabilitation of the site, scheduled for 2025, is a positive development. Noting that rehabilitation of a post-mining site requires long-term strategies with continuous monitoring and rigorous follow-up (with a view to necessary adjustment), it is recommended that transitional measures such as planting native vegetation and managing run-off water, avoiding erosion, should be introduced immediately.

The start-up of SGO ENDEAVOUR's activities on the periphery of the property thanks to the transfer of Barrick-Gold's Massawa licence, following environmental approval, is noted. Although this approval is governed by national environmental standards, the major and numerous potential impacts, highlighted by the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project on the OUV of the property and its surrounding area, remain a cause for concern. It is recommended that an enhanced

environmental management plan be implemented, including appropriate compensatory actions, to minimise the negative effects of the operation.

The agreement with the OMVG High Commission to mitigate the impact of the Sambangalou dam on the River Gambia is noted. However, as the ESIA indicates, these impacts directly affect emblematic species by modifying their habitats and life cycles. Combined with the impacts of mining, they could seriously compromise biodiversity and alter essential ecological processes, thereby compromising the park's ability to maintain its heritage value in the long term. It is therefore recommended that the measures proposed by IUCN in its technical assessment of the ESIA, in addition to the recommendations of the 2024 mission, be implemented immediately.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 7A.50**, **45 COM 7A.13** and **46 COM 7A.54** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions, and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the continued implementation of the recommendations of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission conducted in 2024 and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to fully implement these recommendations in order to improve the management of the property following its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
4. *Takes note of the ongoing updating of the Development and Management Plan (PAG), carried out in a participatory manner, and requests the State Party to accelerate this process in order to ensure continuity in the management of the property, while guaranteeing the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, at all stages of its development;*
5. *While welcoming the improvement in the monitoring coverage of the park by the SMART tool, from 33% in 2023 to 47.5% in 2024, stresses that this coverage remains insufficient to limit illegal activities, notably poaching and gold panning, and to ensure optimal protection of the property, and also encourages the State Party to progressively extend the coverage to the entire area of the property and to strengthen the management and analysis of the data collected in real time in order to optimise responsiveness and decision-making in the face of potential threats;*
6. *Also notes the results of ecological monitoring of the populations of wild dogs, lions, hartebeests, panthers and chimpanzees, as well as the observation of certain key species in the property, notes however the lack of data concerning the viability of populations of species characteristic of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and also requests that conservation efforts for species characteristic of the property's OUV be intensified;*
7. *Noting with concern the lack of direct sightings of elephants in 2024, which were once abundant in the property, further notes the ongoing discussions regarding the possible translocation of elephants and urges the State Party to consult and take into consideration the advice of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Elephant Specialist Group prior to the implementation of any elephant translocation operations to the property;*

8. Also notes the interest in submitting a request for international assistance to conduct updated wildlife inventories in the property and invites the State Party to also explore complementary funding from other partners to ensure long-term ecological monitoring of key species, taking into account that the property is inscribed under criterion (x) only;
9. Noting positively the planned closure of the Mansadala quarry and the rehabilitation of the site in 2025, further calls on the State Party to put in place immediate transitional measures, such as the planting of native vegetation and the management of run-off water to limit erosion, and to maintain continuous monitoring and regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation measures;
10. Further notes the commencement of SGO ENDEAVOUR's activities on the periphery of the property following the granting of environmental approval, expresses its concern about the major potential impacts identified in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the OUV of the property and its peripheral zone, and also urges the State Party to implement as soon as possible a strengthened environmental management plan, including appropriate compensatory actions to minimize the negative impacts of the operation, and to share progress with the World Heritage Centre;
11. Acknowledges the agreement with the High Commission of The Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) to mitigate the impacts of the Sambangalou Dam on the Gambia River, recalls that, according to the ESIA, these impacts directly affect emblematic species by modifying their habitats and life cycles, and further urges the State Party to immediately implement the measures proposed by IUCN in its technical assessment of the ESIA, in addition to the recommendations of the 2024 mission;
12. Expresses its serious concern that the potential cumulative impacts of the Sambangalou Dam and mining on the periphery of the property could compromise the ability of the Park to maintain its heritage value in the long term, also reiterates its position that oil, gas and mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and further requests the State Party:
 - a) to avoid all mining, gas and oil activities within the perimeter of the property or, in its periphery, if the activity could create negative impacts on its OUV,
 - b) systematically assess the impacts of any mining project on the OUV of the property through ESIA's in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken;
13. Finally Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

51. iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2003-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan
- Mining
- Lack of institution coordination

Additional Details:

Conflicting land use

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/914/documents/> and reports the following:

- Monitoring of the swamp forest areas previously affected by clearing and burning activities has shown continued natural recovery, which, combined with high rainfall since 2023, has reduced the need for human intervention and implementation of the rehabilitation plan;
- Several activities to support employment and economic development opportunities for local communities have been implemented by the park authorities and its partners;
- Ongoing dialogue with the Nibela community focuses on addressing livelihood concerns, wildlife poaching and illegal gillnet fishing. The community receives support through a Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises programme, grants for fishing cooperatives, and establishment of a Community Conservation Area to support biodiversity stewardship;
- The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2022-2031 for the property, submitted to the World Heritage Centre in May 2024, aims to balance conservation objectives with respect for the rights and needs of local communities. The IMP includes measures for involving communities and local stakeholders in management and decision-making. These include consultation processes, communication and awareness-raising programmes, Local Area Plans, and implementation of land claims settlements and co-management agreements;
- To address ongoing stress on the Lake Sibaya system, the moratorium on commercial forestry licenses in adjacent areas remains in place. Monitoring throughout 2024 indicated that lake water levels are slowly increasing due to rainfall and the cessation of new Eucalyptus plantations.

However, research indicates that maintaining these water levels will be challenging even if afforestation and water abstraction are reduced, due to natural conditions and climate change;

- Any future activity in the St. Lucia Estuary will comply with the 2022 Panel of Expert's recommendations and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes that consider the World Heritage context. In 2024, a Basic Assessment Process studied back flooding of the Msunduzi River and Beach Channel within the property that was affecting local communities. Proposals to mitigate the issue included vegetation clearing and dredging of these two water channels;
- Regarding tourism development, 20 identified tourism development sites within the property are considered to have no impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and align with zoning in the IMP. Most are brownfield sites; greenfield tourism development sites will be subject to the relevant EIA process and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and a cumulative impact assessment will be conducted;
- The State Party reaffirms its commitment to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines concerning extractive industry development outside the property. The new IMP notes that various companies hold valid licenses for offshore seismic surveys and hydrocarbon prospecting directly adjacent to the marine portion of the property;
- Engagements and monitoring efforts continue towards potentially establishing an ecological reserve for water resources in northern KwaZulu-Natal, which will inform the proposal for a World Heritage property buffer zone.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While it is noted that the swamp forest areas previously affected by clearing and burning activities have shown continued natural recovery, it is unclear whether any rehabilitation efforts are still needed. The community engagement and empowerment provisions in the new IMP to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities with local communities, including the Nibela community, are encouraging. The State Party should be further encouraged to ensure that these provisions are fully implemented. No update however is provided regarding the alleged human rights violations reported against the Nibela community that were under investigation in 2022.

The continued water stress on the Lake Sibaya ecosystem by both human-driven and natural processes remains of concern. The moratorium on issuing licenses for commercial forestry should be maintained and the State Party should take all possible steps to prevent further decline in water levels as identified in recent research studies.

The assurance by the State Party that any future interventions for the St. Lucia Estuary will be in line with the 2022 Panel of Expert's recommendations and follow appropriate EIA measures is welcomed. However, information on plans for the implementation of the Panel's recommendations as a whole should be requested. It is also unclear whether the reported clearing of vegetation and dredging of the Msunduzi River and Beach Channel within the property followed the appropriate EIA process and Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The State Party's recognition of the need for a cumulative impact assessment with regard to tourism development in the property is noted with appreciation. Therefore, before the implementation of the 20 tourism projects, the appropriate carrying capacity studies should be completed as part of the broader assessment of cumulative impacts, as captured in the new IMP as a need, and the compatibility of the projects with the overall sustainable tourism strategy for the property. The State Party should also ensure brownfield sites will be subject to EIA processes.

The continued existence of licenses for offshore seismic surveying and hydrocarbon prospecting near the property poses a threat to the marine areas of the property. Furthermore, the IMP notes the potential expansion of the Richards Bay Minerals sand mining site northwards towards the property, and the presence of illegal sand mining, which are of concern. While the IMP recognizes that these activities all have the potential for significant impacts to the OUV of the property, it should be requested again that these extractive projects, should they go ahead in any capacity, be subject to rigorous EIA and reported to the World Heritage Committee, before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made.

While efforts continue towards establishing an ecological reserve for water resources in northern KwaZulu Natal, the requisite analysis and consultation process for developing a proposal for a buffer zone for the property appear to be in their infancy. This limited progress is all the more concerning given

the many pressures on the ecological integrity of Lake Sibaya and the St. Lucia Estuary, as well as potential extractive industry development near both the terrestrial and marine areas. The State Party should, therefore, be urged to expedite the establishment of a buffer zone in line with the provisions outlined in the IMP to guide land use and enforce protection of the OUV of the property. This should include consultation with the State Party of Mozambique to ensure alignment of conservation and management objectives, given the proposal of transboundary extension of the property, consistent with recommendations at the time of the inscription.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Notes that the swamp forest areas previously affected by clearing and burning activities have shown continued natural recovery and requests the State Party to confirm its plans for any further human-led rehabilitation efforts;*
4. *Also notes the State Party's continued community engagement and empowerment, including with the Nibela community, and maintaining the dialogue to raise awareness about the property's conservation value and promote sustainable livelihood alternatives, and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts, as well as those provisions outlined in the new Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2022-2031 specifically addressing community empowerment and participation;*
5. *Reiterating its concern on the continued water stress in the Lake Sibaya ecosystem, welcomes the decision to maintain a moratorium on issuing licenses for commercial forestry and encourages the State Party to take all possible steps to prevent further decline in water levels as identified in recent research studies;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to continue informing on the progress and implement the 2022 Panel of Experts' recommendations on the conservation of the St. Lucia Estuary, and ensure that the clearing of vegetation and dredging of the Msunduzi River and Beach Channel within the property followed the appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
7. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's recognition of the need to assess the cumulative impacts from the 20 planned tourism developments in the property, the need to complete carrying capacity studies as part of this assessment, and the State Party decision to ensure all proposals on greenfield sites are subjected to relevant EIA processes and requests furthermore that this decision should also include the proposals on brownfield sites to avoid any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
8. *Notes with concern the continued existence of licenses for offshore seismic surveying and hydrocarbon prospecting near the property, as well as threats posed by the potential expansion of the Richards Bay Minerals site towards the property's boundaries and the presence of illegal sand mining in the vicinity, and urges the State Party to ensure that these projects, should they go ahead in any capacity, be subject to an EIA conducted as per the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and*

reported to the World Heritage Committee and before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. *Also urges the State Party to expedite the efforts underway for establishing a formal buffer zone for the property to guide land use and enforce protection of the OUV of the property, including consultation with the State Party of Mozambique given the proposed transboundary extension of the property, and submit the proposal through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.*

52. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2020)

Total amount approved: USD 81,854

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Poaching
- Oil exploration programme (issue resolved)
- Mining project
- Tourism development
- Management systems/ management plan

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

Current conservation issues

On 10 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/302/documents>, and reports the following:

- Anti-poaching efforts supported by conservation partners are ongoing with strengthened cross-border collaboration with Zambia, including regular meetings of a Joint Operations Command (JOC), intelligence sharing, and coordinated law enforcement efforts;
- Use of drones, Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and digital monitoring systems has significantly reduced poaching including elephant;

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) was signed in May 2023;
- In May 2023, ZimParks and the Peace Parks Foundation (PPF) entered into a 25-year co-management agreement, focusing on law enforcement, tourism and infrastructure development;
- Between 2022 and 2024, five population surveys were conducted on lions, leopards, African wild dogs, cheetahs, and hippopotamuses. Compared to 2015, lions and leopard populations are stable or slightly increasing, while African wild dog have significantly declined, and cheetahs remain critically low with only three individuals sighted;
- Six additional surveys have been conducted for elephants and other large herbivores, with the 2024 aerial survey indicating a stable population of elephants since the 2021 survey (10,412 individuals);
- Management Plans (2023-2033) are finalized for individual components of the property and being implemented. The consolidated General Management Plan (GMP) for the entire property is yet to be finalized;
- Commercial hunting in the Sapi Safari Area (SSA) and northern Chewore Safari Area remains suspended to allow species recovery. Trophy hunting continues in designated “buffer zones” under scientifically determined quotas;
- Post-translocation monitoring of elephants in the SSA has been strengthened using tracking collars. Ecological assessments and adherence to the guidelines established by IUCN are an integral part of planning for any future wildlife translocations;
- Tourism and infrastructure developments within the property undergo ecological assessments and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- Erosion of the Zambezi riverbank is recognized as a significant threat to the property's integrity, impacting critical habitats and infrastructure. International assistance has been sought to address this issue.

In May 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a letter to the State Party raising concerns about third-party information regarding a potential application for oil and gas exploration licence overlapping with the property. No response was received by the time this report was prepared.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing anti-poaching efforts, supported by cross-border collaboration between Zimbabwe and Zambia, are commendable. The deployment of advanced digital tools is a significant improvement that has reportedly led to a decline in poaching of elephant and other key species. While positive, these efforts must be sustained with continued enforcement and monitoring to address the root causes of poaching and ensure the long-term effectiveness of anti-poaching strategies. It is recommended to encourage the State Party and its partners to continue these efforts.

The signing of the MoU for the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks TFCA marks a significant milestone in fostering regional cooperation and providing long-term stability for conservation efforts, especially for migratory species like elephants. However, its success depends on effective implementation, resource allocation, and robust monitoring. It is recommended to request the State Party (together with Zambia) to provide regular updates on tangible conservation outcomes from this collaboration.

While the reported population trends for lions and leopards are encouraging, the significant decline in African wild dogs and critically low cheetah numbers is concerning. Although elephant populations appear stable, ongoing threats like habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change necessitate continued vigilance. It is recommended that the State Party investigate the causes behind African wild dog decline and maintain regular monitoring and targeted conservation strategies for all species at risk.

It is noted with appreciation the finalization of Management Plans (2023-2033) for the individual components of the property. However, the continued delay in finalizing a consolidated GMP for the entire property as requested since Decision **38 COM 7B.97**, raises concerns about the overall coherence of conservation efforts. The absence of an overarching strategy limits the effectiveness of property-wide

management and coordination and therefore the State Party should be urged to expedite the finalization of this consolidated GMP.

The continued suspension of commercial hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and northern Chewore Safari Area is an appropriate precautionary measure, but its long-term effectiveness in supporting species recovery requires scientific monitoring. The continuation of trophy hunting in adjoining contiguous lands, Hurungwe Safari Area and Dande Safari Area, designated as “buffer zones” under scientifically determined quotas requires regular review to ensure that it does not negatively impact the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Recalling that the property does not have a formally recognized buffer zone under the Convention, it is recommended to encourage the State Party to formally designate the buffer zone while ensuring monitoring mechanisms are in place to assess the ecological impact of the hunting practice.

It is concerning that no update has been provided regarding the copper and gold mining projects in the Lower Zambezi National Park and Chiawa Game Management Area, which adjoin the property in Zambia. Despite being in Zambia, it should be recalled that, in line with Article 6 of the Convention, States Parties should not take any measures, which might damage directly or indirectly properties situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention. Recalling previous Committee’s decisions (**38 COM 7B.97**, **44 COM 7B.178**, and **45 COM 7B.77**), and given the potential for severe impacts on the property’s biodiversity and ecological integrity, it is recommended to request the State Party of Zimbabwe to liaise with the State Party of Zambia to provide detailed updates, including any environmental assessments already conducted or planned.

The lack of response from the State Party regarding reports of a potential oil and gas exploration licence overlapping the property is a concern. Recalling the World Heritage Committee position that mineral, oil and gas exploration or exploitation is incompatible with the World Heritage status, and that such activities should not be undertaken within World Heritage properties, it is recommended to request the State Party to clarify the status of any such exploration licence.

The threat of riverbank erosion to the property’s integrity is noted. While the State Party submitted an International Assistance request in October 2024 for this issue, it is regrettable that this request was not resubmitted for further consideration. Given the urgency, the State Party is encouraged to pursue other available or alternative financial and technical partnerships to implement long-term, science-based erosion control, climate adaptation, and integrated water management strategies.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.84**, **44 COM 7B.178** and **45 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for its continued efforts to combat poaching, particularly through enhanced cross-border collaboration with Zambia, and for the deployment of advanced digital tools such as drones and SMART monitoring systems, which have contributed to a decline in the poaching of elephants and other key species;*
4. *Encourages the State Party and its conservation partners to continue strengthening anti-poaching strategies, ensuring sustained monitoring, capacity-building, and resource allocation to address the root causes of poaching and ensure long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Transfrontier Conservation Area (LOZAMAP TFCA), which represent a significant milestone in fostering regional conservation*

cooperation, and requests the State Party (in collaboration with of the State Party of Zambia) to provide regular updates on the tangible conservation outcomes arising from this agreement;

6. Notes with concern the significant decline in African wild dog populations and critically low cheetah numbers, despite stable or slightly increasing lion and leopard populations, and also requests the State Party to investigate the possible causes of African wild dog population decline and to strengthen targeted conservation strategies for all species at risk;
7. Notes with appreciation the finalization and implementation of Management Plans (2023-2033) for individual components of the property, notes with concern the continued delay in finalizing a consolidated General Management Plan (GMP) for the property as a whole as requested since Decision **38 COM 7B.97** and urges the State Party to expedite the finalization of the consolidated GMP to ensure a coherent and strategic approach to the conservation and management of the property and to submit the finalized consolidated GMP to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN before its official approval;
8. Also welcomes the continued suspension of commercial hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and northern Chewore Safari Area as a precautionary measure for species recovery, further requests the State Party to assess its long-term effectiveness through scientific monitoring, and also encourages the State Party to formally designate the Hurungwe Safari Area and Dande Safari Area, as official buffer zone for the property and to implement monitoring mechanisms in these areas to monitor any ecological impacts of the hunting practices in these areas;
9. Notes with significant concern that no update has been provided regarding the copper and gold mining projects in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP) and Chiawa Game Management Area (CGMA), which adjoin the property in Zambia, and requests furthermore the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia to carefully document this issue and jointly provide an accurate and up-to-date report to the World Heritage Committee, in accordance with its previous decisions;
10. Requests moreover the State Party, in the framework of the signing of the MoU for the LOZAMAP TFCA, to continue working with the State Party of Zambia to provide updated information on all proposed mining projects in LZNP and CGMA, including any environmental assessments already conducted or planned, and to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
11. Note with utmost concern that an application for a licence to prospect for oil and natural gas potentially overlapping the property has been submitted to the Mining Affairs Board, recalls its clear position concerning the incompatibility of mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status and requests moreover the State Party to provide details of the status of this application and to ensure that it is not permitted to proceed within the property;
12. Notes the State Party's concerns over the impacts of the riverbank erosion on the integrity of the property, and further encourages the State Party to actively pursue other available or alternative financial and technical partnerships to address this matter and develop a long-term, science-based strategy for erosion control, climate adaptation, and integrated water resource management to prevent further degradation of critical habitats and park infrastructure;

13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

ARAB STATES

53. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

54. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

55. Laponian Area (Sweden)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

56. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

57. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

AFRICA

58. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iii)(vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 2014-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 115,738

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 40,000 in 2016-2017 for COMPACT community conservation programme (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust); USD 145,000 from the Government of Norway in 2020 for continued COMPACT activities

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Legal framework
- Major visitor accommodation and associated Infrastructure
- Management systems/management plan
- The buffer zones not yet formalized (Issue resolved)
- Oil and gas exploration

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/985/documents>, and reports the following:

- Impact assessments for the proposed cableway and oil and gas exploration within the buffer zone have not yet been initiated. The State Party of South Africa reaffirms its commitment to conducting these assessments and submitting them for review before any decisions are made;
- Operational mitigation measures are being implemented to avoid negative visual impacts of the petrol filling station in the buffer zone on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The Joint Management Committee (JMC) agreement revision will precede updating the Joint Management Plan (JMP) to incorporate findings from the Conservation, Monitoring, and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park (SNP);
- To mitigate risk to rock art and guide the conservation of the park's resources, the State Party of Lesotho has implemented strict measures, integrated into key management tools, including the SNP Cultural Management Plan, Fire Management Plan, and Sehlabathebe Management Plan;
- The Lesotho Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, previously approved by the National Assembly, has received concurrences from the relevant Ministries and awaits concurrences from the Ministry of Finance to proceed to Parliament as directed by the high court;

- On 28 July 2024, an arson fire damaged the property, including damage to 30% of the rock art in the northern section of the Main Caves at Giants Castle. An independent risk assessment revealed smoke damage and that the stability of sections of rock face have been seriously compromised. Further degradation and loss of integrity is likely without immediate intervention;
- A working group has been established, comprising Amafa, the KwaZulu-Natal Museum, and leading specialists, to identify strategies for stabilizing and managing the Main Caves site while providing recommendations for effective restoration and preservation efforts;
- An annex is included in response to Decision **46 COM 8B.32**, which adopted buffer zones along the eastern side of the property within South Africa;
- The State Party of South Africa provided a map with the location of the two layers of the buffer zone and the location of archaeological sites located in it, which explains how the buffer zone was conceived and delineated, and provides information on legal and complementary measures to control access to any existing archaeological site and sites of significance, including sites of living intangible heritage.

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

The State Party of South Africa reaffirmed its commitment to completing the required impact assessments for the proposed cableway and oil and gas exploration before taking a decision, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. The Committee should welcome the decision. However, no information is provided regarding the status of these projects, recalling that the last update concerning the oil and gas exploration proposal was in 2019 when a permit for a desktop assessment had been issued, and an Exploration Right application had been made. In addition, with the approval of the Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) (Decision **46 COM 8B.32**), the exploration area may now be located within the buffer zone of the property. The Committee should request the State Party to commit to the “no-go” within World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any updates on these projects in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The States Parties are also encouraged to ensure effective management and monitoring of the buffer zone to address any potential threats to the property.

Mitigation measures implemented during the operational phase of the petrol filling station in the buffer zone will reduce visual impacts on the property’s OUV, but require long-term consistent monitoring, review, and adaptation as necessary to limit adverse impacts on the property.

The pending revision of the JMC agreement, already noted in the 2022 States Parties report, and the planned update of the JMP represent a critical step toward enhancing the management framework of the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the States Parties to urgently finalize and submit the revised JMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, to ensure effective harmonization of management systems, while encouraging continued implementation of measures to safeguard rock art sites. The reported proactive measures implemented by the State Party of Lesotho to mitigate these risks are welcome.

While regretting that progress of the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill through the legislative process has been delayed, the concurrence from relevant Ministries is a positive sign. The Committee may wish to encourage swift finalization of the Bill to strengthen legal frameworks for conservation within the property.

The actions undertaken by the State Party of South Africa to prepare an independent risk assessment of the damage caused by the fire in the northern section of the Main Caves at Giants Castle are welcomed. Noting that the fire reportedly caused concerning damage and threat of further decay of the Main Cave rock art site, it is imperative that emergency stabilization measures are identified and implemented and that a long-term preservation and restoration strategy be developed by the State Party of South Africa, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The use of timber for the viewing deck exacerbated the fire damage at the Main Cave. It is recommended that the State Party of South Africa undertake a thorough risk assessment of all major identified rock art sites in the components of the property located in its territory and develop a Risk Management Plan for these sites, which should be harmonized with the diverse Management Plans already extant for the component of the property located in the State Party of Lesotho. It is also recommended that a strategic standard design for visitor access infrastructure to rock art sites be developed in collaboration by both States Parties for the entire property, with a focus on risk mitigation. This should be submitted to the

World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the redesign of visitor infrastructure at Main Cave commences.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.170**, **45 COM 7B.101** and **46 COM 8B.32**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the reaffirmed commitment of the State Party of South Africa to complete the required Environmental Impact Assessments for the proposed cableway and oil and gas exploration before any decisions are taken, takes note that the latter proposal may be located in the newly designated buffer zone of the property as approved by the Committee (Decision **46 COM 8B.32**), and therefore requests the State Party of South Africa to avoid proceeding with this exploration proposal if it is within the buffer zone and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any updates on these projects;
4. Also takes note of the map and details regarding delineation and protection of the eastern buffer zone of the property located in the territory of the State Party of South Africa;
5. Also welcomes the mitigation measures implemented during the operational phase of the petrol filling station in the buffer zone of the property to reduce visual impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and also requests the State Party of South Africa to ensure consistent monitoring and adaptation of these measures as necessary;
6. Further takes note of the outcomes of the Conservation, Monitoring, and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park project, acknowledges the progress made by the States Parties in revising the Joint Management Committee agreement as a prelude to updating the Joint Management Plan (JMP) to incorporate findings from the project, and urges the States Parties to finalize and submit as soon as possible the revised JMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, to ensure effective harmonization of management systems for the property;
7. Further welcomes the proactive measures implemented by the State Party of Lesotho to mitigate risks to rock art sites, including restricting unguided tours, controlling visitor numbers, and introducing virtual interpretation, and encourages continued implementation of these measures to safeguard the property's attributes;
8. Notes with regret the delay in the legislative process for the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, and reiterates again its request to the State Party of Lesotho to expedite its adoption to strengthen legal frameworks for conservation within the property and to submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre;
9. Welcomes furthermore the measures undertaken by the State Party of South Africa in response to the fire that affected the sections of the rock art at the Main Caves, and, takes note furthermore of the reported damages caused to these sections, the destabilization of the rock art panels due to the wildfire, and that the consequence of the wildfire was exacerbated by the use of timber for visitor infrastructure, and further requests that:

- a) *the State Party of South Africa:*
 - (i) *urgently develop and implement emergency stabilization measures to safeguard the destabilised panels,*
 - (ii) *develop a long-term preservation and restoration strategy for the Main Cave rock art site, and submit this as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - (iii) *undertake a thorough risk assessment of all major identified rock art sites in the components of the property located in its territory and develop a Risk Management Plan for these sites, aligned with the management tools for rock art conservation already developed by the State Party of Lesotho, and submit this as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - b) *the States Parties jointly develop a strategic standard design for visitor access infrastructure to rock art sites for the entire property, with a focus on risk mitigation, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementing further visitor access infrastructure at rock art sites in the property;*
10. Finally requests the State Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

59. Cliff of Bandiagara (land of the Dogons) (Mali)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

60. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

ARAB STATES

61. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

62. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

63. Angkor (Cambodia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

64. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

65. Historic Centre of Macao (China)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

66. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://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; April 2019: 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)

- 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)
- Fire (Fire damage to the Jokhang Temple Monastery in February 2018)
- Localised utilities (potential impacts of proposed replacement of Chakpori Hill television tower)
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses (Visitor experience for pilgrims and tourists)
- Management systems/ management plan (Need for clarification of property and buffer zone boundaries and a modification to the Norbulingka buffer zone)
- Management activities (New shelters over historic stelae near the Jokhang Temple Monastery)

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/707/documents/>. Progress in response to previous Decisions of the Committee is presented, as follows:

- Conservation and management of the property is guided by the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention (the '5Cs'), with focus on conserving the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the three historic stelae near the Jokhang Temple Monastery (annexed to the report) concluded that the newly constructed shelters provide protection and have a positive effect, but also adversely impact view corridors and the surrounding historic environment and therefore a rectification proposal which lightens their appearance, will be designed and implemented;
- Conservation plans adopted in 2023 for the three component parts of the property were submitted with the State Party report. These conservation plans, valid until 2035, guide conservation and include explicit management and development regulations, which prohibit inappropriate construction;
- Up to date maps of the property, including each component part and their buffer zones, as well as a master plan for the property, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre for boundary clarification in December 2023;
- The Cultural Heritage Administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region has established preliminarily minor boundary modifications for the Norbulingka buffer zone, delineated by existing roads, consistent with the conservation plan for Norbulingka;
- Ongoing surveillance has assessed the effectiveness of tourism management at the Jokhang Temple Monastery, and regular adjustments have been made, resulting in improved visitor and pilgrim satisfaction, decreasing complaints and reduced pressure on security;
- The Chakpori Hill TV tower has been dismantled, and a replacement is not planned;
- Recommendations from the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission have been effectively implemented including: preservation and restoration of traditional timber structures through procurement and storage of traditional materials and establishing a specialised maintenance department with qualified artisans, clarification of conservation zoning and regulations, survey of cultural heritage resources, and digital information collection and archiving with aim to establishing cultural heritage databases accessible to the public;
- Major improvements to monitoring and early warning systems include comprehensive upgrades and renovations to security and fire protection systems at the Potala Palace, upgrade of the Norbulingka early warning system, and modernization of electrical and fire systems at the Jokhang Temple Monastery.

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

The State Party has responded positively to previous Committee decisions and actively implemented the recommendations of the 2019 mission. Confirmation that the dismantled TV tower at the Chakpori Hill will not be replaced means that there is no further threat to the setting of the property from that project. Improvements to monitoring and early warning systems at the three component parts of the property, including upgrades to fire and security systems, are welcome. Reports of improved visitor and pilgrim satisfaction, decreasing complaints, and reduced pressure on security indicate that new visitation management measures are effective. Respectful pilgrim visitation should continue to be facilitated at the Jokhang Temple plaza. Progress with implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission includes support for the restoration of traditional timber structures through availability of traditional materials and a specialised maintenance department, as well as work to clarify conservation zoning and regulations, survey of cultural heritage resources, and digital information management, in conformity with the mission recommendations.

The outcome from the HIA prepared for the pavilions erected around three historic stelae close to the Jokhang Temple Monastery underpins the value of the HIA process and, although the new structures were found to provide protection, the HIA also concluded that aspects of the setting of this component part of the property are adversely affected. The proposal for a rectification project is therefore welcome, but to avoid further concerns, the new designs should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence. The Committee has previously expressed regret that the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property were approved by the National Cultural Heritage Administration, prior to submission to the World Heritage Centre. Although they are now being implemented, it would nevertheless be appropriate for these conservation plans to be subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS.

The map submitted in December 2023 does not show the boundaries of the component parts of the property and their buffer zones as inscribed. In accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, any modifications to the boundaries of World Heritage properties and/or their buffer zones shall be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the Committee. Consistent with previous requests by the Committee, the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Tibet Autonomous Region has established a preliminary minor boundary modification for the buffer zone of the Norbulingka component part, delineated by existing roads, and aligning with the conservation plan for Norbulingka. The State Party should be encouraged to complete this process through submission of a minor boundary modification request, bearing in mind that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear, therefore, up to date quality maps of the property as inscribed should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as a priority.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.155, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes the conclusions of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared for the pavilions erected close to the Jokhang Temple Monastery to protect three historic stelae, and requests the State Party to submit full details of the proposed rectification works to mitigate visual impacts of the pavilions to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence;
4. Also notes the submission of the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property which were completed in 2023, which will be subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit up to date maps of the property and the buffer zones as inscribed;
6. Welcomes the establishment of preliminary minor boundary modifications for the buffer zone of the Norbulingka component part, which are delineated by existing roads and consistent with the conservation plan for Norbulingka, and further requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification request in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Further notes the reports provided on the dismantled TV tower at the Chakpori Hill, improvements to monitoring and early warning systems at the three component parts of the property, and the efficacy of the new visitation management measures, commends the efforts of the State Party to manage visitation at the property and encourages the State Party to ensure that the Jokhang Temple plaza continues to be managed in a manner which facilitates respectful pilgrim visitation;
8. Also welcomes the report on implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

67. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

68. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

69. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Urban development in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Mining (Industrial mining activities in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Management systems / Management Plan (Interpretation strategy for the overall ensembles of palaces, temples and fortifications)
- Management activities (Vulnerabilities of certain individual structures within the forts requiring short-term conservation actions at Jaisalmer and Chittorgarh Forts)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Industrial areas

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>. Progress on several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- The National Monument Authority has commenced developing a detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the Jaisalmer Fort component, and this process will be extended to the other components. This Heritage byelaw will decrease the pressure of development works and rapid urbanization and emphasize conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- At Jaisalmer Fort:
 - A Management Authority has not yet been established, but its framing is underway. The National Conservation Policy (2014) guides conservation works. A sub-circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) oversees daily management and conservation,
 - A Site Management Plan, which includes provision to address illegal constructions, has been completed. A completed photogrammetric survey of the component and its buffer zone aids in management,
 - ASI regularly approaches the local administration regarding building ownership and title deeds,
 - The concerned agencies are approached regularly about the development of a Disaster Risk Managed Plan,
 - Signage has been improved, the sewerage system upgraded, and dustbins installed,
 - Acknowledged visitor pressure is monitored and tourism is leveraged to improve livelihood generation for inhabitants,
 - Conservation work, including restoration of the pitching wall and fort walls, has been completed. Other actions have been identified, costing is underway. An action plan is appended to the report;
- At Ranthambhore Fort:
 - Visitor management is undertaken with the assistance of the local administration,
 - A separate route is planned to provide access to the Ganesh Temple,
 - Conservation works are ongoing, but the fort requires substantial conservation, preservation and developmental work. Parts of the monument are still unapproachable and are in dilapidated condition;

- At Amber Fort, conservation works have been implemented and are ongoing. Efforts are underway to revive the historic water system. Frescoes and gardens have been restored and a sound and lighting installation completed;
- At Gagron Fort, tourist flows are monitored. Increased management and security staff are required, and issues have arisen with the proliferation of vegetation. A management committee was established in 2015 to address these issues;
- At Chittorgarh Fort:
 - No blasting or mining is reported to have taken place,
 - Conservation work and desilting water bodies have been completed, and approach pathways provided to the Sati Gate and the Jatashankar Temple,
- At the Kumbhalgarh Fort component, approach pathways have been installed and public amenities improved.

The State Party report contains annexes that provide photographic documentation of conservation work, conservation expenditure, tourist flow and other miscellaneous work.

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

The annexes to the State Party report show the extensive conservation and restoration work at the various components of the property. These actions are very welcome. However, the annexes do not provide a chronology for these conservation works which hampers the assessment of the current state of conservation of the six forts that compose this serial property. In the instance of Ranthambhore Fort, some images seemingly show reconstruction works to be completed, but limited details are provided. The Committee may wish to recall the provisions of Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines, in relation to authenticity, as guidance to the State Party when planning conservation works. The State Party reports that conservation works are needed at Ranthambhore Fort and that Gagron Fort requires more staff; the Committee may wish to encourage action address these reports.

The continuing tourism monitoring, improvement of visitor facilities and improvement of signage at the various components is likewise welcome. Much progress seems to have been made in improving access paths and other visitor infrastructure.

The complexities of managing and conserving Jaisalmer Fort remain of concern. The reported completion of the photogrammetric survey of this component and its buffer zone provides an important record of the current urban development and morphology of this component and can in the future be very useful in monitoring development pressures. The lack of a complete ownership register of individual buildings and land plots in this component and its buffer zone remains a hurdle to the management of development pressures, and the Committee may wish to request the State Party to undertake a structured audit of ownership of dwellings, individual buildings and land plots.

It is however unfortunate that the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority has not been established yet, and the State Party has not provided any information on the development of sub-plans to augment the Site Management Plan (SMP) for tourism management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation, all requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.158**. The Committee also requested the submission of the five-year action plan for Jaisalmer Fort to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The State Party has only provided an annual conservation plan of ASI for Jaisalmer Fort, but this cursory one-page document does not provide detailed information nor a timeline for implementation. Based on the information received, it still remains unclear if the State Party has responded to the suggestions for improvement of the SMP, which were made in Decision **44 COM 7B.25** (2021). In this context, the development of a comprehensive Conservation Plan and a detailed Maintenance Plan for this fort, recommended in previous Committee decisions, remains an urgent priority. The details on the proposed Heritage byelaw do not specify whether such a byelaw will be utilised to ensure a detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of this and other components.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.25** and **45 COM 7B.158**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the extensive conservation work undertaken at the various components of the property, and encourages further conservation work to be implemented at Ranthambhore Fort, and the staffing of Gagron Fort to be augmented;
4. Also notes that some recent conservation work may have included the reconstruction of built fabric, and recalls the provisions of Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines that provides guidance on reconstruction in relation to authenticity;
5. Also welcomes the completion of a photogrammetric survey of Jaisalmer Fort and its buffer zone, which will aid in the management of the urban development of this component, but further notes that the lack of a complete ownership register of individual buildings and land plots in this component and its buffer zone remains a hurdle to the management of development pressure, and requests that the State Party implement a programme to develop such an ownership register;
6. Reiterates its request that the State Party to submit the detailed information together with a timeline of the annual conservation plan as well as the five-year action plan for Jaisalmer Fort to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Regrets that the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority has not yet been established, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to report on progress concerning the resourcing and implementation of the planned actions, including the following high-priority matters:
 - a) The finalization of the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and details about its legal and operational purview and its priority activities,
 - b) The establishment of the Site Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort under the Town and Country Planning Act, and continuing efforts to clarify the ownership of buildings within the property,
 - c) The development of a sub-plan for visitor management for Jaisalmer Fort, which should be a high-priority activity as an essential part of the property's management system,
 - d) The development of the sub-plan for risk preparedness for Jaisalmer Fort,
 - e) The development of the sub-plan for livelihood generation for the local population, considering the need for capacity building,
 - f) Further development of the comprehensive Conservation Plan, considering the Technical Review and feedback to be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies following the submission of the five-year conservation action plan for Jaisalmer Fort,
8. Notes moreover that the National Monument Authority has commenced developing a heritage byelaw for the Jaisalmer Fort component and that this process will be extended to the other components, and also requests that these byelaws be specifically designed to also ensure detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the World

Heritage property, based on a clear articulation of its Outstanding Universal Value and attributes;

9. ***Finally requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

70. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Low-impact research / monitoring activities (Lack of comprehensive and accurate documentation of the historic buildings of the property)
- Commercial development, Housing (Potential impact of new constructions and development projects on the western section of the property and its buffer zone)
- Management Systems / Management Plans (Lack of effective implementation of the Heritage Management Plan; Incomplete Local Area Heritage Plan; Lack of a visitor management plan)
- Human resources (Need to enrich the Heritage Department at Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation with relevant capacity building and technical capacity)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. An executive summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation continues to work to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The ICOMOS Technical Review recommendations on the draft Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) are under consideration. Its implementation plan and associated financial resourcing are being considered for stakeholder input;
- The documentation of historic *pol* housing continues with 14 specialist teams engaged in the process. Digital documentation with LIDAR technology is planned. 600 listed buildings were documented as per the end of September 2024;

- Documentation is mandatory for applications for repair or restoration of historic houses;
- A total station survey and aerial survey of the property and its buffer zone has been completed and the results are being compiled into GIS. These maps will be submitted during 2025;
- The ICOMOS Technical Review recommendations on the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines are under consideration;
- No conservation works through established private public people partnerships are currently planned;
- The ICOMOS Technical Review recommendations contained on the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Danapith Fire Station were considered and a revised plan prepared, which includes a 3m reduction in height;
- A uniform regulatory HIA provision for the entire property, rather than the monument boundary, is being made to the national authorities;
- The number of ongoing restoration projects in the property is increasing and calls have increased for guidance and monitoring by the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC);
- Planned work includes precinct improvement plans, conservation work at Bhadra Fort and the Sadar Patel museum which are all in within the property boundary, as well as the Kalupur Railway Station Redevelopment project and Gujarat State Road transport corporation bus stop development project, located in the buffer zone.

The report contains four annexes relating to the documentation of historic housing in the property, the official approval of the Danapith Fire Station and parking structure application (August 2021), and HIA (31 July 2023), which assesses the potential impact of the Kalupur Railway precinct development on two protected monuments located in the buffer zone.

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

The State Party's continued engagement with the requests and recommendations made by the Committee and ICOMOS is welcomed. The documentation of several historic houses in the property, annexed to the State Party's report, shows a high technical proficiency, which provides an important basis for restoration of these structures. The State Party is commended for its dedication to this process, which has resulted in 100 buildings being documented in one year, bringing the total to 22%. It is imperative that the State Party continue with this process but also initiate programmes that will lead to the restoration and beneficial use of structures identified as at risk.

The ICOMOS Technical Review of the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines highlighted that this document was not tailored to the maintenance of the OUV of the property. It is important that this document be thoroughly revised, and resubmitted for review, before any further urban improvement or streetscape upgrade projects are undertaken. ICOMOS Technical Review of the HIA for the Danapith Fire Station project concluded that the project should not proceed, as this will have a direct and lasting negative impact on the property's OUV and because it would also further stimulate the use of motorised traffic inside the property (a factor identified in the Management Plan as an issue of concern). ICOMOS recommended that the entire project should be revised and assessed through a new HIA which would assess the proposal in the light of a well-founded understanding of the property's OUV. The reported 3m height reduction will result in a total 15m height, which will not sufficiently reduce the building's volume to an acceptable level.

The HIA for the redevelopment of Kalupur Railway precinct development presents a proposal of 12 buildings in the buffer zone and partly in the wider setting of the property. The tallest, labelled 'Iconic building', is projected at 74.6m tall, two commercial buildings at respectively 75m, and 50m tall, and a residential building at 40m tall. The submitted HIA only focused about the two protected monuments, it did not assess the impact of the proposed development on the OUV of the property. The Committee should therefore request that, due to the potentially highly negative impact of a high-rise and high-density precinct in the buffer zone and setting of the property, the State Party should halt this project and commission an independent HIA that assesses its impact on the OUV of the property. Such an assessment should be submitted, along with details of the proposed development, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before undertaking any further steps towards urban planning or zoning amendments or the approval or granting of rights for the development. An urgent status update on the project should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Information on the planned precinct improvement plans, conservation work at Bhadra Fort and the Sadar Patel museum and Gujarat State

Road transport corporation bus stop development project should be submitted for review under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Important recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription (Decision **41 COM 8B.17**) are to be incorporated in the new HCP, originally scheduled for completion in 2020. The Committee may wish to request the State Party expedite the completion of the HCP for resubmission, to provide a solid foundation for the management system of the property.

The State Party should be requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, progress on the revision of the draft HCP and the Urban Design Guidelines, the functioning of the management system, and the threat to the property's OUV from new developments in the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.17** and **45 COM 7B.159**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively;*
3. *Welcomes the continued documentation of historic pol houses in the property through dedicated specialist teams, and encourages the State Party to continue and expedite this process;*
4. *Notes that the draft Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) is under revision to consider the outcomes of the ICOMOS Technical Review, and requests that the State Party finalise the revision of the HCP as soon as possible and submit the revised document to the World Heritage Centre for review;*
5. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review on the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines prior to formalising their implementation, considers that resubmission for review of the revised Urban Design Guidelines should be done before any additional street improvement projects are further developed or implemented;*
6. *Also notes that the Danapith Fire station project was reduced in height by three metres, but that this reduction will not fully mitigate its negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which is in part because it would also further stimulate the use of motorised traffic inside the property, reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review on the Danapith Fire station project, and also requests that the State Party urgently provide a status update of the project to the World Heritage Centre;*
7. *Considers that the proposed Kalupur Railway precinct development, due to its location and scale, presents a clear threat to the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Urgently provide the World Heritage Centre with a status update on the project proposal, including its current planning status,*
 - b) *Put on hold any processes towards urban planning or zoning amendments or the approval or granting of rights for the development,*
 - c) *Commission an independent iterative HIA of the proposed development that focuses on the maintenance of the OUV of the property, and*

- d) *Submit details of the proposed development, with the resultant HIA report, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party, as soon as possible, to submit information on the planned precinct improvement plans, conservation work at Bhadra Fort and the Sadar Patel museum and Gujarat State Road transport corporation bus stop development project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies under the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Also noting the limited progress on the finalisation of the draft HCP, revision of the Urban Design Guidelines and the range and scale of current and planned development projects, requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, progress on the revision of the draft HCP and the Urban Design Guidelines, the functioning of the management system, and the threat to the property's OUV from new developments in the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, 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 48th session.*

71. Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Develop the Special Area Heritage Plan under Jaipur Master Plan 2025
- Complete the detailed heritage inventory for the property
- Improve the legal protection by introducing architectural control guidelines
- Extend the management system
- Develop a detailed monitoring program
- Establish an overall interpretation and presentation policy and program for the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1605/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/1605>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The Government of Rajasthan has prioritised finalizing the Special Area Heritage Plan (SAHP), which will function as Jaipur's Site Management Plan. It integrates GIS data to support sustainable urban planning aligned with the Special Area Master Development Plan (2047);
- The SAHP includes creating a base map and heritage inventory with comprehensive surveys focused on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has inventoried 600 key heritage properties, with the remaining properties to be documented under the SAHP;
- The Jaipur Nagar Nigam Heritage Regulation 2022 provides detailed architectural control and heritage impact assessment guidelines, engaging third-party consultants for major interventions and tasking the Heritage Cell with smaller projects to maintain the Walled City's heritage integrity;
- Following the recommendations of the ICOMOS 2019 Evaluation Report, the Chaugan Stadium and Anaj Mandi parking facilities were redesigned with underground solutions. Multi-story parking projects were halted, and the Jaleb Chowk redevelopment is on hold;
- A monitoring system using geotagging and reporting is in place, overseen by the Heritage Cell and supported by conservation firms. The Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage (NNJH) enforcement team will dedicate a police team to monitor illegal construction, and Control and Protection Plans are being developed for each Chowkri, starting with Modikhana Chowkri, to strengthen community engagement;
- A Community Consultation Centre has been established to encourage public participation. The SAHP work is being conducted in partnership with relevant institutions and subject experts;
- A detailed Interpretation and Tourism Plan have been developed to enhance visitor experiences;
- Four notable on-going projects reported are the redevelopment of Kishanpole College, the extension of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, the conservation of Baoris/ Bawaris (stepwells), and the Jaipur Metro Rail with stations outside Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar.

On 14 November 2023, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party, in line with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, following third-party reports of the demolition of numerous historical buildings as well as the encroachment of commercial buildings within or in the vicinity of the property, which might result a negative impact on the OUV of the property. At the time of writing this report, the State Party has not yet responded to this request.

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

The State Party's efforts to finalize the SAHP, intended as the Site Management Plan, with an expected completion date of March 2025, are noted. To facilitate a comprehensive assessment, the Committee may request the State Party to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Recognizing the importance of proactive heritage management, the State Party may also be encouraged to prioritize the plan's implementation upon completion and request a detailed timeline and implementation strategy, including progress benchmarks.

The State Party's ongoing work on the detailed base plan and inventory of attributes that contribute to the OUV is duly noted. The Committee may urge the State Party to expedite this process and provide a clear timeline for its completion, and to transmit the inventory, with the underlying process implemented, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The third-party reports on the demolition of numerous historical buildings as well as the encroachment of commercial buildings within or in the vicinity of the property, raise serious concerns regarding the maintenance of the OUV of the property. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies are concerned that the State Party is yet to provide any response or information concerning the request for further information contained in the Paragraph 174-letter, dated 14 November 2023. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit this information as a matter of urgency, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The apparent lack of enforcement and oversight by responsible authorities threatens the integrity of the property. The operational capacity of the Heritage Cell remains a concern, as its structured composition includes conservation architects, town planners, and a transport planner, yet these experts are engaged only on a need basis, with no permanent personnel appointed. As a result, critical tasks such as commissioning HIAs, adaptive reuse projects, and the preparation of inventories and conservation reports remain unfulfilled. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to provide updated details on the composition, staffing, and engagement process of the Heritage Cell, along with the status of the proposal for permanent posts submitted to the State Government, and clarify interim measures to ensure the Cell's functionality until permanent appointments are made.

The 2024 State Party report mentions the Redevelopment of Kishanpole College and the Extension of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital as ongoing conservation projects. Similarly, the Conservation of Baoris/Bawaris and Jaipur Metro Rail with stations from outside Badi Chaupar to Transport Nagar are listed as ongoing, while their Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are still in process. The Committee may seek clarification on the criteria used to determine which projects undergo HIA and at what stage of development the HIA is initiated, to ensure consistent application of heritage protection measures. Regarding the pending Jaleb Chowk Redevelopment Project, the Committee might request the State Party to provide details on whether an HIA is being conducted. Information on all these projects should be provided to the World Heritage Centre under the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The State Party's 2024 Report includes HIAs for the Anaj Mandi car parking area and the multilevel parking facility at Chaugan Stadium. However, the HIA documentation indicates that works were either underway or completed prior to the commencement of the HIA. The Committee may request information on the current status of the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the HIAs. The State Party is urged to ensure that HIAs are undertaken before project commencement in the future.

The State Party may be requested to provide details on how its existing HIA process is being updated to reflect the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context.

In accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should be urged by the World Heritage Committee to submit information on any ongoing or planned works within the property or its buffer zone that may affect the OUV to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

In summary, detailed information on conservation projects, HIAs, and the SAHP is needed to ensure the property's effective management and protection. The lack of personnel in the Heritage Cell and reports of historic house demolitions raise serious concerns about enforcement and site integrity. The Committee may urge the State Party to address these issues, ensure strict heritage protection, and provide comprehensive updates on conservation efforts.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.41**, adopted as its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party in advancing the Special Area Heritage Plan (SAHP) as Jaipur's Site Management Plan and the identification of the attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit the final SAHP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and provide a detailed implementation strategy and timeline for its execution;*

5. Urges the State Party to expedite the completion of the detailed base plan and inventory of attributes that contribute to the OUV of the property and to submit a clear timeline for its completion;
6. Notes with concern reports of the demolition of historic houses within the World Heritage property, indicating a lack of enforcement of heritage protection measures, and also requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the extent of these demolitions, the legal framework for their prevention, and the measures taken to mitigate further losses;
7. Expresses concern over the operational capacity of the Heritage Cell and further requests the State Party to provide updated details on the composition, staffing, and engagement process of the Heritage Cell, along with the status of the proposal for permanent posts submitted to the State Government, and clarify interim measures to ensure the Cell's functionality until permanent appointments are made;
8. Expresses serious concern that projects such as the Conservation of Baoris/Bawaris and Jaipur Metro Rail are listed as ongoing, while their Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are reportedly still in progress, and requests the State Party to clarify how these projects are proceeding without completed HIAs;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide detailed information of the above-mentioned two projects as well as the other three projects listed in the 2024 State Party's state of conservation report i.e. Redevelopment of Kishanpole College; Extension of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital; and the pending Jaleb Chowk Redevelopment Project, including their objectives, conservation methodologies, and the status of HIAs, for review by the Advisory Bodies and ensure that all projects are subject to HIA review before implementation;
10. Also requests moreover the State Party to submit an update on how the HIA process is being revised to align with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, including details on institutional responsibilities, review mechanisms, and enforcement measures;
11. Also urges the State Party to provide information, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse; and further urges the State Party to ensure that HIAs are completed and reviewed prior to the commencement of any development projects;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

72. Mountain Railways of India (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001 to 2004)

Total amount approved: USD 58,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 533,332 via a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust project by the Indian Railways, set up at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi for the establishment of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Framework (2021)

Previous monitoring missions

December 2019: Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents> and presents progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its 43rd (2019), extended 44th (2021), and extended 45th (2023) sessions, as follows:

- The report covers the state of conservation of all three component parts of the property: the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR), and the Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR);
- The report indicates that heritage experts are engaged on a need basis for the DHR;
- The State Party has classified the restoration works at Ghum and Darjeeling railway stations along the DHR as minor activities, stating that they do not constitute 'major restoration and new construction' and have no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- The report provided some fragments of information on the maintenance and conservation of mechanical heritage components, such as historic rolling stock and steam locomotives;
- The report indicated that there are no plans for privatisation across the three railways;
- The mapping of property boundary and buffer zone boundaries are ongoing and will be submitted in the near future;
- The CCMP (Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan) for the DHR has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre along with comments from Indian Railways. The CCMP for the KSR is being prepared. The CCMP for the NMR is yet to be started.

On 31 August 2021, 24 June 2022 and 13 February 2025, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party, in the framework of Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, following third-party reports of the potential transfer of operation and management of the DHR from the Government to the private sector, and of major proposed conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works as well as infrastructure development projects in the vicinity of the property. At the

time of writing this report, the State Party is yet to respond to these requests, other than the statement in the State Party SOC that there are no plans for privatisation across the three railways.

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

The State Party's ongoing efforts in documenting and preserving the heritage of the Mountain Railways are appreciated. However, as highlighted in previous reports, while the three railways have outlined their management systems for heritage conservation, the degree to which professional heritage expertise is involved within the systems remains unclear. According to the above-mentioned state of conservation report submitted by the State Party, heritage experts are engaged on a need basis for the DHR, whereas the KSR and NMR do not indicate any inclusion of heritage expertise in their management units or decision making. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies would like to reiterate their concerns about the absence of full-time, in-house heritage conservation professionals, which has been requested by the World Heritage Committee since the property's inscription in 1999, as it might jeopardise the ongoing appropriate decision-making required for protection and transmission of the property's OUV.

The draft CCMP proposes a buffer zone and significant changes to the management system to control spatial planning impacting the property and the buffer zone. These policies mean that the final adoption of the proposed boundaries would be delayed to enable their parallel adoption by other planning authorities with a role in their management, but a timeframe for this process is not provided. The policies recommend the development of a "heritage conservation unit", as requested by the Committee, but the staffing of this unit by full-time heritage experts or consultant experts is not clear. The CCMP indicates the need for better coordination and presentation between the three component railways, proposes adoption of HIA processes, strengthening of heritage protection, and skills retention and capacity building in railway maintenance and operations, which are the issues the Committee should encourage and seek a timeframe for implementation. It is recommended that the Committee request further information relating to commitment of the State Party to the adoption and implementation of the Draft CCMP for the DHR and provide a timeframe for this implementation.

While the State Party has classified the restoration works at Ghum and Darjeeling railway stations, along the DHR line, as minor activities without any impact on the property's OUV, it should nonetheless be requested to submit a detailed report on these restoration efforts, especially a technical audit report or similar documentation, along with photographs to provide a comprehensive overview of the work completed. Additionally, third-party reports indicate that similar conservation activities have been carried out at Kurseong station on the DHR line, where part of the station has reportedly been converted into a restaurant. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies regret that no prior information regarding these developments has been shared. Furthermore, various third-party reports raised concerns about the redevelopment plans for Udhamchand (Ooty) and Coonoor railway stations along the NMR line, which may compromise the heritage character of these historic stations. Additionally, various third-party reports received by the World Heritage Centre indicate that major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works along with infrastructure development activities that may pose a threat to several component parts continues; this prompted the World Heritage Centre to send a letter dated 13 February 2025 to the State Party expressing concerns in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to urgently provide detailed information about these activities. Additionally, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide comprehensive information on the maintenance and conservation of mechanical heritage components, such as the property's historic rolling stock and steam locomotives.

The State Party's report indicates that there are no plans for privatisation across the three railways. However, third-party information and media reports, submitted to the World Heritage Centre, on the announcement of the 'National Monetisation Pipeline 2021', accompanied by photographic evidence, prompted the World Heritage Centre to send two requests for information to the State Party, dated 31 August 2021 and 24 June 2022, in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies are concerned that the State Party is yet to provide any response or information concerning the privatisation efforts, despite the fact that they may have a negative impact on the conservation of the property. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit this information as a matter of urgency, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the mapping of property boundary and buffer zone boundaries for the KSR and NMR are ongoing and will be submitted soon. The Committee may wish to request State Party to provide a timeline for the completion of the mapping of property boundary and buffer zone boundaries.

A review of the draft CCMP of the DHR was submitted ahead of its finalisation, and it is noted that the CCMP for the KSR is being prepared and that of the NMR remains to be started. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide a timeline for the preparation and implementation of all three CCMP, along with the finalised Built Heritage Manuals for all three railways, and urge the State Party to expedite this process.

In summary, while efforts are being made to preserve the heritage of the Mountain Railways, significant gaps persist in terms of in-house professional heritage expertise and renovation practices lacking heritage input, compounded by key issues such as potential privatisation and infrastructure development that may have a significant impact on the property and its OUV.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.62**, **44 COM 7B.26** and **45 COM 7B.161**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Reiterates again its request that the State Party establish full-time, in-house heritage conservation expertise to strengthen the management and conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes the submission by the State Party of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) and requests the State Party to provide information confirming its commitment to the policies in that document as well as a timeframe for implementing each of the policies, as follows, before the Plan is formally adopted:*
 - a) *Supporting the proposed buffer zone and amended property boundaries recommended in the CCMP,*
 - b) *Developing a Coordination Committee to facilitate liaison with the authorities responsible for spatial planning in the proposed buffer zone,*
 - c) *Agreeing Memorandum of Understanding with those authorities on the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and management in the buffer zone,*
 - d) *Establishing a 'heritage conservation unit' with full-time professional heritage staff within the DHR or Zonal North Frontier Railway,*
 - e) *Establishing a Mountain Railways of India Coordination Committee to liaise on matters of interest to the three components of the property,*
 - f) *Adopting Heritage Impact Assessment processes for developments that have a potential to adversely impact on OUV,*
 - g) *Skills retention and capacity building in railway maintenance and operations;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to provide, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive information about the following:*
 - a) *The civil works carried out at Ghum, Darjeeling and Kurseong railway stations of the DHR, including photographs,*
 - b) *The maintenance and conservation of mechanical heritage components, such as the property's historic rolling stock and steam locomotives,*

- c) *The implementation of the National Monetisation Pipeline 2021, as it may affect the property, and any guidelines established to safeguard the property's OUV;*
6. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, information regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;*
7. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide a timeline for the following activities and urges the State Party to expedite these processes:*
- a) *The completion of the mapping of the property's boundaries and buffer zones of the Nigiri Mountain Railway (NMR) and the Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR),*
- b) *The preparation and implementation of CCMP along with finalised Built Heritage Manuals for all three railways — DHR, NMR and KSR;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

73. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1670/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1670/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- impacts of the increasing air pollution on the sculptures
- need to improve the conditions of the historical remains and significant views in the buffer zone of the Channakeshava Temple component part
- need for a holistic interpretation plan and tourists' amenities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1670/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1670/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2023 is presented as follows:

- Monitoring the impacts of increasing air pollution on the three temples and their sculptures will be undertaken by the team from the Air Pollution and Stone Conservation Laboratory, Science Branch of Archaeological Survey of India;
- The community involvement in the conservation and management of the property has been enhanced by organising awareness activities, employing local people in conservation work, and maintaining local people as members of the temple community at Channakeshava Temple in Belur;
- The Vishusamudra Tank has been declared a State Protected Monument, with conservation and beautification work undertaken at the site and nearby historic remains;
- Tourist amenities such as toilet, drinking water, and baby feeding room have been developed and upgraded;
- Permanent Interpretation Centres have been established at both Halebidu and Somanathapura, and a temporary one has been set up at Belur, which is envisaged to be turned into a permanent one.

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

The State Party has made progress in responding to the World Heritage Committee's decision at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2023, which is commendable.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note with appreciation the progress made in encouraging community involvement in the conservation and management of the property, improving the conditions of the historical remains and significant views in the buffer zone of the Channakeshava Temple in Belur, upgrading the tourist management facilities, and establishing the Interpretation Centres.

The Channakeshava Temple in the town of Belur, is surrounded by roads on all four sides. Meanwhile, the Hoysalasvara Temple is located on the south-eastern fringe of the city of Halebidu, with a major road that has heavy vehicular traffic running to the west of the temple. Most vehicles use diesel as the main fuel. The source of air pollution is mainly from both activities associated with the large-scale tourists' movement to the temples during the pilgrimage and traffic. The Committee recommended for the State Party to monitor the impacts of the increasing air pollution on the sculptures of the temples and develop mitigation measures. While the State Party has committed to monitoring air pollution, focus should be placed on the impact. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to develop mitigation measures based on the outcomes of the monitoring.

The establishment of the site interpretation at the three temples is noted with appreciation. Nevertheless, information on what is presented and interpreted at these centres is absent. Being a serial property, all the component parts share the same values of the property, and at the same time, each one shows its own values and its own contribution to the overall Outstanding Universal Value. This is commonly archived through holistic interpretation planning. Therefore, the Committee may wish to reiterate their recommendation to the State Party to develop and implement a holistic interpretation plan for the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.38** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in encouraging community involvement in the conservation and management of the property, improving the conditions of the historical remains and significant views in the buffer zone of the Channakeshava Temple in Belur, upgrading the tourist management facilities, and establishing the Interpretation Centres;*
4. *Recalling its request, invites the State Party to develop a holistic Interpretation Plan and submit them for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Appreciates the State Party's commitment to monitoring the impact of the air pollution on the sculptures of the components of the property, and encourages it to develop mitigation measures based on the outcomes of the monitoring;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

74. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998 to 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,000,000 under the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign for Borobudur (1972-1983); USD 35,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to provide technical support for the enhancement of the management effectiveness (2005-2006); close to USD 2,000,000 between 2011 and 2020 in the framework of the Emergency safeguarding activities for the Borobudur Temple Compounds implemented by UNESCO Office in Jakarta with funding support from the Federal Republic of Germany and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and other partners.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2003 and February 2006: reactive monitoring missions; September 2007 and October 2008: UNESCO expert missions; December 2024: a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Development projects for tourism facilities);
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of clarity in governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities; Incomplete tourism and management documents);
- Legal framework (Non-compliance with processes and procedures of the Operational Guidelines).

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/>

Current conservation issues

Although the State Party did not submit the state of conservation report requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place from 2 to 6 December 2024, in line with Decision **45 COM 7B.162**. The mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/documents> and provides the following information:

- The previously-reported major development projects (Area Marking Gates, Cultural Axis Path, Concourse Area, Kujon Precinct) have been completed, except for two programmes which are part of the Cultural Axis Path and have been cancelled;
- Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 assigns Borobudur, Prambanan and Ratu Boko Temple Tourism Park Limited Company (PT TWC), a State-owned agency, as an integrated management entity responsible for protecting, developing and utilising Borobudur as a World Heritage site and supersedes Presidential Decree No. 1 of 1992;
- The Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP) and the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP) have not yet been revised in conformity with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2024;
- The draft Management Plan has not yet been finalised;
- The roles and responsibilities of the government agencies responsible for the conservation and management of the property are unclear, even between the Ministries and agencies involved;
- Several inconsistent zoning mechanisms apply to the property and the surrounding area;
- There is inadequate engagement and communication with the local community in decision-making processes;
- The local community has been affected by the relocation of parking and vendor areas to Kujon Precinct.

The mission concluded that the property maintains the major attributes that support and convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and retains its authenticity and integrity, and that, therefore, the property is not subject to ascertained or potential danger as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

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

The State Party did not address the Committee's repeated requests to halt construction of a series of significant projects, which are now complete. However, the December 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that the property's OUV was not affected by these projects and that its overall state of conservation remains satisfactory. Nevertheless, if the State Party had followed the procedures set in the Operational Guidelines and complied with the Committee's previous requests, more timely and appropriate advice could have been provided, resulting in better project outcomes, including refinements to the Concourse project, which now warrants a design review. The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of its obligations under Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and Article 4 of the Convention, and that tourism and development activities shall not take place in a manner that would be detrimental to the requirement to conserve the property's OUV. This is particularly relevant given the new responsibilities of PT TWC. In view of the response from local communities to the Kujon project and its effect on re-located vendors, attention should also be drawn to the importance of community engagement.

Multiple regulations and inconsistent zoning definitions obscure the responsibilities of the ministries and stakeholders responsible for conservation and management of the property. The Management Plan currently under development should become the baseline document that guides property management and the State Party should revise the draft Management Plan to align with Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 and the findings and recommendations of the mission. The revised Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies before being finalised and adopted by the State Party.

Managing tourism remains a fundamental challenge for this property. An important issue raised at the time of inscription, was that the property's atmosphere may be compromised by inadequate control of

commercial activities and pressures arising from the absence of an effective tourism management strategy. The mission observed that the ITMP BYP and the BVMP should become important tools which address the tourism pressures on the property and that both need to be revised in line with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2024.

The Committee may wish to request the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the mission, including matters outlined above, but also review of the resources available for conservation of the property, a program of 'capacity building', preparation of a risk management and disaster preparedness plan, reviews of the Concourse public domain and the operations of the Kujon area to provide greater support for vendors; and improved engagement with the local community.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.162**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property by the deadline requested in the aforementioned Decision;*
4. *Notes and endorses the conclusions of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission invited by the State Party in December 2024, takes note of the mission's finding that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remains intact despite some development projects carried out without the necessary impact assessments, and requests the State Party to implement fully the mission recommendations, including:*
 - a) *Clarification of governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities,*
 - b) *Review of the resources available for conservation of the property,*
 - c) *A programme of capacity building,*
 - d) *Preparation of a risk management and disaster preparedness plan,*
 - e) *Review of the Concourse public domain,*
 - f) *Review of the operations of the Kujon area to provide greater support for vendors,*
 - g) *Improved engagement with the local community;*
5. *Also regrets that the State Party has completed a series of significant projects within and around the property, despite its repeated request to halt construction and carry out the appropriate assessments, and reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, including Heritage Impact Assessments undertaken in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;*
6. *Also takes note that Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 assigns considerable responsibility to the Borobudur, Prambanan and Ratu Boko Temple Tourism Park Limited Company, and recalls that the responsibility for the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the property and its OUV is vested in the State Party, in line with Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention, and that tourism and development activities shall not take place in a manner that is contradictory to this responsibility;*

7. *Also requests that the State Party revise the draft Management Plan for the property to reflect Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 and the findings and recommendations of the mission and submit the updated draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and ensuing adoption by the State Party;*
8. *Notes with concern that the issues addressed at the time of inscription regarding the lack of control over commercial activities and the pressure resulting from an inadequate tourism management strategy are yet to be adequately addressed, and therefore further requests the State Party to update the Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP) and the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP), taking into consideration the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2024 and the findings and recommendations of the mission;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.*

75. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iii)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2001)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 20,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust provided for preparatory assistance to the nomination process (2001).

Previous monitoring missions

January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems (Vulnerability of the Subak system)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Lack of support for traditional farming systems and of benefits that would allow farmers to stay on the land)
- Land Conversion (Protection of the setting of the landscape to protect the water source that underpins the Subak system)
- Housing (Development pressures)
- Governance, Management systems/management plans (Lack of functioning governance system to implement the Management Plan, Absence of a strategic tourism plan)
- Society's valuing of heritage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/> and reports the following:

- Legal frameworks for *Subaks* have been established. Law 15 of 2023 recognizes the importance of customary villages and *Subaks*, and Regional regulation Number 4 of 2023 outlines “Future Development Guidelines for Bali”. Also, initiatives have been launched, including to enhance the cultural ecosystem and financially support the implementation of customary activities and traditions;
- The promulgation phase of the designation of the National Strategic Spatial Plan for the *Subak-Bali Landscape Area* in Bali has begun;
- 3,008 *Subaks*, including 25 located within the property, have been re-registered;
- The guidance for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for this property will be prepared through a consultation process with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, followed by planned capacity-building activities in 2025;
- Nine Detailed Spatial Plans, which enables the Bendesa Adat (customary village leader) and Pekaseh (*Subak* leader) to provide recommendations regarding building permits within their jurisdiction, have been prepared in four areas;
- Since its inscription, the property has experienced significant impacts from tourism, leading to the development of new facilities; the Jatiluwih region, located in the Caturangga Batukaru landscape, has notably been greatly affected.

In a letter to the State Party dated 21 June 2024, the World Heritage Centre requested information on the loss of rice fields and its impact on *Subak* system in the property along with the latest land use map, in line with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party provided a response on 15 January 2025, which is incorporated in this report.

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

The current situation of the property is concerning, particularly in the Jatiluwih area, which has been significantly impacted by tourism and associated development pressures for over a decade. The State Party acknowledges that the *Subak* system of lands management that underpins rice terrace cultivation needs to be supported in order to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the overall identity of Bali, but also its extreme fragility. Since inscription, various measure has been taken to strengthen management, and particularly traditional management through the water temples. But these measures appear to be too little to stem the increasing over-tourism or to stop encroachment on rice fields, threats that could result in the loss or fragmentation of rice terraces and weakened *Subak* authority relative to local and national institutions, and could impact on attributes of OUV.

Specific details, such as the size of the lost rice field and the number of facilities developed remains unclear, and the latest communications from the State Party in January 2025 do not fully address the issues mentioned above.

The measures taken by the State Party are appreciated and include Law Number 15 of 2023 related to preservation of cultural heritage, which offers the opportunity for financial support. It is positive that the State Party provides various forms of support to maintain *Subak* and Balinese culture and has inscribed them as part of the property's legal framework, formally recognizing the importance of customary villages and *Subaks* and future development guidelines for Bali. However, it is unclear how these regulations ensure economic viability or help to properly distribute the profits generated from tourism to local communities, including the farmers who maintain the property's landscape. Supporting the economic viability of *Subak* farming is key to preventing further constructions and loss of rice fields.

Progress is reported on the designation of “The National Strategic Spatial Plan for the *Subak-Bali Landscape Area* in Bali” which should control land conversion and work on establishment of nine Detailed Spatial Plans is welcomed. Detailed Spatial Plans are expected to prevent inappropriate land use, as they ensure the community's engagement and encourage obtaining the community's consensus by giving *Subak* leaders the authority to put forward their opinions. But to be effective, these control measures will need to be supplemented by policies to actively support dynamic communities and their traditional practices that underpin the cultural landscape. Meanwhile, there appears to be increasing

tension between priorities for tourism and infrastructure development and those for protecting landscapes, as indicated by the moratorium on development promoted by the national parliament that was then reversed locally.

The highly sensitive and fragile *Subak* structures that underpin landscapes of small-scale irrigated rice terraces appear to be at a tipping point. Urgent action is needed to strengthen enforcement of permits and land sales regulations on the one hand and to enhance support for socio-economic-cultural community systems, within clearer national strategies for sustainable cultural tourism, cultural landscapes, and environmental principles on the other hand.

Therefore, the Committee should reiterate its request that the State Party submit a detailed report on tourism development, along with the latest land use map showing tourism facilities overlapped with the maps registered at the time of inscription. The Committee might wish to consider suggesting that the State Party invite an Advisory mission to fully assess the current state of conservation and to offer support for the development of a road map of measures necessary to address the interrelated potential threats that could impact highly adversely on the cultural landscape unless mitigation measures are introduced. Such a mission would appear to be timely as nine Detailed Spatial Plans are currently in the process of being defined and the National Strategic Spatial Plan for the *Subak*-Bali Landscape Area is still to be finalised.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.163, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's progress with the designation of "The National Strategic Spatial Plan for the Subak-Bali Landscape Area in Bali" and with the establishment of nine Detailed Spatial Plans, and also welcomes the State Party's various support measures implemented since inscription to maintain the Subak system and Balinese culture;*
4. *Notes with concern the impacts of tourism and associated development on the property, particularly in the Jatiluwih area, and the extreme fragility of the landscape; considers that the various measure have been taken to strengthen management, and particularly traditional management through the water temples, appear to be too little to stem increasing over-tourism or to stop encroachment on rice fields, threats that could result in the loss or fragmentation of rice terraces, and weakened Subak authority relative to local and national institutions, which could impact on attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
5. *Notes with concern that the highly sensitive and fragile Subak structures that underpins landscapes of small scale rice terraces appear to be at a tipping point and that urgent action is needed to strength enforcement of permits and land sale regulations on the one hand and on the other hand to enhance support for socio-economic-cultural community systems, within clearer national strategies for sustainable cultural tourism, cultural landscapes, and environmental principles, if this potential erosion of attributes is to be halted;*
6. *Urges the State Party to submit a detailed report along with the latest land use maps showing the loss of rice terraces and fragmentation of fields and development of tourism facilities overlapped with the maps registered at the time of inscription;*

7. *Encourages the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to fully assess the current state of conservation and to offer support for the development of a road map of necessary interventions to address the interrelated potential threats that could impact highly adversely on the cultural landscape unless mitigation measures are introduced; and also considers that such a mission would appear to be timely as nine Detailed Spatial Plans are currently in the process of being defined and the National Strategic Spatial Plan for the Subak-Bali Landscape Area is still to be finalised;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

76. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 13,321

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 5,710 Euros (France/UNESCO Cooperation Agreement, 2005)

Previous monitoring missions

July 2002: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2002: joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission; June 2004 and May 2005: fact-finding missions by the UNESCO Office in Tehran; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; June and December 2006, April 2007, October 2008, and October 2009: Advisory missions by the UNESCO Office in Tehran; March 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2013: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Underground transportation infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure (Vehicular and pedestrian traffic control)
- Housing
- Localised utilities (Urban sewerage and water infrastructure)
- Management systems/ management plan (Disaster Risk Management for anti-earthquake structural consolidation)
- Conservation issues involving elements of the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- Conservation work on the Emam Mosque Dome, also known as the Abbasi Grand Mosque, is in progress. The restoration of the external dome has been completed, and the proposed programme of architectural studies and documentation of the structure is outlined. However, implementation of the proposed programme is dependent on the availability of resources. The Emam Mosque work has been given priority in line with the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) Phase 1;
- The development of special structures for motorised and pedestrian access to the Meidan Emam continues. The southern section of the Naqah-e Jahan Square, which is the central area of the property, was closed to vehicular access by 1995, but the northern section was not successfully closed until 2019. The area immediately surrounding the property has also been pedestrianised;
- Regarding the water and sewage systems, a plan of prioritised work has been developed and indicates tasks and time needed to analyse and develop responses to rising and descending damp, as well as water and sewage systems leakages, adding up to 36 weeks of work;
- 12 projects have been identified to be carried out over a period of two years (2024-2026) as part of the DRMP. Eight of these projects apply to the entire property and include tasks such as preparation of risk assessment maps, zoning of existing damages and the first phase of the Fire Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Naqsh-i-Jahan Square. Three of these projects apply particularly to the Emam Mosque, including monitoring the deformation of the outer shell of the Abbasi Jami Mosque dome from inside and outside, and documentation of the Abbasi Jami Mosque by close range photogrammetry and laser scanning. The twelfth project identified relates to studies of the Abbasi Jami Mosque for conservation and restoration. This is a more comprehensive programme extending to 2028;
- Steps have been taken to centralise and digitise documentation, relying on trained personnel and modern infrastructure. Mid- and long-term goals include collaboration with universities and international institutions, development of educational programmes, and publication initiatives. Efforts toward systematic archiving and reporting have also been made, with the standardisation of conservation report formats, the initiation of periodic monitoring protocols, and the gradual digitisation of archival materials to address longstanding gaps in documentation and transparency;
- Comprehensive surveys of major monuments and the bazaar were conducted in 2020, and updated monitoring systems are in place. Parcel coding and monitoring in the buffer zone have also been enhanced for better urban conservation control;
- The updated Management Plan entitled *Meidan Emam World Heritage Site Management Plan 2021-2026*, has been provided in English.

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

Overall, the Committee may wish to commend the State Party for the steps taken to centralise and digitise documentation, its efforts towards systematic archiving and reporting, the initiation of periodic monitoring protocols, and the comprehensive surveys of major monuments conducted since 2020 that resulted in updated monitoring systems, including in the buffer zone.

The State Party report consists of five individual reports which describe progress on several conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee.

The Report on the conservation work for the Emam Mosque Dome provides a useful explanation of the issues and approaches to the conservation of the dome. While the first part of the report suggests that the restoration has been completed, the second part indicates that this only applies to the tiled exterior, and that there is still a programme of works required to analyse the structural problems of the building and dome in order to develop a solution. The exact nature of the work still needed is not clearly stated. Some work is ongoing, but there is no timeframe provided for its completion. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the conservation work on the Emam Mosque dome, request that the outstanding tasks identified in the report be undertaken, and that a work plan be prepared to address the tasks and provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The Report on the DRMP Phase 2 identifies 12 tasks that relate to the study of risks and the first phases in disaster management planning which are to be carried out over a period of two years (2024-2026). Given the range of tasks facing the property management process and the acknowledged limitations in

resource availability, this is a substantial undertaking. The DRMP has not yet reached the phase where the detailed actions to protect against risks, respond to disasters, and carry out post-disaster recovery processes have been documented. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for progressing the studies needed to develop the DRMP and urge it to move forward with these studies and draw on them to identify detailed actions to protect against risks, respond to disasters, and manage recovery processes in the next phase of the DRMP.

The Report on the Water system and sewage system prioritised work programme is limited to a single table and offers no prioritisation or commencement/completion dates for the identified works. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for further information on the prioritisation of tasks and proposed commencement and completion dates.

The Report on motorized and pedestrian access routes into the Naqsh-e Jahan Square and in surrounding areas clearly explains the evolution and gradual closure of vehicular access and the promotion of pedestrian access. Assurance from the State Party that, since 2019, all streets leading to the square have been pedestrianised, and that, from 2016, the streets within the property have also been pedestrianised, suggests that no further follow up by the Committee is required.

The *Meidan Emam World Heritage Site Management Plan 2021-2026* is a substantial document, which satisfies the Committee's request in Decision **45 COM 7B.164**. The Management Plan has been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and provides a sound basis for ongoing management of the property and buffer zone. The documentation provided indicates progress with the implementation of key priorities identified in the Management Plan. It is noted that the Management Plan will require review by the State Party in 2026-2027, at which time the demonstrated effectiveness of legal and management systems in implementing the Plan should be critically assessed.

The Management Plan provided makes no mention of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, even though these would appear highly relevant to some of the actions proposed. This omission should be resolved as a matter of priority in the revised Plan, and all major actions should be accompanied by a HIA in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The establishment of a documentation and archive centre, which includes digitization efforts and plans for university collaborations, long-term educational programmes, and publications should be welcomed, along with the State Party's effort to standardise conservation report formats and introduce periodic monitoring cycles, which represent a significant development toward institutionalising conservation monitoring. Similarly, these efforts should be reflected in the updated Management Plan.

It is also noted that issues such as unregulated urban development (e.g., in Aqanajafi Street) are being addressed through new strategies for zoning, documentation, and alignment with the Management Plan. These strategies should also be integrated into the revised Management Plan.

The Committee's request for information and a possible HIA on the proposed actions to address the issues reported at the Portico of Qeyssariyeh Gate was not addressed by the State Party in its report, and the Committee may therefore wish to reiterate its request in this regard.

Draft Decision 47 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.164**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the steps taken to centralise and digitise documentation, its efforts towards systematic archiving and reporting, the initiation of periodic monitoring protocols, and the comprehensive surveys of major monuments conducted since 2020 that resulted in updated monitoring systems, including in the property's buffer zone;*

4. Welcomes the completion of the Meidan Emam World Heritage Site Management Plan 2021-2026 and the submission of the English version for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, notes that the Management Plan will require review by the State Party in 2026-2027, and encourages the State Party to review, through this process, the demonstrated effectiveness of legal and management systems and make any necessary adjustments;
5. Notes that the Management Plan makes no reference to the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, urges the State Party to implement HIA processes for all major projects and actions that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and submit these for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and strongly encourages the State Party to include HIA processes in the revision of the Management Plan;
6. Commends the State Party for its progress with the studies associated with Phase 2 of the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) development process, urges the State Party to finalise these studies and draw on them to identify detailed actions to protect against risks, respond to disasters, and manage recovery processes in the next phase of the DRMP, and requests the State Party to submit these Phase 2 studies and any further planning for disaster protection, responses and recovery for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to the adoption and implementation of the DRMP;
7. Notes the submission of the outlined water system and sewage system prioritised work programme, and reiterates its request that a prioritisation of tasks and proposed commencement and completion dates be submitted as soon as possible, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Notes the submission of a report on motorised and pedestrian access routes, and welcomes the State Party's assurance that motorised transport has been eliminated from the Naqsh-e Jahan Square and that the former roads within the square and in the immediately surrounding area have been fully pedestrianised;
9. Commends the State Party on the conservation work on the Emam Mosque dome, and requests that the outstanding tasks identified in the report be undertaken, and that a work plan to address the tasks be prepared and provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information on proposed actions to address the conservation of the Portico of Qeyssariyeh Gate, which should be supported by a HIA carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
11. Requests the State Party to provide the documentation requested in the points above to the World Heritage Centre, as and when it becomes available, and well ahead of its next report to the World Heritage Committee, and to work closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to incorporate their feedback during the finalisation of these key documents for the management and conservation of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

77. The Persian Caravanserai (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1668/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1668/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management systems / Management plan (Management plan to be strengthened)
- Legal framework (Ensure that laws and regulations that apply to the buffer zones are strictly enforced)
- Commercial development (General guidelines to be issued for the adaptation of the caravanserais to incorporate modern commercial and hospitality functions)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1668/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1668/documents/>, and provides the following information in response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee adopted at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List:

- Several caravanserais are undergoing boundary revisions to incorporate surrounding structures, ensuring the inclusion of ancillary features such as water reservoirs, postal relay stations (*chapar khanehs*), and historical trade elements;
- Caravanserais such as Chehel Payeh and Izadkhast have been identified as candidates for boundary extensions, with proposals integrating key historical features such as adjacent bridges, towers, and wells that were previously excluded;
- A new monitoring system with standardised indicators and digital records is being developed, allowing real-time tracking of conservation status, threats, and maintenance needs across the 54 listed caravanserais;
- Strict enforcement of buffer zone regulations is being carried out to prevent encroachment, illegal construction, and environmental degradation around the caravanserais;
- Guidelines for adaptive reuse have been established, allowing caravanserais to be repurposed for hospitality, cultural events, and commercial functions while maintaining their architectural integrity;
- The development of a Management and Conservation Plan is in progress, aimed at reinforcing legal protections, defining conservation priorities, and establishing long-term maintenance strategies;
- Efforts are being made to streamline governance structures, ensuring improved coordination among local authorities, heritage professionals, and national agencies through a clear decision-making framework;

- A comprehensive disaster risk preparedness strategy has been incorporated, addressing risks such as earthquakes, floods and human-induced damages with both macro- and micro-scale assessments;
- Local heritage councils have been established in 24 provinces, ensuring community-based management, oversight, and active participation in the conservation of caravanserais;
- Plans are underway to integrate historical tourism activities, including horseback travel routes, storytelling tours, and interactive cultural experiences to enhance visitor engagement while respecting conservation principles;
- Training programs for local communities, artisans, and site managers are being developed, promoting sustainable practices and increasing local employment opportunities within the heritage sector;
- Conservation and restoration efforts adhere to international best practices and incorporate the guidance from UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, ensuring high standards in material preservation, structural stability, and authenticity.

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

The State Party has made commendable progress in addressing the recommendations set out in Decision **45 COM 8B.11**. Significant efforts have been made to revise the boundaries of some component parts, strengthen the management framework, enhance monitoring systems, and improve conservation measures. However, certain aspects require further refinement and implementation to fully align with the Committee's requests.

Regarding the revision of boundaries, the State Party has provided a detailed assessment of the surrounding elements associated with the caravanserais, proposing to integrate significant structures into the property where feasible. Cases such as Mazinan and Koohpayeh caravanserais have successfully incorporated ancillary features, while others, including Chehel Payeh and Izadkhast, are undergoing modifications to expand their boundaries. Nevertheless, the Committee may wish to request that the finalised boundary adjustments be formally submitted to the World Heritage Centre for its approval as a request for a minor boundary modification in line with its earlier Decision.

The development of a comprehensive Management Plan has been a key focus, with structured governance arrangements and defined decision-making processes being put in place. The State Party's report indicates that the engagement of local authorities, academic institutions, and technical experts has strengthened the collaborative approach to site management. The inclusion of a disaster risk preparedness strategy is particularly noteworthy, as it has the potential to address the sites' vulnerabilities posed by natural and anthropogenic threats. While these initiatives indicate significant progress, the timely completion and effective implementation of the management plan will be essential to ensure that conservation objectives are met in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

Efforts to enhance monitoring mechanisms have been well considered, with the introduction of a systematic approach incorporating cost-effective indicators, data collection strategies, and the establishment of a centralised documentation centre. The development of a standardised monitoring system, supported by local councils overseeing the properties, is a promising step toward ensuring the long-term preservation of the Persian Caravanserai. To further strengthen this initiative, the State Party could prioritise the integration of digital monitoring tools to facilitate real-time tracking and reporting.

In Decision **45 COM 8B.11**, the Committee had recommended that the State Party consider "issuing general guidelines for the adaptation of the caravanserais with regards to modern commercial and hospitality functions". In response, the State Party has outlined guidelines for integrating commercial and hospitality functions within the caravanserais while maintaining their historical integrity. Additionally, it reports that enforcement measures within buffer zones have been strengthened, preventing activities that may compromise the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). To support these positive developments, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to continue monitoring these initiatives to ensure that economic and tourism-related developments do not adversely impact the heritage fabric of the sites or the property's OUV.

The State Party's report that regular maintenance schedules have been introduced to mitigate the risk of deterioration, with conservation activities being planned in accordance with international best practices, is welcome. However, sustainable funding mechanisms should be further explored to support ongoing maintenance and conservation programs in the long term. Capacity-building initiatives targeting

local stakeholders, site managers, and craftspeople could also enhance the effectiveness of these efforts.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.11**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts in revising the boundaries and buffer zones of the component parts to include ancillary structures and expand protection areas, as well as for its progress in strengthening the property's management framework through governance arrangements, stakeholder coordination, and disaster risk-preparedness strategies;
4. Notes with satisfaction the establishment of a structured monitoring system with cost-effective indicators and a centralised data bank to facilitate comprehensive documentation and oversight of conservation activities;
5. Welcomes the development of adaptive reuse guidelines to help integrate sustainable tourism and commercial functions within the caravanserais while ensuring the integrity of their architectural and historical values, and encourages the State Party to continue enforcing buffer zone regulations to prevent any adverse impacts on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Acknowledges the introduction of regular maintenance schedules for the component sites, and recommends that the State Party further strengthen financial mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives to support long-term conservation efforts;
7. Recalling its recommendation at the time of inscription that the State Party urgently revise the boundaries of the component parts to include the immediate surroundings of the caravanserais and important ancillary buildings related to each and submit a minor boundary modification request, urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at its earliest convenience, such a minor boundary modification request in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Requests the State Party to finalise the draft Persian Caravanserai Management Plan (2025-2030) as soon as possible following the review of the minor boundary modification by the World Heritage Committee, ensuring that it fully addresses the governance, conservation, monitoring, and sustainable tourism strategies, as outlined in its aforementioned Decision, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Requests the State Party to ensure that the monitoring system is fully operational and that comprehensive data collection is regularly conducted, and encourages it to rely on the use of digital tools where appropriate;
10. Requests the State Party to continue engaging with local communities, experts, and heritage professionals in the ongoing management and conservation of the caravanserais, particularly in implementing best practices for adaptive reuse and sustainable tourism and issuing general guidelines for the adaptation of the caravanserais with regard to modern commercial and hospitality functions;

11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, 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 49th session.*

78. Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Ground transport infrastructure (Planned electrification of the Tehran-Garmsar-Bandar-e Torkaman line)
- Governance (Full involvement of communities, stakeholders and rights holders)
- Management systems/ management plan (Need for documentation, monitoring and conservation of historic buildings and other elements no longer in use; Need for inventories and documentation of all material heritage attributes)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1585/documents/> and provides the following information in response to the World Heritage Committee's previous decisions:

- Architectural inventories of railway stations and related heritage buildings have been completed for both the northern and southern sections of the Trans-Iranian Railway. These inventories include identification cards detailing historical significance, design elements, and current conditions;
- Master plans for the conservation of key railway stations have been developed, integrating recommendations from heritage specialists to ensure authenticity and integrity;
- Architectural restoration activities have been initiated, focusing on key structures that require urgent intervention. Heritage conservation experts approved by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts are guiding the restoration work;
- A comprehensive inventory of engineering structures—including bridges, tunnels, and retaining walls—has been conducted, providing detailed documentation of their construction, historical context, and current condition. Restoration measures have been undertaken, including

reinforcement work on bridges and other critical infrastructure. Some projects have included traditional construction methods to maintain historical accuracy;

- Periodic monitoring and evaluation procedures have been established, incorporating structural assessments to ensure the long-term stability of these elements. These procedures include condition surveys and risk analysis to identify priority interventions;
- Following a policy reassessment, the electrification project for the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line has been deprioritised, reducing concerns about potential adverse impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Due to this policy shift, the associated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been suspended;
- A National Railway Museum is being established near Tehran Station, with feasibility studies completed and restoration efforts underway. The museum project includes efforts to collect and preserve historical railway artefacts—including documents, photographs, and equipment—to ensure the conservation of railway heritage. The content plan for the museum is being developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, ensuring that exhibits accurately reflect the historical and technical aspects of the railway;
- Local railway museums and interpretation centres are planned along the route, offering educational programs and exhibits;
- Conservation efforts have been designed to ensure public access, with plans for guided tours, interactive exhibits, and outreach programs to enhance public appreciation of the railway's heritage.

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

The State Party has made significant progress in responding to the Committee's requests, particularly in areas related to conservation planning, infrastructure monitoring, and interpretation initiatives. The completion of architectural inventories and master plans for key railway stations and related buildings represents significant progress, which should be welcomed. It is positive that these efforts have contributed to an improved understanding of the historical and cultural significance of the railway's structures and have informed ongoing restoration projects. The State Party has also carried out conservation activities with the guidance of heritage conservation architects, ensuring that the integrity and authenticity of buildings are maintained. Additionally, statistical monitoring has been implemented to track restoration progress, representing a systematic conservation management approach.

The inventory and documentation of engineering structures, including bridges, tunnels, and retaining walls, have also been conducted, aligning with the Committee's recommendation to ensure that engineering elements receive the same level of attention as cultural features. Moreover, the regular monitoring measures introduced to assess the structural stability of these elements should be welcomed, as they reinforce long-term conservation efforts. The Committee could request the State Party to submit both sets of inventories to the World Heritage Centre in order to complete the property's file.

One of the key concerns raised by the Committee was the potential impact of the planned electrification of the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line. The State Party has indicated that this project has been suspended due to a change in policy direction. While this decision alleviates immediate concerns regarding potential threats to the property's OUV, the State Party has not formally notified the World Heritage Centre of this suspension nor provided assurances that a HIA will be prepared should the project be revived. To ensure that the site's integrity is fully protected in the long term, it is recommended that the Committee request that the State Party submit an official update on the status of the electrification project and confirm its commitment to conducting an HIA in accordance with the 2022 *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* if plans resume in the future.

In addition to conservation and infrastructure monitoring, the State Party has made efforts to enhance interpretation and public engagement. The National Railway Museum project and its content plan, currently under development in collaboration with heritage authorities, should be welcomed. The Committee may also wish to encourage the State Party's intention to establish interpretation centres along the railway route to foster greater awareness of the site's historical significance and improve visitor experience and educational outreach.

Despite the State Party's extensive conservation efforts to date, there is limited evidence of active involvement from local communities, stakeholders, and railway workers. The Committee had

encouraged the State Party to ensure the full and effective participation of diverse groups in the management and interpretation of the site. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to establish a formal community consultation framework and integrate local narratives, oral histories, and traditional knowledge into interpretation initiatives. This would not only strengthen the site's connection with local communities but also ensure that its management reflects a more inclusive approach.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.13** and **45 COM 7B.165**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing its recommendations, particularly in completing architectural inventories, developing master plans for major stations, and undertaking conservation activities with the guidance of heritage conservation experts;*
4. *Welcomes the establishment of a comprehensive inventory of railway stations, related heritage buildings, and engineering structures, including bridges, tunnels, and retaining walls, as well as the regular monitoring measures put in place to assess their stability and condition;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit both sets of inventories to the World Heritage Centre in order to complete the property's file;*
6. *Takes note of the suspension of the electrification project for the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line, and requests the State Party to formally confirm this decision to the World Heritage Centre and, should the project be reconsidered in the future, to commit to conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Welcomes the progress made in the development of the National Railway Museum in Tehran, with a feasibility study completed and content planning underway in collaboration with heritage authorities, and encourages the State Party to establish interpretation centres along the railway route to enhance public awareness and education;*
8. *Regrets that limited evidence has been provided regarding the full and effective participation of local communities, stakeholders, and rights-holders in the management, conservation, and interpretation of the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to establish formal mechanisms for community engagement, ensuring that local voices, traditional knowledge, and historical narratives are integrated into site management and interpretation strategies;*
9. *Requests the State Party to develop a long-term monitoring strategy for the conservation and management of the property, including clear indicators to track restoration progress, the condition of engineering structures, and the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

79. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2018: USD 47,111 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project 'Technical support to the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in Turkestan, Kazakhstan, by introducing Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in Central Asia'

Previous monitoring missions

December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; May 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management System/Management Plan (Newly developed Master Plan; Conservation and Management Plan)
- Buildings and Development (Urban high rise/changes to skyline; Construction of a new mosque)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>. Progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- A three-year programme (2023-2025) was initiated to undertake comprehensive scientific research on the mausoleum, which included engineering and geological studies at the property and its buffer zone, inspection of the Mausoleum and its structure, hygroscopic monitoring and extensive investigations into the Mausoleum's dome and its stalactites;
- A monitoring centre has been established for the continuous monitoring of the Mausoleum, and the digitisation of archival material continues;
- The attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are defined in the Nomination Dossier, and the State Party provides a list of physical elements of the Mausoleum in its report;
- The restoration of the doors of the Gurkhana is ongoing, and the doors will be relocated to the exhibit of the Azret Sultan Museum-Preserve;

- A draft law titled 'On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan' aims to establish legal conditions for the city's development as a spiritual, cultural, and historical centre of Kazakhstan. The law, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre after adoption, includes regulations for cultural heritage protection, unified urban planning and architectural styles, tourism development, and upgraded transport and engineering infrastructure for better tourism accessibility;
- Under the aforementioned law, buildings exceeding a height of seven meters or incompatible with historical monuments in terms of scale, colour, and building materials are prohibited in a construction regulation zone;
- A designated archaeological monument reserve is planned to protect the archaeological monuments in the property, its buffer zone and the wider city, and a protection policy will ensure their periodic inspection;
- The Scientific-Methodological Council constituted in 2019 has been transformed into an Advisory Group with 18 members, which discusses survey results and formulates research directions;
- A Management Plan for emergency situations has been completed and officially adopted. A copy is included in the report.

On 22 April 2025, the State Party submitted, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Azret Sultan Reserve-Museum Territory Improvement Phase 5.1 (Archaeological Park) development, located in the buffer zone of the property, and in a component of the proposed boundaries of the Ancient Settlement of Yassy-Turkestan (Kultobe Settlement) component part of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination. This HIA is under review by ICOMOS at the time of writing the present report.

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

The investigative project to support the physical conservation of the Mausoleum is welcomed. Similarly, the proposed permanent monitoring programme with a central monitoring facility is a positive development and could enable a more targeted and effective conservation response. The information regarding the regular meetings of the Advisory Group (formerly the Scientific-Methodological Council) is also noted with appreciation.

However, it is regrettable that the State Party report does not address the Committee's request in Decision **45 COM 7B.42** regarding implementation of the February 2022 recommendations from the International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS), including modifying the new landscape around the Mausoleum due to its negative impact.

While the new Emergency Management Plan responds to one of IICAS's recommendations, it is unfortunate that it was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before adoption. The Plan is limited in scope and does not address the risk of earthquakes, despite the location's vulnerability to seismicity, and its relationship to the overall Management Plan is not defined. The State Party had previously committed to updating the Management Plan, outstanding since 2012, but no further information has been provided. ICOMOS reviewed the last draft submitted in 2020 and concluded that it lacked a clear articulation of the attributes conveying the OUV, failed to incorporate the buffer zone and wider setting in the context of urban development, and did not outline procedures for coordinating future initiatives and evaluating potential impacts on the property's OUV.

Furthermore, while the State Party's 2024 report includes an inventory of the attributes of the property, it does not meet the Committee's request to develop a comprehensive list of OUV-bearing attributes, nor does it provide an appropriate list of monitoring indicators. The list of attributes should also account for intangible elements such as location, setting, spirit and feeling. The State Party's limited analysis suggests intangible attributes are not considered in decision-making regarding conservation, management, and development. Consequently, the Committee may wish to reiterate its request that the State Party finalise, as a matter of priority, the revision of the Management Plan by extending its scope notably to include clearly defined attributes of OUV, a Disaster Risk Management Plan, and a Visitor Management Plan for the property.

While the restoration of the Gurkhana tomb doors is commendable, their reported removal from the property is noted with concern, as it would negatively impact an attribute of the property's OUV. The Committee may wish to request that the doors be reinstated in their original position.

The impact of the new law titled "On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan" remains unclear, including with respect to the Turkestan Master Plan. It is also not specified to which area the reported

seven-metre building height limit applies. Clarification of this law should be provided to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, so that the State Party can be assisted in aligning the law with the conservation of the property's OUV before its adoption.

The State Party has addressed only a limited number of items contained in Decision **45 COM 7B.42**. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests concerning the development of a full inventory of attributes conveying the property's OUV, including monitoring indicators, submission of updated details on the Turkestan Master Plan, and finalisation of a comprehensive Management Plan. The HIA for the Azret Sultan Reserve-Museum Territory Improvement Phase 5.1 will be reviewed by ICOMOS. In light of the location of the proposed development, which is located in the area that forms part of the Ancient Settlement of Yassy-Turkestan (Kultobe Settlement) component part of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination, it is imperative that the State Party not implement any components of this proposal until it has been reviewed by ICOMOS and agreement has been reached with the World Heritage Centre on its design.

It is recommended that the Committee express its serious concern regarding the ongoing development pressures around the property, changes to the special planning regime, the absence of a functional Management Plan capable of guiding future development, and the lack of full reporting on issues raised by the Committee. The Committee may also wish to request that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as a matter of urgency to assess the state of conservation, review the effectiveness of existing protection and management systems, examine development frameworks and ongoing projects in the buffer zone and wider setting, provide guidance to the State Party on identification of attributes, and to ensure future development supports the property and its OUV.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the three-year comprehensive scientific research programme (2023-2025), which includes various studies on the physical fabric of the Mausoleum, the outcomes of which are evaluated by the Advisory Group, which has replaced the Scientific-Methodological Council, on the preservation of the Khoja Ahmed Yasawi;*
4. *Also welcomes the establishment of a monitoring centre that allows for the continuous monitoring of the Mausoleum and the continuing digitisation of archival material, and notes with satisfaction that the Advisory Group holds regular meetings to discuss research and preservation strategies;*
5. *Notes that the draft law 'On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan' also aims to include regulations for cultural heritage protection and urban planning, including a height limit of seven metres for structures, but that the details provided do not allow for an assessment of the consequences of this new legislation for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests that the State Party provide further details of this law to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is adopted;*
6. *Acknowledges the submission of an adopted Management Plan for emergency situations, but considers that such a Plan should be aligned with the overall Management Plan for the property and, recalling that it has repeatedly requested the State Party to complete an update of the Management Plan for the property, reiterates its request that the State Party finalise the revision of the Management Plan by extending its scope and including:*

- a) *Clearly articulated attributes of OUV that need to be protected and managed, developed in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,*
 - b) *Principles and operationalisation measures for future development,*
 - c) *A Disaster Risk Management Plan,*
 - d) *A Visitor Management Plan for the property;*
7. *Commends the State Party on the restoration of the doors to the Gurkhana tomb, but requests that these doors be reinstated in their original position, as the removal of these attributes from the property would negatively impact its OUV;*
 8. *Also notes the submission in April 2025 of the Heritage Impact Assessment report on the Azret Sultan Reserve-Museum Territory Improvement Phase 5.1 project, which is currently under review by ICOMOS and, considering that this project is located in the territory of the Ancient Settlement of Yassy-Turkestan (Kultobe Settlement) component part of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination, further requests the State Party to not implement any components of this proposal until it has been positively reviewed by ICOMOS and an agreement has been reached with the World Heritage Centre on its design;*
 9. *Regrets that the State Party has not responded to several requests recorded in its previous decisions, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to:*
 - a) *Implement the recommendations of the February 2022 report by the International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS),*
 - b) *Ensure that the Master Plan recognises the OUV of the property, and includes a View Axis Protection Area that prohibits any new development within the area from exceeding the seven-metre height limit,*
 - c) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the amended Master Plan, including high-resolution copies of the 'Historical and Architectural basic plan' and the 'Master plan with the marked visual access protection zone', along with the relevant written regulations and any other relevant documentation, in one of the two working languages of the Convention (French or English);*
 10. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to inform it in due course, via the World Heritage Centre, about any projects that may affect the property's OUV, with necessary documentation based on rigorous independent impact assessment procedures before they are approved or implemented, and before any irreversible decision is made, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
 11. *Encourages again the State Party to request the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to provide on-site training and capacity building on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and assist it in improving its impact assessment practice;*
 12. *Expresses its concern regarding the continued conservation and maintenance of the OUV of the property due to the ongoing development pressures around the property, changes to the special planning regime, the absence of a functional Management Plan capable of guiding future development, and the lack of full reporting on issues raised by the Committee;*

13. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, review the effectiveness of existing protection and management systems, examine development frameworks and ongoing projects in the buffer zone and wider setting, provide guidance to the State Party on identification of attributes, and provide guidance to ensure future development supports the property and its OUV;*
14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, 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 49th session.*

80. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao PDR)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

81. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao PDR)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

82. Bagan (Myanmar)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1588/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1588/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 71,730 (2023-2024) from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for the project “Strengthening civil society emergency response actions for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar (following Cyclone Mocha)”

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Boundaries to be revised (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure developments, particularly including hotels
- Possible expansion of Bagan Airport

- Illegal constructions
- Disturbance of subsurface archaeological features through mechanical excavation
- Damage from extreme weather events
- Use of inappropriate tree species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1588/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, a report on the state of conservation was submitted, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/218523>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report as follows:

- Damage inspections and conservation activities were carried out following heavy rain in 2021, cyclone Mocha in 2023, and typhoon Yargi in 2024;
- Hydrological research continued and led to the rediscovery of 106 ancient lakes within the property in 2023-2024. Further research and restoration of the ancient water channels and ancient lakes are planned to help prevent and mitigate flood risks;
- Several meetings of the Bagan International Coordinating Committee (BICC) have been organised on different conservation issues until 2019; Since then, only meetings on specific projects were conducted with concerned partners and experts;
- Further progress has been made with the draft Bagan Hotel Strategy, and the detailed hotel assessment is ongoing;
- The Bagan Disaster and Risk Management Plan (DRMP) has been updated and is being implemented;
- The work of creating the Surface Archaeological Risk Map has been completed and the Micro-Level Archaeological Risk Mapping within the property area is continuing;
- Capacity-building activities on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) were undertaken, including basic HIA training for 34 departmental staff members at the Bagan Branch of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in September 2022;
- The plan to develop Bagan-Nyaung U Airport into an Eco Airport has been discontinued since 2021;
- The land survey and mapping for the “One Map” initiative have progressed and are ongoing. Cartographic data collection has been carried out in four out of the six villages within the property. Field research on Intangible Cultural Heritage within the Bagan Area (lacquerware and Ponma Kyi Nat festival) has been completed;
- The draft Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy has been updated and is attached as Annex 10 of the submitted report;
- An archaeological and geological assessment has been conducted on the previously-completed tree-planting project, reconfirming the negative impacts of the project.

On 28 March 2025, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck the Sagaing Region of Myanmar, with an epicentre close to Mandalay, causing significant loss of life and widespread destruction. According to the information submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to UNESCO dated 1 April 2025, only slight damage and minor cracks were identified in the internal walls of some pagodas and stupas in the Bagan region, and there was no significant structural damage. UNESCO continues to monitor the situation through its offices and partners in the region, and is planning an assessment mission on culture and heritage within the framework of a UN-led multisectoral assessment, with the support of the Heritage Emergency Fund, once conditions allow.

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

Progress in implementing the Committee's previous decisions and recommendations is to be commended, especially the progress achieved with several strategic documents, including the Bagan Hotel Strategy, the Bagan DRMP, the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy, and the “One Map” initiative. The timely inspections and interventions following cyclone Mocha and typhoon Yargi are also commendable.

There was no major review of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) in 2024, and the next revision is planned in 2029. It is recommended that once completed the documents mentioned above could be integrated into the IMF on the occasion of its next revision, to ensure awareness and the comprehensive integrated implementation with all concerned stakeholders.

Progress with the draft Bagan Hotel Strategy outlined in Annex 6 of the submitted report is welcome, and the Committee may wish to encourage the continuation of the associated work, especially halting construction and requiring HIA for hotel sites where construction has not yet started, or that are still in the early construction stages, so that all necessary actions are taken to avoid irreversible negative impact on the property. These HIAs should be carried out in conformity with the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. The Committee may also wish to request that a full draft of the Bagan Hotel Strategy be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review before it is finalised and formally adopted.

The update and implementation of the Bagan DRMP should be commended. However, while the hydrological research and rehabilitation of the ancient water channels to prevent flooding risks are welcome, the approaches used are a source of concern. In April 2024, the World Heritage Centre received third-party information on the extensive excavation and digging of ponds within the property, using heavy machinery, which may have compromised its integrity and authenticity. The information was transmitted to the Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to UNESCO, and a reply was received in July 2024, explaining that the activities are part of the project “Rehabilitation work in the ancient water channels and ancient lakes (tank)/ponds in Bagan”, which has been underway since 2023 and for which an HIA was conducted and identified no potential negative impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is regrettable that the project and the HIA were not shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review before any decision was made that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and it is important to ensure that any similar future works will not negatively impact on the attributes which support the property’s OUV. Decision **45 COM 7B.44** drew specific attention to the need to submit detailed information on both ongoing and future works, along with any associated Impact Assessments, to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Although the obligation to conduct HIA before the approval of any development project has been emphasised in several Bagan National Committee (BANGANCOM) meetings and decisions and some capacity-building activities were carried out and many HIAs are reported as being conducted, the submitted HIA reports do not follow the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and some development works around monuments observed in the expert mission report in October 2024 (Annex 2 of the received report), such as That Byin Nyu Temple, seem to have been commenced without conducting an HIA.

The completion of the Surface Archaeological Risk Map, which aims to inform development planning, is commended. However, the plans and projects mentioned in the report, including the draft Hotel Strategy and the project “Rehabilitation work in the ancient water channels and ancient lakes (tank)/ponds in Bagan”, seem not to have referred to this tool. The “Agriculture Strategy of Bagan Region” shows a picture of the map once as an illustration but does not mention it again in terms of making provisions that agriculture would not pose risks to sub-surface archaeology. The Committee may wish to emphasise the application of the Archaeological Risk Map in informing development plans, as an additional tool to the HIA, to avoid any negative impact on the archaeological remains.

An archaeological and geological assessment of the already completed tree-planting project was submitted, reconfirming its negative impacts on the property. However, no information on the impact and disturbance caused by the road construction project has been submitted in response to the Committee’s previous request. The landscape study for future greening programmes, also requested by the Committee, has yet to be submitted.

The continuing military actions also raise serious concerns over the state of conservation of the property. Since January 2025, UNESCO has been informed through third-party information of military operations in the Bagan region. UNESCO continues to monitor the situation through its Offices and partners in the region. The Committee may wish to urge all parties to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage.

The severe earthquake that struck the property in March 2025 is a major concern. In close coordination with GEA Turkish Search and Rescue and The Turquoise Mountain Organization in Myanmar, ICOMOS launched an urgent training session in Yangon to strengthen the skills of local professionals in damage assessment, documentation, and initial stabilisation, reinforcing the importance of timely and

coordinated heritage protection in the aftermath of natural disasters. Although extensive damage has been reported in the region, within the property itself, only slight damage and minor cracks in the internal walls of some pagodas and stupas have been reported to date. However, mortar cracking can lead to moisture ingress and extensive internal damage, especially during the imminent monsoon season. Although extensive damage has not been reported at the property, the Committee may wish to request that a damage assessment be conducted as soon as the conditions allow, and may wish to encourage support from the international community.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.20** and **45 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Expresses its profound sympathy and deepest condolences to the people of Myanmar for the tragic loss of life and damage caused by the devastating earthquake of 28 March 2025, and welcomes the international cooperation and support in response to the earthquake and for the recovery;*
4. *Requests UNESCO to continue monitoring the situation at the property and to facilitate a damage assessment as soon as the conditions allow, and calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of protective and/or repair measures that may be required to respond to the impact of the earthquake and previous extreme weather damage, with a view to preventing secondary damage after the earthquake from additional impacts during the upcoming monsoon season;*
5. *Recalls the need to ensure the authenticity of the property to guide repair and restoration works, and the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on all projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, for examination by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before decisions that are difficult to reverse are taken, in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Expresses its concerns over the impact of the military actions on the property and in its vicinity, and urges all parties associated with the military activities to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to the country's heritage, and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and those included in the Tentative List;*
7. *Appreciates the UNESCO project "Strengthening civil society emergency response actions for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar (following Cyclone Mocha)", funded by the Heritage Emergency Fund, which helped to train local communities and heritage and disaster risk mitigation professionals on emergency preparedness and response actions to cultural heritage in affected areas including the Bagan region;*
8. *Commends the progress made towards implementing its previous decisions and recommendations, including important strategic documents such as the Bagan Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy, and the "One Map" initiative; and emphasizes the*

effective implementation and application of the developed strategies and tools to inform development planning and decisions-making, to avoid negative impact on the property;

9. Welcomes progress made with the draft Bagan Hotel Strategy, encourages the continuation of work towards its completion and the implementation of key actions, especially including the suspension of construction and the commissioning of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for hotel projects where construction has not yet started or that are still at an early construction stage, to be carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, so that all necessary measures can be taken to avoid any irreversible negative impact on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); and requests that a full draft of the Bagan Hotel Strategy be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised and formally adopted;
10. Commends the update and implementation of the Bagan DRMP, but notes with concern the information submitted on the possible negative impacts of the approaches used to rehabilitate ancient water channels to prevent flooding risks, and requests that excavations using heavy machinery be halted and a detailed rehabilitation plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with an HIA report, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and that work does not recommence unless the project has been positively reviewed;
11. Notes that the next revision of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) is planned in 2029, and recommends the integration of newly developed management documents, including the Bagan Hotel Strategy, the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, and the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy, to strengthen awareness and ensure their full implementation;
12. Recalls the need to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments, HIAs, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, and reiterates the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on any ongoing and future works, including any development projects, and any restoration works for damage occurring within the property or its buffer zone that may affect the OUV of the property, along with any associated impact assessments, in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
13. Reiterates its request for submission of the following documents to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of urgency, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) An archaeological report on the ground disturbance caused by the recent road works and tree planting, as well as the recent water pond digging within the project “Rehabilitation work in the ancient water channels and ancient lakes (tank)/ponds in Bagan”, including an analysis of taphonomy, soil profiles and any artefacts exposed by the works, as requested in the ICOMOS Technical Review of the road construction and tree planting programmes and its previous decision,
 - b) A landscape study that characterises the landscape during key historical phases to assist with the identification of appropriate tree species for future greening programmes;
14. Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, of 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 48th session.

83. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amounts provided: 2006: USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; 2008-2023: 49,376 EUR and USD 125,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance; 2009-2024: USD 2,831,237 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

May 2004, November 2005 and March 2022: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions; UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Management activities
- Legal framework
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Commercial Development (Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple constructed in 2002 on the archaeological remains and the main sight lines of the property)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Air pollution
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Impact of water and other environmental conditions on the archaeological remains within the Maya Devi Temple Shelter
- Capacity of local management to deal effectively with major conservation challenges

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues is presented in this report, as follows:

- Re-burial of archaeological features and display of sacrificial brick layers is being considered for archaeological features within the Maya Devi Temple Shelter. Short-term remedial measures include removal of the lotus cover over the marker stone and the Temple Shelter ceiling. The condition of archaeological remains, water levels and microclimate are being monitored, under expert guidance, and training in monitoring has been provided. Improved drainage is being planned and a hydrological assessment report for the Temple Shelter was submitted for review. A conservation site laboratory is being established at the Lumbini Museum;
- Legal provisions will support Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), including compliance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, where appropriate, and HIA training has occurred in collaboration with ICOMOS Nepal and ICCROM;

- The Government of Japan supported four phases of the now-concluded UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) project from 2010 to 2024;
- The initial mandate of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for Lumbini is complete, but a new ISC is being established, and draft Terms of Reference have been submitted for review;
- Five draft Sector Strategies defined in the Integrated Management Framework have been prepared and submitted for review, covering: Archaeology, Local Development, Disaster Risk Management, Visitor Management and Buddhist Organisations;
- The Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) commenced preparation of a 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden', based on the Kenzo Tange Master Plan and an outline concept was submitted for comment. This Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to being adopted;
- Amendment of the *Lumbini Development Trust Act*, including updating the title of the Site Manager, must be passed by the Nepalese Parliament;
- An international conference is due to be held in Lumbini in April 2025 to review the protection and management of the property;
- A 15-kilometre protection zone has been established around the property to protect it from polluting industries;
- The Greater Lumbini Area lies outside the property, and although a "Heritage-led Master Plan" has not yet been prepared, management systems are being established to ensure protection of cultural heritage. The 'Conference Centre Guidelines' requested by the Committee are not relevant to protection of the property;
- The English version of the Committee's previously requested "Lumbini International Buddhist Conference and Meditation Center Operation and Management Guidelines" was provided as Annex 5 of the State Party report.

On 20 November 2024, the State Party submitted a HIA report for three proposed projects: a meditation platform within the inscribed property, a butter lamp shed within the buffer zone, and a new structure within the protected monument zone.

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

The State Party report outlines progress in implementing decisions of the Committee and recommendations from the ISC and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission. The report annexures include conservation and management documents, which might more appropriately have been submitted directly to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, allowing prior Technical Review.

The condition of the Sacred Garden and Maya Devi Temple Shelter continues to be of great concern, but the expert advice received, the programme of monitoring, temporary interventions and consideration of potential long-term solutions for conservation of archaeological features and management of the sub-surface aquifer are welcome. These initiatives should continue until the physical conservation of significant features can be assured, and the Committee should request that relevant information and documentation is progressively submitted to the World Heritage Centre for timely review and advice before permanent decisions are made. The hydrological report will be subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS and the State Party should be requested to submit the plans for improved drainage to the World Heritage Centre for separate Technical Review before any irreversible decisions are made. The HIA for three proposed projects within the property and its buffer zone is also subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS.

The commitment to undertaking HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context is welcome. The ISC has fulfilled an important role and its proposed new Terms of Reference will be reviewed, as will the five draft Sector Strategies that sit within the Integrated Management Framework for the property, namely: Archaeology, Local Development, Disaster Risk Management, Visitor Management and Buddhist Organizations. The Sector Strategy for Community and Sustainable Development should also be included in this process. The update on preparation of a 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden' is welcome and the outline concept is being reviewed by ICOMOS, and the complete draft Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for a full technical review prior to being finalized.

The Committee has previously expressed concern regarding the disparity between the capacity of the Lumbini Development Trust and the scale of conservation efforts required. While noting that some changes, such as updating the title of the Site Manager must be passed by the Nepalese Parliament, overall resourcing should also be addressed.

The Committee's interest in the Greater Lumbini Area arises through previous State Party advice about a proposed strategy and action plan extending to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama. The 15-kilometre pollution protection zone around the property is welcome, but the Committee may also wish to remind the State Party of its previous request to submit the strategy and action plan for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalized. The English version of the 'Conference Centre Guidelines' document was submitted in the Annex of the State Party's report. The Committee may wish to acknowledge the support contributed by the Government of Japan through four phases of the UNESCO/JFIT project from 2010 to 2024.

The condition of archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as per Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines; and the State Party should be encouraged in its efforts to secure the long-term conservation of the property. However, despite major efforts and the progress outlined in the State Party report, effective long-term mitigation measures to deal with the alarming deterioration condition of the Sacred Garden and Maya Devi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration are yet to be implemented. Important requests from previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 mission are yet to be fulfilled. In particular, the condition of the Sacred Garden and the archaeological features within the Maya Devi Temple Shelter remain at risk and the site manager may not have the capacity to deal with the evident challenges. The Committee may therefore wish to encourage the State Party and other partners to take a holistic approach with efforts focused on protection and management and urgent mitigation of potential or ascertained danger to the property's OUV.

It is noted that the State Party organized the Lumbini International World Heritage Conference (Lumbini, 23–24 April 2025), and that the LDT invited the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu to facilitate this conference, which brought together high-level officers from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation and the Department of Archaeology of Nepal, senior staff from the LDT, site managers, experts, and other stakeholders. The key objectives of the conference were to discuss the property's values as an archaeological site and a pilgrimage site, address concerns about the condition of the Sacred Garden and Maya Devi Temple Shelter, and provide advice about monitoring, temporary interventions and potential long-term solutions for the conservation of archaeological features and the management of the aquifer.

The State Party should be requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, assess the current condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter; and review the 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden'; the proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting and the development proposals.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 46 COM 7B.37, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),*
3. *Encourages the State Party in its efforts to secure the long-term conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that the State Party organized the Lumbini International World Heritage Conference in April 2025, which brought together high-level government officers, senior staff from the Lumbini Development Trust, site managers, experts, and other key stakeholders to discuss the property's values, address concerns about its condition, and provide advice about monitoring and possible mid- to long-term solutions to the property's challenges;*

5. Welcomes the continuation of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the property and notes that the draft Terms of Reference for the ISC will be subject to Technical Review by the ICOMOS;
6. Acknowledges the support contributed by the Government of Japan through four phases of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project from 2010 to 2024;
7. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Continue implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 ISC meeting, and to submit an updated schedule of progress with each recommendation,
 - b) Submit the proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalized;
8. Notes the submission of five Sector Strategy documents, which will be subject to Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies before they are finalized, and requests the State Party to submit the draft Community and Sustainable Development Sector Strategy as part of this process;
9. Notes the preparation of a 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden', and that the concept is being reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, requests that the complete draft of this Plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to being finalized, and reiterates its previous request to the State Party that projects arising from the review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden in Lumbini be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
10. Notes the update provided on the condition, monitoring, interim measures and proposals under consideration for the Sacred Garden and Maya Devi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to the ongoing threat of damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Maya Devi Temple Shelter, and that the hydrological assessment report for the Temple Shelter will be subject to Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Reiterates its concern that the condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as per Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests that plans for improved drainage and any other planned conservation initiatives are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review before any irreversible decisions are made;
12. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
13. Expresses concern regarding the disparity between the capacity of the Lumbini Development Trust and the scale of conservation efforts required at the property, and requests the State Party to further consider enhancing the overall resourcing;
14. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, assess the

current condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter; and review the 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden'; the proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting and the development proposals;

15. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2026, 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 48th session.*

84. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

85. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

86. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

87. Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,333

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2021-2025: USD 48,229 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for "Assistance to the World Heritage property of Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka)"

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka; December 1998: ICOMOS Monitoring mission to Dambulla, Kandy and Galle, Sri Lanka; March 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS

Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Newly (in 1999) constructed temple, alien to the World Heritage complex (issue resolved)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Impact of water ingress and other natural forces)
- Management systems / management plan (Lack of tourism strategy and interpretation)
- Pests (Impacts of insect activity)
- Others (Continued deterioration of the paintings; General deterioration of the Golden Temple)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/> and presents progress in a number of issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Starting to address all the 21 recommendations made by the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission by the State Party, point by point progress and current status of implementation has been provided;
- Attributes of the property have been identified and cross-referenced with management issues. This work will inform the 2027-33 Management Plan when it is drafted in 2025, which will also integrate climate change response and other issues currently being addressed;
- To improve governance, a mission statement is being drafted with the Management Committee that better defines the members' roles; while a summary of all stakeholders' obligations under the Antiquities Ordinance has been provided;
- The Department of Archaeology is planning an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Urban Development Authority (UDA) to further protect Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) from future inappropriate development;
- Field investigations and a drone survey have allowed the issue of water damage to be better understood, further detailed investigations, conservation measures and a monitoring plan are being planned;
- A UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust Grant has been received to implement a data collection project that can allow the monitoring of various issues facing the site and inform future planning;
- A Working Committee for Preventive Measures and Immediate Actions has been appointed to resolve the issue of using 3D laser scanning for documentation;
- Baseline information is being collected and existing monitoring documentation has begun to be digitized so that it can be used for analysing mural conservation conditions over time;
- Research has begun to identify all historical and current records related to the property and its management. Steps will be taken in 2025, when funding arrives, to develop a digital system containing all documentation and data, accompanied by staff training;
- A vision for visitor management has been developed and a Visitor Management Plan now needs to be implemented in consultation with the temple authorities, heritage experts and local authorities;
- Training is being planned for 2025 of guides to the property who can support visitor management;
- A Working Committee on the Demarcation of Property and Buffer Zone Boundaries has been established;
- It was decided to create the positions for one site officer and two site caretakers;

- An Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out by the Rajarata University regarding the proposed Kadawatha to Dambulla stretch of the Central Expressway Project, concluding there were no adverse impacts on the property or its buffer zone.

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

The State Party is to be commended for starting to address all the 21 recommendations made by the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission and is encouraged to obtain the necessary funding to ensure that progress continues.

In particular, it is positive to see action taken to address the urgent issue of water damage with a report already providing preliminary findings and ways forward. The welcome grant provided by UNESCO Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to measuring issues of humidity, surface water content, etc. will provide useful data to inform this work. The State Party is urged to take the recommended next steps as soon as possible so that conservation measures can be identified and implemented.

The work on multiple fronts to address the issue of systematic data collection and digital storage is encouraging. The identification and digitisation of existing documentation will provide a useful basis for analysis and provide additional depth to conservation monitoring datasets, among other advantages. The State Party is encouraged to consider the various resources needed to ensure that the digitised data can be used, so that necessary equipment, human resources and capacity building are provided.

The development of a shared vision of visitor management at the property, which encompasses the regulations and appropriate codes of conduct that would apply to all visitors, sensitive to the needs of pilgrims, with a series of actions to take, is also welcomed. However, it seems that this awaits implementation. The key management actors are encouraged to implement the identified activities and evaluate the effectiveness of this new approach to visitor management, adjusting it where necessary to find solutions that respect the spiritual importance of the property, as well as its conservation needs.

The upcoming process of preparing the next Management Plan for the period 2027-2033 is a critical one in light of efforts being taken to address such a range of management and conservation issues. Collaboration between the key actors in preparing this document will help develop a shared approach to the property's management and ensure that all the issues are addressed in a holistic and interconnected way. The 2023 mission recommendation for a thorough understanding of the property's heritage values and attributes is important for this work, and the Statement of OUV analysis and attribute identification should be taken forward as the foundation for the new Management Plan.

In parallel to preparing the next management plan collaboratively, work on improved governance should continue so that the more positive relationship between the Department of Archaeology and the Temple Authority can be reinforced.

Finally, with regard to the Central Expressway Project, it is noted that the Archaeological Impact Assessment concluded that there would be no adverse impacts on the property or its buffer zone. However, the fact that the property and buffer zone boundaries are currently being defined makes this a particularly delicate moment for the property. The 2023 mission report also noted the importance of looking not just at the construction of the road itself but also the urban and economic development that could be triggered by improved connectivity. These related issues would be best addressed in a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context. Therefore, it would be helpful if the State Party could submit the HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.173, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. *Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property and urges the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular addressing the conservation of the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Also welcomes the submission of a shared vision of visitor management at the property, which encompasses the regulations and appropriate codes of conduct that would apply to all visitors, sensitive to the needs of pilgrims, and requests the State Party to implement the identified activities and evaluate the effectiveness of this new approach to visitor management, adjusting it where necessary to find solutions that respect the spiritual importance of the property, as well as its conservation needs;*
5. *Requests the State Party to ensure that the new 2027-2033 Management Plan is prepared collaboratively by the key management actors and that it integrates all the issues raised by the 2023 mission report, including clearly defined governance, a thorough understanding of heritage values and attributes, defined boundaries and buffer zone, conservation, monitoring, documentation, and visitor management, among other relevant topics, and encourages the State Party to submit it, once it has been drafted, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to clearly define the boundaries of both the property and the buffer zone, define the purpose of the buffer zone, and submit this information, when completed, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Kadawatha to Dambulla section of the Central Expressway Project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, information regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, together with the required HIAs and any other relevant project documentation, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

88. Silk Roads: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor (Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

89. The Ancient Town of Si Thep and its Associated Dvaravati Monuments (Thailand)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1662/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1662/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management systems/Management plan (Finalisation of the management plan)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Community engagement)
- Water (Impacts of changes in ground water levels)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Development plans for a visitor centre for component part 002, and a future museum in the buffer zone of component parts 001 and 002)
- Oil and gas (New oil drilling projects planned in the wider settings of the property)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1662/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1662/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2023 is presented as follows:

- The Management Plan (2023-2027) has been reviewed and updated, with five sub-plans incorporated following the Committee's recommendations, including the Academic Studies and Conservation of Ancient Monuments Plan, Land Utilization Plan, Public Utility and Public Facilities Development Plan, Sustainable Tourism and Community Engagement Plan, and Disaster Risk Management Plan. The government has allocated funding to implement these plans;
- Two community engagement strategies have been developed, including establishing the Phetchabun Province Steering Committee for the Conservation and Development of the Ancient Town of Si Thep and its associated Dvaravati Monuments, and developing a Sustainable Tourism and Community Engagement Plan;
- Land acquisition of 23.89 ha surrounding component part 002 has been launched, and the price negotiation with the landowners is ongoing and expected to be completed by 2027;
- The Cultural Heritage Conservation Information System and GIS Platform have been established. Over 8,000 items of archaeological reports, conservation records, maps, plans, and photographs have been stored, and this data has been interconnected across the system;
- Two research projects have been envisaged to study the settlement patterns as well as archaeological, historical, and monument development in the Outer Town areas of the Ancient Town of Si Thep and the Khao Klang Nok, which may provide information on the beliefs and cultural traditions of Buddhism and Hinduism;

- The monitoring system has been enhanced by introducing detailed measures for identifying threats, disasters, assessing impact levels, implementing mitigation measures, and establishing monitoring cycles;
- The development of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process in Thailand using the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context has been initiated and it is confirmed that tourist information centre and museum will not be constructed within the component parts 001 and 002 of the property and buffer zone from 2023 to 2027. Beyond that period, a HIA will be conducted if plans for these facilities are proposed;
- Revision of the Unitary Town Plan of Si Thep district in 2025–2026 and the development of the Unitary Town Plan of Wichian Buri in 2026–2029 are envisaged. Prohibition regulations will be incorporated into these plans in order to protect the symbolic connection and physical alignment between component parts 002 and 003 from future use and development, including new oil drilling projects.

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

Progress made by the State Party in response to decisions made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2023 is noted. The revision of the Management Plan, development of the community engagement strategies, establishment of the two information management systems, launch of land acquisition in the surrounding area of component part 002 (Khao Klang Nok Ancient Monument), and enhancement of the monitoring system are commendable.

Furthermore, the State Party is actively addressing other World Heritage Committee decisions at the time of compiling this report with a clear timeframe and roadmap for their completion. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party in pursuing these endeavours.

Regarding the unsolved issues, research to determine the full extent and spatial layout of the component parts 001 and 002 is essential because the results are the foundation of the Site Management Plan and revision of the two town plans. Therefore, it is recommended that these research projects be implemented as a matter of urgency.

The progress in the land acquisition in the areas surrounding component part 002 to extend the boundaries of the property is encouraging and the State Party should proceed with the minor boundary modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines after the completion of the land acquisition.

The wider setting of the three component parts is considered important, including the symbolic connection and physical alignment between component parts 002 and 003. Therefore, it is concerning that status of new oil drill projects remains unclear as Ministry of Energy's response or position to a letter informing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, which requested the State Party to strictly prohibit new oil drilling projects in the property, the buffer zone, and the areas between the buffer zones of all three components, has not been revealed. Although efforts to revise the Unitary Town Plan of Si Thep District and create the new Unitary Town Plan of Wichian Buri have been made in order to add prohibition regulations to the plans, revision and development take time, and the outcomes still remain uncertain. The Committee, therefore, may wish to request the State Party to take any necessary measures to prevent any new oil drill projects from proceeding before and after the development and revision of the two plans. Furthermore, a guarantee should be sought from the State Party to incorporate the prohibition regulations in the two plans.

Finally, it is welcomed that the State Party develops HIA process in Thailand, and the State Party is expected to follow the procedure outlined in paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines for any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.41**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in revising the Management Plan, establishing the information management systems, launching the land acquisition at the surrounding area of component part 002, and enhancing the monitoring system;
4. Welcomes the positive steps taken by the State Party towards implementing World Heritage Committee decisions at the time of its inscription, such as planning and implementing the research projects, developing the community engagement strategies, and protecting the buffer zones and the wider setting;
5. Requests the State Party to complete the land acquisition of the area surrounding component part 002 by 2027 and proceed with the minor boundary modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Notes with concern the status of the new oil drilling projects, requests the State Party to revise the Unitary Town Plan of Si Thep District and to develop the Unitary Town Plan of Wichian Buri to incorporate prohibition regulation on new oil drilling projects, and urges the State Party to take any necessary measures to prevent new oil drill projects from being undertaken in order to protect the property, its buffer zones and the wider setting ;
7. Welcomes the development of Heritage Impact Assessment process in Thailand and requests the State Party to follow the procedure outlined in paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines for any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

90. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

91. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

92. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long - Hanoi (Viet Nam)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

93. Butrint (Albania)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

94. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

95. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

96. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (hydroelectric power station Salzburg-Lehen) (issue resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure (train station project outside the buffer zone) (issue resolved)
- Housing (urban development pressure, high-rise projects)
- Management systems/management plan (integrated approach towards management; apparent lack of legislative and planning mechanisms)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (with annexes provided in German only), available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/documents/>, which reports the following:

- The plans for the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Hall are still being developed in consultation with ICOMOS Austria. The current facilities are becoming obsolete and cause significant logistical problems. A key part of the plan is to hollow out the neighbouring *Mönchsberg* mountain to create a backspace area and to build a side tunnel from the existing Sigmundstor/Neutor tunnel (which runs through the mountain) to improve the logistical needs of the festival. The new side tunnel would lead directly to the festival's new logistics area. Currently, the building proposal is still under development and no building application has been submitted;
- Proposals to extend Arenberg Castle have been rejected twice in the last five years;
- There are also plans to redesign the banks of the Salzach River as part of a flood protection project, as this area is regularly affected by flooding, especially since the severe event in 2002. Planning is at an early stage;
- An office building for the company BIOGENA is being planned at the so-called Sterneckkreuzung, one of the most important traffic junctions in the city, on the edge of the buffer zone of the property. ICOMOS Austria is advising on the planning process and believes that a building of less than 30 metres in height would be feasible on this site. The city has put in place the basic urban planning conditions to support the architectural competition currently underway;
- The City of Salzburg has a spatial development concept, a zoning plan and comprehensive development plans for 95% of the 'constructible land';
- There are plans to update the Management Plan of the property with the aim of completing it in 2025 and presenting a final document to the Committee in 2027;
- A number of renovation, conservation and protection measures are reported to have been undertaken over the last five years to preserve the property. A World Heritage Visitor Centre is currently under construction.

Since the previous decision of the Committee (**45 COM 7B.176**) in 2023, the World Heritage Centre has received several submissions from third parties expressing concern regarding multiple development projects proposed within the property and its buffer zone and the inadequacy of the management of the property. These were transmitted to the State Party in February and September 2024 in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines. Feedback on these was provided in the State Party's state of conservation report.

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

Regarding the reported information on projects that may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) (such as the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Hall, including the side tunnel, the extension proposals at Arenberg Castle, the flood protection works on the banks of the Salzach and the BIOGENA office building), it is appreciated that the local authorities are proceeding cautiously and working closely with ICOMOS Austria in their planning procedures. However, it is regrettable that there is no satisfactory dialogue by the State Party, with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS International on planned changes and development projects within and around the property. New plans and proposals are not being notified for review and comment by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and World Heritage-focused impact assessments are not systematically carried out in accordance with Paragraph 118bis. Certain projects have only been brought to the attention of the Secretariat through third parties, such as the plans for the BIOGENA office building, the modification of the historic Sigmundstor/Neutor tunnel and the proposals at Arenberg Castle. The State Party should therefore be reminded to ensure timely notification to the World Heritage Centre of any project that may have an impact on the OUV of the property and to ensure that iterative impact assessments accompany development proposals.

With regard to the plans for the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Hall, the proposed specific plans for the construction process should be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) focusing on the impact of the proposed changes on the property's OUV and its underlying attributes, and the project documentation with the outcomes of the HIA should be submitted to the World

Heritage Centre for review and comment by the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisory and Monitoring Unit before irreversible decisions are made. An OUV-focused HIA process, including a visibility study, should also accompany the BIOGENA office building proposal, and the outcomes of the HIA, with the full documentation of the final design plans, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review and comment by the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisory and Monitoring Unit prior to its approval.

The information on the reported spatial planning instruments is noted. As the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommended the development of “a comprehensive urban land use plan which includes provisions for clear protection mechanisms and regulatory measures to ensure the adequate protection and control of the landscape setting of the property”, the State Party is advised to use the process of updating the Management Plan to assess the vulnerability of the property, including in relation to planned changes and developments in its buffer zone and wider setting, to implement the previous request of the Committee to create a comprehensive tool to support the planning framework, to develop adequate management mechanisms to protect and preserve the OUV of the property and its underlying attributes, and to conduct impact assessments (including visual impact assessments and cumulative impact assessments) in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for projects which may affect the OUV of the property. The spatial planning tools will then need to be consolidated and harmonised together with the updated Management Plan and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to ensure that the values and attributes of the property’s OUV are protected and preserved. It is recommended that the updating process uses the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0, and that the draft is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the ICOMOS World Heritage Advisory and Monitoring Unit before finalisation and adoption.

The reported renovation, conservation and protection measures are noted, as well as the plans for a World Heritage Visitor Centre. The State Party should be encouraged to provide detailed information on the latter plans to the World Heritage Centre.

To assess the impact of already implemented and planned projects within the property and its buffer zone, as well as the effectiveness of the World Heritage management system of the property, and to stimulate the dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, preferably before the next session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.41** and **45 COM 7B.176** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party’s adherence to sensitive planning procedures at national and local levels for project proposals that may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), but expresses concern that these procedures do not align with the World Heritage procedures outlined in the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the State Party to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the Convention;*
4. *Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner of any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Requests the State Party to enhance the dialogue with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies that may assist in finding appropriate solutions to proposed changes and developments that ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved;*

6. Notes the information and updates provided on planned and proposed changes and developments and also requests the State Party to conduct an impact assessment process in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Hall and the construction of the BIOGENA office building (including a visibility study for the latter) and to submit the full plans for their final design with the outcomes of the Heritage Impact Assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review and comment by ICOMOS before irreversible decisions are made;
7. Acknowledges the information provided on the spatial planning instruments of the City of Salzburg, and further requests the State Party, in the context of updating the Management Plan of the property, to:
 - a) Assess the vulnerability of the property, including planned and proposed changes and developments in its buffer zone and wider setting,
 - b) Assess the effectiveness of the management system using the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0,
 - c) Develop adequate management mechanisms to ensure that the planning framework is applied in a way that protects and preserves the OUV of the property and its underlying attributes,
 - d) Identify mechanisms to undertake impact assessments (including visual impact assessments and cumulative impact assessments where appropriate) in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for projects affecting the OUV of the property,
 - e) Submit the updated draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review with ICOMOS prior to its finalisation and adoption;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to consolidate and harmonise the relevant spatial planning instruments of the City of Salzburg with the updated Management Plan of the property and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to ensure that the values and attributes of the property's OUV are protected and preserved;
9. Also notes the reported renovation, conservation and protection measures to preserve the property, as well as the plans for a World Heritage Visitor Centre, and also encourages the State Party to submit these plans to the World Heritage Centre for information and review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, preferably before its next session, to assess the impact of already implemented and planned projects within the property and its buffer zone, as well as the effectiveness of the World Heritage management system of the property, and to stimulate dialogue between the State Party and the Secretariat;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, 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 48th session.

97. The Great Spa Towns of Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

98. Cultural Landscape of Khinalig People and “Köç Yolu” Transhumance Route (Azerbaijan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

99. Historic centre of Sheki with the Khan’s Palace (Azerbaijan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

100. Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front) (Belgium, France)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

101. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

102. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

103. Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

104. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

105. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

106. Gelati Monastery (Georgia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-2017

Irreversible interventions as part of major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, April 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2014: ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to Gelati Monastery; January 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; November-December 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; September 2024: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- General need for interior and exterior conservation work on the monuments
- Construction of the visitor centre outside the Gelati Monastery
- Major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral (*completed*)
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities
- Lack of co-ordinated management system
- Water (rain and groundwater)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/>

Current conservation issues

From 23 to 27 September 2024, the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM undertook a joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property (the mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>). Its purpose was to assess the conservation measures undertaken and the development and implementation of a holistic conservation programme since the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, as well as the effectiveness of the management system and the overall state of conservation of the property.

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at the same link. The report highlights the conservation measures implemented and the steps undertaken to improve the management system of the property by the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati since April 2023, as follows:

- The temporary protective cover over the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin is nearing completion;
- A detailed programme for safeguarding the wall paintings has been launched; a mosaic conservation programme is underway and is expected to be completed by early 2025;
- Structural investigations have been conducted; geophysical and geological surveys have been undertaken to inform planned drainage system improvements; 3D scanning of the facades of St George's Church has been completed;
- The Management Plan of the property has been updated; it includes newly established indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- As part of its commitment to transparency and public engagement efforts, the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati has created a dedicated website to share progress reports, research findings and other documentation related to the rehabilitation work at Gelati;
- Capacity building for local specialists is integrated into ongoing conservation work; several workshops have been organised in collaboration with international institutions;
- The Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati submits applications to the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation for the necessary permits for the works planned within the property and reports to it on the completed works.

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

The State Party should be commended for the significant efforts and financial resources invested in the conservation and rehabilitation works at Gelati Monastery since the 2022 Advisory mission to the property. In addressing the conservation challenges at the property, the State Party has followed the recommendations of the Advisory mission, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.54**. In this process, the State Party has continued to engage systematically with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The construction of an overall protective cover over the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin, which is nearing completion, is a key step in the ongoing conservation and rehabilitation programme: it will allow the subsequent removal of the deficient glazed roof tiles and the layers of fill beneath them to allow the process of gradual evaporation of moisture to the exterior prior to the construction of a new roof. Careful design of the permanent roofing will be a critical next step in the rehabilitation works. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit a detailed project for the permanent roofing to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its implementation and to include as part of the project a detailed outline of the future water collection system linked to the new roof.

Substantial progress has been made in condition monitoring and non-invasive investigations of wall paintings in the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin. These investigations provide the foundation for the design, development and gradual implementation of remedial measures. However, as observed by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, remedial treatments have not yet been initiated. Emergency interventions must be implemented in all areas where the flaking of the paint layer and/or the disintegration and exfoliation of the preparatory layers currently leave very important decorative elements at serious risk of loss, while a longer-term conservation plan is specified.

The launch of a holistic safeguarding programme for the 12th-century mosaic in the apse of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin is commendable and should serve as the basis for a detailed conservation plan for the mosaic, which, although well preserved, is in danger due to the detachment of most of its surface from the wall.

While different activities outlined above are all part of the overall conservation programme, the State Party has yet to submit a holistic conservation programme, including a plan and roadmap, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as requested by the Committee in the above-mentioned decision. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address this issue as a matter of priority.

The update of the Management Plan is a major achievement. It should, however, be further improved and finalised in accordance with the observations of the Reactive Monitoring mission, notably with regard to the buffer zone. The Master Plan of the property should be revised in the light of the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

The limited cooperation between the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati and the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation under the Ministry of Culture and Sport is a cause for concern. This cooperation should be strengthened to ensure long-term protection and management of the property as a whole, including its buffer zone.

In conclusion, while many important steps have been taken to redress the situation at the property, continued efforts guided by a holistic conservation programme are necessary and should be accompanied by close and systematic monitoring of the state of the conservation of the property. In light of the above, and given the limited cooperation between the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati established by the Patriarchate and the Ministry of Culture and Sport, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to take place in the summer-autumn of 2026 to assess the progress made and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2024 mission.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.106

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.47** and **45 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the significant efforts and financial resources invested in the conservation and rehabilitation works at the property since the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, and notes with appreciation that the State Party is guided in these works by the recommendations of the Advisory mission endorsed by the Committee;*
4. *Takes note of the report of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to follow them in further conservation and rehabilitation works and in improving the effectiveness of the management system of the property;*
5. *Underlines the need for conservation and rehabilitation work to be guided by a holistic conservation programme, which should include a plan and roadmap, and requests the State Party to develop this as a matter of priority and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies by **1 December 2025**;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a detailed permanent roofing project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its implementation and to include as part of the project a detailed outline of the future water collection system linked to the new roof;*
7. *Notes with satisfaction the completion of the update of the Management Plan of the property and invites the State Party to finalise and implement it in cooperation with relevant stakeholders;*

8. *Further requests the State Party to revise the Master Plan of the property, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Strongly encourages closer cooperation between the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation under the Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati to ensure the long-term protection and management of the property as a whole, including its buffer zone;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place in the summer-autumn of 2026 to assess the appropriateness of the conservation efforts undertaken, progress in the development and implementation of the holistic conservation programme, implementation of the Management Plan, steps taken to improve the management system, and the overall state of conservation of the property;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

107. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia)

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

- Lack of a management mechanism
- Privatisation of surrounding land
- Loss of authenticity of some components due to restoration works conducted using unacceptable methods

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

1999: World Heritage Centre mission; May 2001: Heritage and Tourism Master Plan mission; October 2001: International Expert Team "Heritage and Tourism Master Plan" mission; September 2001: Mission on the UNDP-SPPD Project; 2001: International Expert Team mission; November 2003, June 2008 and April 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; March 2010 and February 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions; November 2014: joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission; November 2015, February 2016, December 2016, and July-October 2017:

World Heritage Centre technical assistance missions; December 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; February 2020: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/708/documents/>, which outlines progress on a number of conservation issues, as follows:

- Progress has been made in the elaboration of the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP): its concept was formally approved by the Council of Mtskheta Municipality in February 2024 and it is being reviewed by the Municipality following the ICOMOS Technical Review of August 2024;
- The Moratorium ('Enactment of Special Regime of Regulation of Urban Development and Land Privatisation in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta Municipality') remains in force until a full set of urban planning documents is approved;
- Urgent conservation issues, subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS in 2023, are being addressed. At the Jvari Monastery Complex, a structural assessment has been undertaken and the stone conservation project is underway. At the Samtavro Monastery, a project including stone conservation works and management of the water run-off system has been implemented;
- The National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia considered the Tbilisi Wind Power Plant project within the setting of the World Heritage property unacceptable and refused to grant consent for its implementation.

In accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party continues to provide information on new projects to the World Heritage Centre. Between February 2023 and February 2025, a total of 32 projects submitted received recommendations from ICOMOS that were communicated to the State Party in the form of Technical Reviews, in particular concerning individual residential houses, small commercial buildings, rehabilitation works for a group of social housing buildings and a Public Service Hall. Two major projects – the restoration of a significant part of the forest adjacent to the Jvari Monastery and the construction of a section of the E-60 Highway from Natakhtari to Rustavi (Tbilisi Bypass) – were evaluated through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to any decision. They were also subject to a Technical Review by ICOMOS, which was shared with the State Party in July 2024.

On 16 April 2025, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre of water infiltration from the roof into the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral due to heavy rainfall. A thorough examination of the roof by local specialists has revealed that immediate repairs are required.

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

The State Party continues to make progress in addressing factors affecting the state of conservation of the property, in particular by working towards the development of the much-needed ULUMP, which has been requested by the Committee since 2010. Its prompt completion should be a priority. The Committee may therefore wish to emphasise that Technical Reviews by ICOMOS cannot function as a substitute for proper planning and management mechanisms. It is therefore recommended that the State Party be urged to finalise the ULUMP without delay and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

The upholding of the Moratorium pending the adoption of the Management Documentation for the Special Territorial Development of Mtskheta is welcomed.

In accordance with the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, the State Party continues to address the existing urgent conservation issues at the property, in particular at the Jvari Monastery Complex and the Samtavro Monastery.

The State Party should be requested to inform the World Heritage Centre about the actions it has undertaken to address the water infiltration problem at the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral due to recent heavy rainfall.

It is welcomed that the State Party has abandoned the Tbilisi Wind Power Plant project in the wider setting of the property, which had been evaluated by ICOMOS as damaging to the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) by degrading the visual relationship between the monuments and their wider natural environment.

The project to restore a significant part of the forest adjacent to Jvari Monastery through planting has received a positive evaluation from ICOMOS in its Technical Review of July 2024. The project will contribute to the revitalisation of the natural environment of the wider area.

ICOMOS has also provided recommendations on the planned construction of an E-60 Highway section from Natakhtari to Rustavi (Tbilisi Bypass), including on appropriately selected planting to create a sound and visual barrier to the traffic along the section of the new highway up to the entrance to the Jvari Tunnel, towards the property.

The State Party should be encouraged, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to continue submitting detailed project documentation, including HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse, while ensuring that the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies are duly taken into account in the planning and design processes.

Given the large number of projects being planned within and outside of the Moratorium, as well as the lack of feedback from the State Party on how the recommendations contained in the numerous ICOMOS Technical Reviews over the years have been addressed, 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 progress made in completing the ULUMP and the level of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Technical Reviews, as well as the effectiveness of the Moratorium and the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors affecting it.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.186**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Acknowledges the State Party's continued efforts to advance the development of the Management Documentation for the Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta, including the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP), and requests the State Party to finalise, adopt and submit the ULUMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than **1 February 2026**;*
4. *Takes note of the continuous implementation of the 'Enactment of Special Regime of Regulation of Urban Development and Land Privatisation in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta Municipality' (the Moratorium) until the Management Documentation for the Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta is adopted, and until all the necessary control and monitoring systems are put in place, and requests the State Party to strictly implement the Moratorium in the meantime;*

5. Welcomes that the ongoing conservation work at the Jvari Monastery Complex and the Samtavro Monastery takes into account the ICOMOS recommendations contained in the respective Technical Reviews;
6. Also welcomes the decision of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia not to approve the Tbilisi Wind Power Plant project in the wider setting of the property, which would have had adverse impacts on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Further welcomes the initiative to restore a significant part of the forest adjacent to the Jvari Monastery, as well as the construction of the Tbilisi Bypass, which will result in a significant reduction of the heavy traffic load on the existing highway running beneath the Jvari Monastery;
8. Invites the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission, as well as to take into account the recommendations included in the relevant ICOMOS Technical Reviews, to ensure that actions with negative impacts on the World Heritage property are avoided;
9. Further invites the State Party to continue to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that may be difficult to reverse;
10. Further requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the actions taken to address the water infiltration problem at the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral due to recent heavy rainfall;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress made in completing the ULUMP and the level of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Technical Reviews, as well as the effectiveness of the Moratorium and the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors affecting it;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2026** 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 48th session.

108. Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (Germany)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

109. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

110. Zagori Cultural Landscape (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1695/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1695/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management system should address the lack of a tourism strategy that scientifically determines the property's carrying capacity, a risk preparedness and disaster risk plan
- Lack of sustainability strategy for the traditional masonry, building techniques and skills for the long-term preservation of traditional villages

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1695/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1695/documents/> and provides information on the following:

- A revised map including the villages of Skamnéli and Eláti within the buffer zone of the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 11 January 2024. The submitted documentation includes appropriate digital GIS files and cartographic data for integration into the World Heritage Online Map Platform;
- A comprehensive digital platform has been developed to provide baseline documentation of the built environment of the Zagori Cultural Landscape, both within the property and in the buffer zone, which includes the stone-arched bridges and historic paths and staircases. It will facilitate the mapping and the assessment of the condition of the monuments, while supporting the implementation of the Management Plan;
- In accordance with the national legal framework, nine settlements have been designated as traditional and a further nine are awaiting approval;
- Conservation and restoration activities have been implemented in accordance with the Management Plan for the property submitted with the nomination dossier;
- A tripartite Cultural Development Programme Agreement has been established among the three main authorities responsible for the property: the Ministry of Culture, the Region of Epirus and the Municipality of Zagori. The adopted collaborative framework includes a three-year action plan with associated budget, and regular State funding has been allocated for its implementation. Key actions include a study on the impact of climate change and a strategic tourism study for the region;
- An Advisory Committee comprising representatives of Government agencies, stakeholders and civil society has been established;
- The Ministry of Climate Crisis and Civil Protection has developed disaster plans for natural hazards at the national level. These plans have been further elaborated at the local level based

on existing conditions and it is expected that the results of the climate change impact study to be implemented will inform the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan for the property;

- A Cultural Development Programme Agreement was also signed between the Ministry of Culture, the Region of Western Macedonia, the Region of Peloponnese and the University of Western Macedonia to develop a curriculum and educational material for the establishment and operation of vocational training schools to ensure the long-term preservation of masonry and building techniques for traditional villages.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies welcome the information provided by the State Party on the progress made in implementing the Committee's recommendations. The digital platform established is an important step towards having a central repository to collect, organise, aggregate and manage data and to prioritise conservation actions. The use of open-source technology will facilitate thematic expansion, scalability and sustainability as well as data standardisation and compatibility of monitoring indicators. Training local stakeholders to monitor and map conditions will be crucial for informed and systematic decision-making.

The agreement among the three main authorities responsible for the property addresses ICOMOS' concerns about potential overlap, given the diverse range of social and institutional actors involved. The programme's objective is to ensure the systematic and uninterrupted implementation of planned projects, adhering to a clear timeline and adequate resource allocation. However, specific details on how specific actions will be integrated with existing management tools, coordinated and financially supported are not yet provided. While the Advisory Committee can assist in decision-making, further information is required regarding its operational structure as well as how it will ensure the inclusion and engagement of communities and rightsholders.

As noted at the time of inscription, the Management Plan is a binding document, but further development is required to incorporate a Local Master Plan based on a comprehensive conservation strategy with disaster risk management measures tailored to the property's vulnerabilities. These include impacts derived from climate change, possible effects of natural reforestation and social and demographic changes, as well as natural hazards. It is essential that the risk management plans prepared at national level, when translated and detailed at the local level, incorporate consideration of the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their vulnerability. Furthermore, coordination and integration mechanisms with the entities responsible for the management of the property have to be guaranteed in immediate response to disasters. To ensure the long-term sustainability of traditional architecture, it is essential to develop a strategy to address the issues of depopulation and vacant or abandoned houses. Additionally, considering the potential of tourism to stimulate economic activity, a comprehensive tourism plan is needed to balance the economic benefits with the protection of heritage and environmental sustainability. It is vital that tourism is managed in a way that does not exacerbate environmental pressures, waste management or impact the traditional character of the villages. The Committee could therefore invite the State Party to take specific actions on the above as proposed in the draft decision.

The creation of educational curricula and two apprentice schools is welcomed and will be beneficial in the transmission of traditional skills and know-how and the provision of vocational education. This initiative has the potential to support local economic growth while preserving knowledge of cultural practices, creating job opportunities, promoting youth involvement, and fostering sustainable practices.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.110

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 8B.34, adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*

3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing actions to address recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription;
4. Further takes note of the establishment of a digital platform that will form the basis for the conservation and management of the property as a whole, and requests the State Party to ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance;
5. Welcomes the tripartite Cultural Development Programme Agreement and further requests the State Party to share with the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible details on the specific actions taken, how they will be supported and funded, and details of the structure of the Advisory Committee and how community involvement and participation will be sustained;
6. Recognises the need to continue efforts to develop management tools that ensure a cohesive and sustainable approach to ensure the long-term conservation and management of the property, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Strengthen the Management Plan to ensure that it fully integrates a Local Master Plan based on a comprehensive conservation plan, including measures to address depopulation and abandonment of houses, and a sustainable tourism strategy, with costed and detailed timetables for implementation,
 - b) Incorporate consideration of the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their vulnerability into local disaster response plans, and develop coordination and integration mechanisms to ensure that the entities responsible for the management of the property are consulted and involved, as appropriate, in immediate disaster response,
 - c) Complete the study on the impact of climate change on the property and incorporate the findings into the Management Plan, ensuring the inclusion of specific disaster risk reduction measures, including an assessment of the potential effects of natural reforestation,
 - d) Provide detailed information on management arrangements, in particular on how stakeholders and rightsholders will be involved in decision-making processes for the property, and how their engagement will be sustained,
 - e) Provide updated information on the legal protection measures adopted for the traditional villages and how these will support conservation endeavours;
7. Invites the State Party to prioritise the implementation of conservation measures for the built environment, based on the priorities identified in the condition assessment studies, and to use the recently developed digital platform to establish a comprehensive monitoring and research programme;
8. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to develop capacity-building programmes and encourages it to continue these efforts to ensure transmission of know-how and the use of traditional materials and techniques that preserve the authenticity of the attributes underlying of the OUV of the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

111. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrásy Avenue (Hungary)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

112. The Porticoes of Bologna (Italy)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

113. Venice and its lagoon (Italy)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

114. City of Valletta (Malta)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

115. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

116. Dutch Water Defence Lines (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

117. Auschwitz Birkenau - German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

118. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

119. Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

120. Historic Centre of Guimarães and Couros Zone (Portugal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

121. Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

122. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

124. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

125. Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

126. Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences (Spain)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (need for developing and implementing the full monitoring system, completing the documentation and listing of the historic buildings, developing an interpretation strategy, effectively engage the community in the property's management)
- Buildings and Development (new planned and proposed projects within the property; Programme for the improvement of Public Spaces and Urban Landscape Quality within the Property and its surroundings)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1618/documents/>. Progress on several conservation issues previously raised by the Committee is reported as follows:

- As part of the property's existing Management Plan, a programme has been developed to improve the public spaces and urban landscape quality within the property and its surrounding. This includes a series of projects such as the redevelopment of the Paseo del Prado, the construction of a Literary Café on the Cuesta de Moyano and the extension and redesign of the Atocha metro station; while some projects are still in the preparation or design stage, several have already begun;
- Work is underway to update the property's Management Plan, with a focus on incorporating a comprehensive interpretation strategy. Madrid City Council has commissioned a Communication Plan to raise public awareness of the property;
- Efforts continue to list more buildings as 'Property of Cultural Interest'. Currently, the Buenavista Palace, the Arab House and the *Casa Sindical* are in the process of being designated;

- The Civic and Social Board has not reached consensus on becoming an association. Instead, it is reassessing its purpose, composition, structure and operational framework to become a participatory body in the management of the property;
- Following ICOMOS' review of the original expansion proposal for the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital, new plans for the hospital expansion are being developed;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is being prepared for the plans for the Atocha Metro Station and is expected to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for ICOMOS review in the first half of 2025.

On 11 February 2025, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party concerns received from third parties regarding a new Master Plan of the Buen Retiro Gardens, in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party responded on 27 February 2025 with detailed information, noting that the Master Plan is in the process of being finalised. The document is intended to become a management tool that will establish unified criteria and methodologies for future actions.

On 21 February 2025, an ICOMOS Technical Review was submitted to the State Party on the proposed construction of the Literary Café located at Cuesta de Moyano, within the boundaries of the property, including design plans and a HIA. ICOMOS recommends revising the proposed design plan and not to proceed with the current version. An online meeting between local and national authorities, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre was held on 25 March 2025 to discuss the review and next steps.

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

The reported progress in responding to previous requests of the Committee is appreciated, in particular the establishment of a buffer zone around the property, which was approved by the Committee in 2023 (Decision **45 COM 8B.73**). The 'Programme for the improvement of public spaces and urban landscape quality within the property' is generally welcomed, in particular the restoration projects aimed at improving public spaces. However, it is regrettable that the State Party has not communicated the specific details of this programme to the World Heritage Centre as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. In addition, no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out to assess the potential impact of the planned changes on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Projects are currently proceeding on a case-by-case basis, with individual impact assessments being carried out. As one of the objectives of the programme is to accommodate more visitors, the State Party should be requested to assess the carrying capacity of the property and assess the cumulative impacts of the planned and proposed projects on the property's OUV and the attributes conveying it. Proposals for the programme, together with HIAs, should be systematically submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS. Only projects that demonstrate no adverse impact on the property's OUV and the attributes that support it should be approved and implemented.

The efforts of the State Party to address legal issues related to the listing of buildings are also commendable. The aim of this task should be to ensure a consistent level of protection for the property as a whole. The reported updating of the property's Management Plan and the inclusion of a comprehensive interpretation strategy are welcomed. The Communication Plan, which is also underway, will also support these efforts. The State Party should be encouraged to regularly assess the effectiveness of the site management, using tools such as the 'Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0'. In addition, the Management Plan should include a monitoring system of the state of conservation of the property, climate change adaptation policies, sustainable use and sustainable tourism management measures. The latter seems particularly important in light of ongoing concerns raised by third parties to the World Heritage Centre about inappropriate use and management of the property.

The new Master Plan of the Buen Retiro Gardens should be fully aligned with the protection and preservation needs of the property and integrated into the updated Management Plan. The updated draft Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review with ICOMOS prior to its approval and implementation.

Considering that the establishment of the Civic and Social Board as an independent association has not been successful, but that this Board is likely to become a crucial platform for uniting official stakeholders, further solutions are needed to ensure effective community engagement in the management of the property.

Finally, the efforts of the State Party to revise the project for the expansion of the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital are welcome. As planned by the State Party, the revised proposal, together with an HIA, should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.126

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.21** and **45 COM 7B.200**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the reported progress in the implementation of its previous requests, in particular the establishment of a buffer zone around the property;
4. Also welcomes the specific 'Programme for the improvement of public spaces and urban landscape quality within the property', but regrets that the State Party has neither notified this programme to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, nor undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the potential impacts of the planned changes on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and therefore requests the State Party to:
 - a) Assess the visitor carrying capacity of the property in relation to the nature and extent of the planned changes,
 - b) Consider the cumulative impact of the planned and proposed projects on the property's OUV and its underlying attributes before proceeding with their planning and implementation,
 - c) Systematically submit project proposals under this programme, accompanied by Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS,
 - d) Approve and implement only projects that demonstrate no adverse impact on the property's OUV and the attributes that support it;
5. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to resolve the legal issues relating to the listing of buildings within the property and encourages the State Party to complete this task with a view to providing a consistent level of protection for the property as a whole;
6. Notes the process of updating of the Management Plan of the property with the aim of incorporating a comprehensive interpretation strategy for the property, also requests the State Party to submit the updated draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its approval and adoption, and also encourages the State Party to use the updating process to:
 - a) Assess the effectiveness of the site management using the 'Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0',
 - b) Include in the updated document:
 - (i) A system for monitoring the state of conservation of the property,
 - (ii) Measures for climate change adaptation,
 - (iii) Measures for its sustainable use and sustainable tourism management;

7. Also acknowledges the information provided regarding the new Master Plan of the Buen Retiro Gardens, and further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that the new Master Plan, along with any other similar plans, aligns with the protection and preservation needs of the property,
 - b) Submit the draft Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its approval and adoption,
 - c) Ensure the integration of the Master Plan, as well as any other similar plans, into the updated Management Plan;
8. Also notes that the establishment of the Civic and Social Board as an independent association has not been successful, appreciates the efforts to review its purpose, composition, structure and functioning in order to become a participatory body in the management of the property, and further encourages the State Party to find solutions to effectively engage the community in the management of the property;
9. Further welcomes the efforts of the State Party to revise the project for the expansion of the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the revised proposal with an HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to a final decision on it;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

127. Aphrodisias (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

128. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

129. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

130. Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

131. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

132. Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia (Türkiye)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1694/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1694/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management system
- Cable car project near the Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque
- Need to control the threats common to all five component parts, including fire, insects, moisture, and deterioration of the settings

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1694/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1694/documents/>. The report provides information on the measures implemented by the State Party in response to Decision **45 COM 8B.46**, as follows:

- The Conservation Plans for the Urban Protected Site in Afyon, which includes the Great Mosque of Afyon, were completed in September 2023 and approved by the Eskişehir Regional Conservation Council. The Plans include provisions for the protection of the inscribed property and the buffer zone. The Conservation Plan for the Ulus Historical City Centre Protected Areas, where the Aslanhane (Ahi Şerafeddin) Mosque is located, also includes provisions for the inscribed property and the buffer zone and is expected to be completed in early 2025. At the time of inscription, the two Conservation Plans (Sivrihisar and Beyşehir mosques) were already up to date. The status of the Conservation Plan for the Mahmut Bey Mosque is not mentioned;
- A multiagency working group on Tourism, Promotion and Education, with representatives from all components of the property, has been established to coordinate actions in these areas for the serial property. Priority has been given to enhancing visitor experience, information and facilities and ensuring that there are no negative impacts from increased visitation. Planned activities include carrying capacity studies, destination development incorporating other natural and cultural heritage places, and capacity building for local people and socio-economic improvement programmes;

- Dismantled original pieces from the mosques are being preserved in archaeology and/or ethnography museums in the provinces where each mosque is located;
- To address the conservation concerns raised at the time of inscription related to the common factors affecting the property, the establishment of a comprehensive Risk Management Plan and comprehensive documentation for all components, a Scientific Committee was formed to assess current threats, identify documentation needs and recommend short- and medium-term interventions. A regular monitoring and maintenance team has also been established. Priorities also include environmental and physical monitoring and the development of high-tech baseline documentation and a Risk Management Plan. To monitor the state of conservation, the provisions of the Management Plan, including 17 monitoring indicators, are being followed and a maintenance and monitoring manual is being developed;
- To strengthen the links between the component parts in terms of interpretation and management, the single extended Advisory Board has been established, rather than individual advisory boards for each mosque. This board includes additional academic and conservation experts, as well as representatives of local communities and civil society. In terms of management effectiveness, new indicators will be identified and incorporated into the management plan review scheduled for 2027, facilitating their inclusion in the periodic reporting survey. At its first meeting in January 2024, which identified priority areas for 2024-2025, the extended Advisory Board identified capacity building activities and the development of training programmes;
- A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) for the cable car near the Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque was completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review in September 2024.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note the work undertaken by the State Party to address the concerns raised at the time of inscription regarding the state of conservation and management of the five inscribed components. Of the two Conservation Plans that were in the process of being updated at the time of inscription, one has been completed and the second is in progress. Their provisions will ensure that not only the component parts but also their buffer zones are protected. Of particular note is the creation of working groups and the consolidation of a single extended Advisory Board, which will ensure a more cohesive approach to conservation, management and interpretation of the series as a whole. The inclusion of additional academic and conservation experts, as well as members of civil society and local communities, is particularly welcome as it promotes greater engagement and inclusion in the decision-making processes for the World Heritage property. The conservation of dismantled original pieces of the mosques in safe storage is welcomed.

While progress has been made in key areas, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies also note that several of the requests are still at the planning stage and have yet to be completed or implemented. The comprehensive documentation of all the mosques to a common standard is a particular priority, as it is essential to have baseline data for monitoring the state of conservation, assessing the outcomes of the conservation interventions and management.

Tourism proposals aimed at increasing visitor numbers and carrying capacity studies are essential to understand the potential negative impacts and to review existing management strategies. The State Party should be invited to incorporate these findings into the updated management strategies and visitor management plans. Similarly, the development of a Risk Management Plan for the serial property to address environmental, climatic and human-induced threats, as well as the development of a maintenance manual and capacity building and training programmes for maintenance activities are equally important and should be further advanced. In this context, a maintenance manual in line with international standards and practices will be a key tool for building the capacity of local staff in maintenance and monitoring. Considering that the mosque officials (imam, cleaning and security staff) are responsible for the daily maintenance and that their capacity is essential for monitoring the condition and maintaining the state of conservation of the property, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to prepare this manual at two levels, one for the regular monitoring and maintenance team and another for the mosque officials. Furthermore, the capacity-building activities envisaged by the State Party should also include those for mosque officials. In addition, the State Party should be invited to implement priority interventions to address the threats identified by the Scientific Committee and the extended Advisory Board, as the outstanding interventions are critical to ensure the conservation of the

attributes underlying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to ensure that the conditions of authenticity and integrity are maintained.

As highlighted at the time of inscription, indicators to assess management effectiveness are crucial to complement the implementation of the management plan and to ensure that the outcomes are effectively used in decision-making. It is recommended that the State Party further develop a set of indicators to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of the management plan. The State Party could benefit from the methodological approach and tools provided in the resource manual *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*, in undertaking the process of reviewing the Management Plan.

In response to the ICOMOS Technical Review of the cable car project near the Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque, transmitted to the State Party on 18 December 2023, the State Party submitted a CHIA for the project on 9 September 2024. ICOMOS is of the opinion that, although considerable efforts have been made in the CHIA to justify Option 3, which crosses the buffer zone of the Afyonkarahisar Ulu Mosque, the justification for the selection of this option is inadequate. Furthermore, the negative impacts, both physical (such as rockfall) and visual (disintegration of the visual connection between the mosque and the castle), outweigh the benefits. The Committee may wish to appreciate the State Party's cautious decision to halt the project and to encourage the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property to ascertain the impacts and to suggest alternatives, if any, that appear feasible and consistent with the attributes underlying the property's OUV and the role of the setting in protecting these attributes.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.132

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **45 COM 8B.46**, adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Recognises the efforts made by the State Party to enhance the state of conservation and management of the property, in particular the completion of an updated Conservation Plan and the ongoing work on a second, both of which include provisions for the protection not only of the component parts of the property but also of their respective buffer zones, and the establishment of a consolidated and extended Advisory Board and the creation of the sub-working groups to coordinate efforts across the serial property;*
4. *Recalls the previous concerns raised at the time of inscription, notes the progress made by the State Party in implementing some actions to address them, and further notes that several important requests remain at the planning stage or have yet to be fully implemented;*
5. *Requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Continue updating the outdated Conservation Plans for the component parts,*
 - b) *Complete and implement the outstanding proposals identified in the state of conservation report, in particular those related to the comprehensive documentation of all mosques following a common standard and the collection of baseline data for monitoring and management;*
 - c) *Continue controlling the factors affecting the property and, in particular, immediately address the threats common to all five component parts, including fire, insects, moisture and deterioration of settings,*
 - d) *Prioritise the development and implementation of carrying capacity studies to manage the potential impacts of increased tourism, and integrate these findings into the updated management strategies and Visitor Management Plans,*

- e) *Complete and implement the Risk Management Plan for the serial property to address environmental, climatic, and human-induced threats, including strategies for monitoring and responding to unforeseen challenges,*
 - f) *Finalise the Maintenance Manual for the property, tailored to both the regular maintenance team and mosque officials, ensuring that it is in line with international standards and practices, and implement capacity building activities to ensure appropriate maintenance practices,*
 - g) *Implement the priority actions identified by the Scientific Committee and the extended Advisory Board to ensure that the attributes underlying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are safeguarded and that its conditions of authenticity and integrity are maintained;*
 - h) *Develop clear indicators using the resource manual Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 to better assess and monitor the implementation of the Management Plan;*
6. *Appreciates the State Party's cautious decision to halt the cable car project and encourages the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property to ascertain the impacts and to suggest alternatives, if any, that appear feasible and consistent with the attributes underlying the property's OUV and the role of the setting in protecting these attributes.*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

134. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

136. The English Lake District (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

137. Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2023: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Incomplete Management Plan
- Flooding risk
- Urbanization, Re-building/building extensions
- Intensification of Agricultural processes
- Antennae/Electric power lines
- Increasing tourist pressure
- Incomplete Risk Management Plan
- Transport infrastructure (Jujuy-La Quiaca train project)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents/>. Progress in the conservation issues addressed by the Committee is presented in the report, as follows:

- The Management Plan for the property was finalized and presented within the framework of the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission carried out, in compliance with Decision **44 COM 7B.62**, between 5 and 9 June 2023;
- Disaster Risk Management is a strategic line of the property's management system, and a Risk Management Plan has been finalized for one of the locations of the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Volcán) as a basis to be applied to the entire property, with the participation of a significant number of actors within the governance structure led by the Provincial Directorate of Water Resources as the technical body of the provincial government responsible for this type of actions at province level;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project were finalized according to the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. The HIA was presented to the June 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission. The train project has three phases. Only the first phase is operating with the start-up of the "Solar Train of the Quebrada de Humahuaca" from the Volcán locality, in the south, to Tilcara in the north;

- Extensive information is provided as concerns the activities developed at the Rio Grande, where a series of activities have been developed, from 1992 to date, linked to the construction of the Water Basin Management Plan of the Province of Jujuy and the Plan for the Quebrada de Humahuaca World Heritage Site. The “Comadres Program” has been designed to develop a plan with a conservationist profile and participatory management focus for structural and non-structural actions in order to manage the basin of the Rio Grande, mitigate the negative effects that it could generate due to its own configuration in summer seasons, and protect and maintain the use of soil and water. The Comadres Program from 2017 to 2024 included Intensive Annual Operational Plans involving channeling of water courses, defences and projects for basins, and an Operational Plan will proceed in 2025;
- Work on a Provincial Tourism Development Plan is underway to protect heritage generally and World Heritage properties specifically, and training of guards for heritage sites continues. Links between management and community engagement for this and other World Heritage properties are being reinforced;
- Some minor issues related to urban growth are being addressed with participatory management linking the three levels of government with the Local Site Commissions to develop concrete actions. A team of researchers and site managers trained through the Heritage Place Lab - Pilot Phase, developed by the ICCROM/IUCN World Heritage Leadership Programme, was created to establish new lines of research for the resolution of management needs.

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

Following the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.105**, the State Party invited a Reactive Monitoring mission, which concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained and that the Jujuy – La Quiaca train and the Rio Grande water basin do not seem to have a significant negative impact. It notes, however, that the property faces a number of challenges among which major infrastructural projects, urban and territorial planning and the use of traditional techniques and materials, as well as the adequate articulation between the authorities of the three levels of government. The World Heritage Committee may encourage the State Party to implement the recommendations made by the mission.

The finalization of the Management Plan for the property should be noted with satisfaction, as well as the inclusive process conducive to its establishment. ICOMOS prepared a Technical Review of the Management Plan in June 2024 that in particular endorsed the establishment of a Provincial Management Unit; as recommended in the Technical Review, the State Party could be encouraged to strengthen the articulation of the three levels of government and establish mechanisms of coordination and collaboration among them.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee take note of the finalization of the Risk Management Plan for one of the locations of the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Volcan) and encourage the State Party to develop Risk Management Plans for the entire property, within the governance structure led by the Provincial Directorate of Water Resources.

The finalization of the HIA and EIA for the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project, according to the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should be welcomed. ICOMOS prepared a Technical Review of the HIA in June 2024 that concluded that it was adequately prepared and recommended implementing the mitigation measures identified in the study.

It is proposed that the World Heritage Committee also welcome the information provided on the activities developed at the Rio Grande linked to the Water Basin Management Plan of the Province of Jujuy, and request full documentation on the “Comadres Program”, its action to mitigate the negative effects possibly emerging in summer seasons, and to protect and maintain the use of soil and water, and that the Committee recall that projects foreseen at the Rio Grande should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for technical review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made.

It is recommended that the State Party be urged to finalize the Provincial Tourism Development Plan and include therein heritage conservation components for World Heritage properties.

The actions of the State Party to address urban growth through participatory management, and the creation of a team of researchers and site managers trained to address management needs, should be welcomed.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.137

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.105**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the recommended ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was undertaken in June 2023 and encourages the State Party to implement its recommendations;
4. Also notes with satisfaction the finalization of the Management Plan for the property as well as the inclusive process conducive to its establishment;
5. Welcomes the finalization of the Heritage Impact Assessment and of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project and invites the State Party to address the recommendations made in the ICOMOS Technical Review of June 2024;
6. Take notes of the finalization of the Risk Management Plan for one of the locations of the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Volcán) and encourages the State Party to develop Risk Management Plans for the entire property, within the governance structure led by the Provincial Directorate of Water Resources;
7. Also welcomes the information provided on the activities developed at the Rio Grande linked to the construction of the Water Basin Management Plan of the Province of Jujuy, requests that full documentation on the “Comadres Program” and on its action to mitigate the negative effects possibly emerging in summer seasons, and to protect and maintain the use of soil and water, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and recalls that the projects foreseen at the Rio Grande should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for technical review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made;
8. Further welcomes the actions of the State Party to address urban growth through participatory management, and the creation of a team of researchers and site managers trained to address management needs;
9. Recommends to the State Party to strengthen the adequate articulation between the authorities of the three levels of government in the framework of the Management Plan of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisories Bodies.

138. Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

139. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, plurinational state of)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1995-1995)

Total amount approved : 4,000 USD

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

UNESCO Extra-Budgetary Funds until 2023

Total amount granted: USD 870,000 for the project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" (UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage), finalized in 2018

Previous monitoring missions

November 2009: World Heritage Centre/UNESCO Quito Office Monitoring mission; November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2012: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property in previous reports

- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Governance (Lack of coordinated conservation policies and interventions between the national government and local stakeholders)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Legal framework
- Management System/management plan (Lack of conservation policy)
- Urban high rise/urban sprawl

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>, describing progress on the issues addressed by the World Heritage Committee at its previous session, as follows:

- The Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research Centre of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT), which has the management authority of the property, is prioritizing the conservation and preservation of the archaeological site and the museums according to the Management Plan and Conservation Plan. Following the recommendation of the Committee, priority is given to conservation, and no excavations or new interventions have been carried out. CIAAAT works closely with the Autonomous Municipal Government of Tiahuanaco (GAMT), the Neighbourhood Councils and Native Authorities;
- The Risk Management Plan is pending and has been included in the annual plan (POA) for 2025 with financial resources for a multidisciplinary team;
- CIAAAT and the Military Geographic Institute (MGI) finished the field work to confirm the limits of the property and the buffer zone, but the report is pending. This initiative has been managed with the GAMT, the Neighborhood Councils and Native Authorities. Protection and coordination protocols for joint work are needed due to the impact of the growing urban area development. The revision of the boundaries of the buffer zone is underway and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in due time. The delimitation of the urban area of Tiwanaku was confirmed and does not directly impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;

- CIAAAT has developed new internal procedures and protocols. Among these, the following stand out: archaeological research, conservation, archival procedures and warehouses, handling and transfer of archaeological goods, regulation of tourist visits, sale of souvenirs and Aymara marriage celebration regulations;
- CIAAAT is facing a budget problem since, due to Supreme Decree 1004, it cannot receive funds from the National Treasury. A proposal has been submitted to the governing body of the Ministry of Culture, Decolonization and Depatriarchalization, so that the State can provide the necessary resources to comply with the Management Plan and the Conservation Plan;
- CIAAAT also applied for external funds to carry out a project on lithic conservation and development of new digital media for Tiwanaku carried out by the University of Utah with an approved amount of USD 124,000.

Analysis and Conclusion of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory bodies

The commitment of the State Party to implement the Management Plan and Conservation Plan should be welcomed and the State Party should be urged to include the Heritage Impact Assessment tools into the regulatory and management framework of this World Heritage property as a priority. An update of the monitoring of the implementation of the Management Plan and Conservation Plan, including the results of the activities involving the community and stakeholders, is necessary.

It should be noted that both the Risk Management Plan and the update of the site boundaries and buffer zone are still under development and the State Party should be invited to formally submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraph 163 of the Operational Guidelines. Where necessary, adequate coordination between CIAAAT and the Municipality to regulate the use and control of the buffer zone will be necessary. It is noted that the proposal made by CIAAAT for an agreement with the Municipality has not been signed by the Municipality.

New internal procedures and protocol should be noted with satisfaction, as measures for the maintenance of museum, storage and conservation facilities and the preparation of manuals and regulations that will guide the conservation, tourism, and other activities at the property. Updated information should be requested concerning the implementation and preliminary results.

It should be noted with concern that the full implementation of the Management and Conservation Plans will require additional human and financial resources, which may not be available by the State Party because of the Supreme Decree 1004 affecting the CIAAAT to receive public funds. The State Party should be urged to take the necessary measures to solve this issue. It is also important to consider the extra effort for CIAAAT that must cover the archaeological monitoring of the interventions in the urban area that may be included in the new delimitations of the buffer zone.

The State Party should be commended for its efforts to apply for external funds to implement actions of the Management Plan, like in the case of the project on lithic conservation and development of new digital media for Tiwanaku carried out by the University of Utah; updated information of the results of such efforts should be requested.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.139

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined* Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. *Recalling* Decision **45 COM 7B.107**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. *Welcomes* the commitment of the State Party to implement the Management Plan and Conservation Plan carried out by the Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research Centre of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT), *urges* the State Party to include the Heritage Impact Assessment tools in the regulatory and management framework of the property as a priority; *requests* the State Party to submit an updated report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plans including the results of

the activities involving the community and stakeholders, and also urges the State Party to complete the Risk Management Plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available;

4. Also requests the State Party to submit the updated report related to the limits of the property and its buffer zone as a priority, and to formally submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraph 163 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Regrets that the proposed agreement on the control of the buffer zone as proposed by CIAAAT has not been signed by the municipality, and further urges the State Party to establish adequate and effective coordination mechanisms between CIAAAT and the Municipality of Tiwanaku as stipulated in paragraph 6 of Decision **45 COM 7B.107**;
6. Notes with satisfaction the new internal procedures and protocols developed by CIAAAT, and further requests the State Party to submit updated information on the monitoring of their implementation and results;
7. Notes with concern the budgetary restrictions linked to the application of Supreme Decree 1004, and encourages the State Party to give a solution to provide the necessary human and financial resources to CIAAAT to comply with its functions and the implementation of the Management Plan;
8. Commends the State Party for its efforts to apply for external funds to implement actions of the Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to provide updated information on the results of such efforts;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

140. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 140,688

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2022, World Heritage Centre Advisory mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Emergency situation due to the massive fire of April 2014 (issue resolved)

- Interventions planned at the port, such as the Barón Port and the Prat Dock, as well as for touristic facilities and real estate projects
- Fragmentation of competencies and mandates by sectors and by different levels of government, as well as by the different types of specific protection and use of different areas, which does not allow for the management of the property with respect to its Outstanding Universal Value and within a broader perspective
- Commercial development
- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>, describing progress made on the issues addressed by the World Heritage Committee at its previous session, as follows:

- The Technical Cooperation support granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) ended in 2021, providing a roadmap and investment portfolio, and a proposal for a governance model;
- The first action implemented under the collaboration agreement of 2020 between the Municipality of Valparaíso and the Undersecretariat of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage was the creation of the “Municipal Corporation for the Administration of the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso World Heritage Site” in January 2022;
- The Municipal Corporation has become fully operational. Details about decisions and measures taken in 2023 and 2024 were provided;
- The Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan was completed in 2023 and submitted for review in November 2024. The Plan covers the core area of the inscribed World Heritage property. Implementation began in 2024;
- The Ministry of Cultures established under its new framework Regional Directorates of the National Service for Cultural Heritage, including the Valparaíso Regional Directorate;
- The Archaeological Management Plan is being implemented at Parque Barón Project, expecting the resumption of construction works in 2025;
- The restoration and conservation programme for nine funicular elevators continues, led by the Ministry of Public Works. Two funiculars are within the World Heritage property and other two are totally or partially in the buffer zone;
- The Environmental Qualifications Resolution for Terminal 2 Extension Project was appealed and partially overturned, causing the environmental assessment process to be reverted. A new report issued by the environmental authority in 2023 allowed the submission of an Addendum with a new proposal, which reduces the magnitude of the project by half, approximately;
- The “Acuerdo por Valparaíso” (Agreement for Valparaíso) signed in 2023, defined a roadmap for integrating port activity with municipal and regional development;
- The implementation of the Advisory mission’s recommendations enabled monitoring progress on the management and conservation of the property, detailed for review;
- The State Party reported on 7 May 2025 that a fire of criminal origin had caused important damages to one building within the property, between Almirante Riveros, Matriz, and Bustamante street. A detailed report on the state of conservation of the building is under preparation.

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

The finalization in 2021 of the Technical Cooperation support granted by the IDB is noted. The World Heritage Committee may wish to request detailed information on the approval, legal adoption and implementation of the governance model and the roadmap proposal, and a report on the Sustainable Patrimonialisation Process detailed in the annexes of the State Party report.

The implementation of the collaboration agreement between the Municipality of Valparaíso and the Undersecretariat of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, as the creation of the “Municipal Corporation for the Administration of the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso World Heritage Site”, is a commendable first step towards a better governance of the property.

The State Party provided detailed information on the sessions of the Municipal Corporation in 2023 and 2024, including administrative, legal and budgetary aspects, management and conservation, and diffusion of information, as requested by the Committee.

The Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan completed in 2023 was submitted for review in November 2024 in line with the Committee's request and its implementation began on the same year. The Plan proposes four general strategies: Management, Works and Interventions, Training and Documentation, and Dissemination and Communication. Actions implemented include a USD 250,000 project aimed at strengthening management of fire risk and readiness for emergencies, co-funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF).

Focusing on strengthening technical teams, the State Party established Regional Heritage Directorates of the National Monuments Council under the National Cultural Heritage Service, including the Valparaíso Regional Directorate.

A new tender was published in July 2024 to continue the works on Parque Barón Project halted in 2022. The submitted bids are under evaluation. Works are expected to be finalized by late 2026 or early 2027.

The Ministry of Public Works continues to oversee the restoration and conservation programme for nine funiculars, and development of a 2024-2028 Strategic Plan including public and civil stakeholders for safe and sustainable transportation services. Actions include the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning (MINVU) DS27 Subsidy for recovery of heritage housing at the World Heritage Site, the Project Arco Iris to recover the façade of 47 properties, the Recovery Project for the Regional Archive in the Subercaseaux Palace, and conservation works in San José Castle.

The Terminal 2 Extension Project is expected to resume under a new proposal by Addendum to the Environmental Qualifications Resolution, submitted in June 2024 and currently under evaluation. The Addendum provides a new project mitigation measure for the landscape component, reducing the surface area of the terminal sector by approximately 50%.

The Agreement for Valparaíso defines a roadmap with the main stakeholders concerned with port accessibility and port-city interaction. Progress related to the Agreement in 2024 includes definitions at architectural project level for design development of the Port Center in Muelle Prat, a use defined for Bodega Simón Bolívar, a Strategic Plan for the Coastal Zone, and the Port Expansion Project.

The Committee may wish to commend the State Party for its commitment to implement the Advisory mission's recommendations received in 2022.

Finally, a technical report on the fire that occurred on 7 May 2025 should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including rehabilitations options and possible implications in terms of risk preparedness strategies for the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.140

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.111**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Takes note of the finalization of the Technical Cooperation with the the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 2021 and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on the approval, legal adoption and implementation of the governance model and the roadmap proposal, and a report on the Sustainable Patrimonialisation Process;*

4. Further encourages the State Party to continue implementing the Collaboration Agreement between the Municipality of Valparaíso and the Undersecretariat of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, and submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the corresponding results;
5. Also takes note of the detailed information provided by the State Party on the sessions of the Municipal Corporation for the Administration of the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso World Heritage Site, and requests the State Party to continue to report to the World Heritage Centre on the activities of the Municipal Corporation;
6. Welcomes the submission of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan for review;
7. Commends the State Party on the establishment of Regional Heritage Directorates of the National Monuments Council under the National Cultural Heritage Service, including the Valparaíso Regional Directorate, with a view to strengthen technical teams;
8. Notes the ongoing efforts to resume the Parque Barón Project halted in 2022 by means of a new tender published in July 2024 with bids currently under evaluation, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on this project;
9. Takes note of the ongoing implementation of the important restoration, conservation and recovery programme within the property, and requests detailed information on its implementation progress;
10. Welcomes the new project mitigation measure for the landscape component of the Terminal 2 Extension Project by means of an Addendum to the Environmental Qualifications Resolution, submitted in June 2024 and currently under evaluation, and urges the State Party to submit an updated report;
11. Commends the State Party on the ongoing implementation of the Agreement for Valparaíso as a roadmap to foster and develop participatory synergies among the main stakeholders concerned with port accessibility and port-city interaction, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on the progress towards definitions at architectural project level for design development of the Port Center in Muelle Prat, a use defined for Bodega Simón Bolívar, a Strategic Plan for the Coastal Zone, and the Port Expansion Project;
12. Also commends the State Party for its commitment to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission;
13. Also requests that a technical report on the 7 May fire be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including rehabilitations options and possible implications in terms of risk preparedness strategies for the property;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, 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 50th session.

141. Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region (Chile)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

142. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1988-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 108,800

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May-June 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November-December 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2006 Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2017: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction of TRANSCARIBE, a new public transportation system and its impact on the wall (issue resolved)
- Marine transport infrastructure (impact of the harbour public works on the fortifications of Cartagena)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (lack of a Management Plan; lack of a regulatory conservation management system for the property; need for urban regulations for the protected area)
- Buffer zone
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Housing
- Commercial development
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents/>. Progress on several measures requested by the Committee at its previous session as well as on protection and management are presented as follows:

- Under the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and the Castle of San Felipe (PEMP-MURCA) established in 2018 by Resolution 1560 of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge, in charge of the city's fortification system, actions have continued including the signing of a loan agreement with the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School for the administration, conservation and protection of the city's fortifications, promoting sustainability and

strengthening traditional trades, and an editorial project that will transmit knowledge through academic publications, exhibitions and events and promote dialogue with communities;

- The PEMP for the Historic Urban Complex (PEMP-CH) and the PEMP for the Fortified Cultural Landscape of Cartagena de Indias (PEMP-FORT BAHIA) are in the process of being finalized and have not yet been approved;
- To finalize the PEMP-CH, several actions were carried out, including discussion tables, updating documents, review of environmental, regulatory and tourism components, and meetings with public entities;
- Concerning governance and interinstitutional coordination, the coordinated implementation of the PEMP's seeks to improve the management of the site in an integrated manner, strengthening coordination between national and district authorities;
- The updated map of the property inscribed in 1984, and the Minor Boundary Modification requested by the World Heritage Committee have not yet been submitted, but efforts are under way to draft them, based in particular on the PEMP-FORT BAHIA and the retrospective inventory process;
- The Aquarela Project was completely dismantled by 2 November 2024, complying with the Final Ruling of October 2018 for the restitution of public space. The dismantling included three stages for controlled demolition to reduce any possible impacts to the fortifications in the vicinity.

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

The ongoing implementation of the PEMP-MURCA, approved in 2018, should be welcomed and continuation of these efforts encouraged. The loan use contract signed by the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Knowledge and the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School will be important for the administration, conservation and protection of the city's fortifications, the preventive and corrective maintenance of the movable and immovable heritage, and the strengthening of traditional trades such as carpentry, masonry, painting, and ornamentation. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide information about the conservation criteria and methodology used in the interventions carried out by the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School, especially on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), to foster good conservation practices and ensure the adequate preservation of the attributes of OUV throughout the learning processes of the Workshop School students.

It should also be noted that initiatives towards the finalization and approval of the PEMP-CH included meetings with stakeholders, formulation of an investment project to ensure funding for its adoption during the next four years, drafting a 2024-2027 Development Plan, and review of environmental, regulatory and tourism components to address the needs of the Historic Centre comprehensively.

Regarding impacts of tourism, visitors and recreation, different projects of the Tourism Secretariat are undertaken with the guidelines and programmatic content of the PEMP-CH, including a working group to socialize the PEMP-CH V2 proposal and to include initiatives to involve the private sector in the management of the historic urban complex. The World Heritage Committee may wish to request details of the projects of the Tourism Secretariat for the property and its wider setting.

The PEMP-FORT BAHIA is also in the process of being adopted. The finalization and approval of the PEMP's must be a priority. The public consultation workshops are central to this ongoing process. The efforts of the State Party to achieve effective updates, including on interinstitutional coordination and cooperation on the implementation of the PEMP's should be commended.

The Aquarela Project was successfully removed from the wider setting of the property, but concrete measures must be taken to prevent similar urban developments from affecting the site's OUV in the future. To this end, the submission of an up-to-date map, drafting of adequate buffer zone(s) and request for Minor Boundary Modification as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee are urgently required. The management of the property as well as related monuments under national protection and the wider setting to be protected by the buffer zone must include focus on the visual impacts on the landscape related to the attributes of the OUV and a report on this should be requested.

The dismantling of the Aquarela Project should be welcomed, however, it is regrettable that the proposals for the restitution of public space were not submitted to the World Heritage Centre as per the previous decision and should be requested again.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.142

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.112**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the continuing implementation of the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and San Felipe Castle (PEMP-MURCA), encourages the State Party to continue with these efforts, and requests it to report on the conservation criteria and methodology utilized by the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School for the preventive and corrective maintenance, especially interventions on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;
4. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party towards finalizing the PEMP for the Historic Urban Complex (PEMP-CH) and the PEMP for the Fortified Cultural Landscape of Cartagena de Indias (PEMP-FORT BAHIA), regrets that these documents have not been approved yet, and urges once again the State Party to approve these documents as a priority and enable their implementation;
5. Commends the State Party for its commitment towards interinstitutional cooperation on the drafting of the PEMP-CH and also requests the State Party to report on the projects of the Tourism Secretariat for the Historic Centre aligned with sustainable cultural tourism;
6. Notes with appreciation the continuous efforts of the State Party to coordinate efforts of institutions and the private sector to improve the PEMP's development and implementation, and also encourages the State Party to continue its commendable efforts to devise and implement mechanisms to develop clear public policies that align with urban development in consultation with all stakeholders;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an up-to-date map of the property as inscribed in 1984 and, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, a Minor Boundary Modification request to define the buffer zone(s);
8. Also welcomes the dismantling of the Aquarela Project, requests again the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the proposals for the restitution of the public space and further requests the State Party to report on the conservation and urban policies preserving visual corridors and views for the management of the property in relationship with its wider setting as part of the Minor Boundary Modification request, for the buffer zone(s) and their management;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

143. Precolumbian chiefdom settlements with stone spheres of the Diquís (Costa Rica)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

144. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Rep)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

145. National Archaeological Park Tak'alik Ab'aj (Guatemala)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1663>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1663/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Juridical protection
- Participatory mechanisms

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1663/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, whose summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1663/documents/>. Progress in the conservation issues addressed by the Committee is presented in the report, as follows:

- To facilitate the full effective enforcement of the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Nation (Decree Number 26-97, amended by Decree Number 81-98), which ensures a good protection of the World Heritage property, training and awareness-raising activities have been undertaken to enhance preventive policies and practices for the protection and conservation of the site, involving communities, officials of the National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP), of the National Forest Institute (INAB), of the National Civil Police (PNC), of the Ministry of Public Health, the Municipal Environmental Management Unit and the Retalhuleu Delegation of the Ministry of Environment/Natural Resources, and other stakeholders. In this context, an update of the Management Plan, which will include a revision of the Land use and Risk Management, is also planned for 2025;
- A very important number of successful initiatives have been undertaken in collaboration with non-governmental and community organizations to strengthen the involvement in preventive and conservation measures of the population, including indigenous peoples. There were eight workshops held with over 65 people. Activities encompass the mobilization of youth, and the valorization of intangible assets and community-based management within the site boundaries. There are also important scientific and archaeological research and restoration initiatives in and around the property;
- Efforts have been made and continue to be carried out to ensure stronger budgetary stability for the property, with a rise of the budget in 2025. Procedures for the creation of a full self-accounting

system are being reviewed, while detailed documentation is provided proving that the current annual budget allocation provides adequate resources for staff, services and materials. Annual institutional actions are taken to increase the budget allocated by the public sector. The integration of actors from the local private sector and the communities will reinforce the budgetary stability of the property;

- Potential threats, such as land use and ownership, loss of forest cover, water resources in the vicinity of the property or cyclones will be a priority in the update of the Management Plan, Visitor Monitoring and Management Plan and Risk Management Plan scheduled for 2025. Ongoing prevention and mitigation measures are being implemented in view of potential threats.

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

The progress in the legal protection of the property through a set of measures involving a large number of stakeholders to enhance the effective enforcement of the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Nation is very much appreciated.

The effective strengthening of the involvement of civil society, youth, communities, indigenous peoples and other non-governmental actors in preventive and conservation measures, through a number of different activities, is noted with satisfaction. It is recommended that the State Party be commended for its significant effort in this area and encouraged to continue its outreach and engagement strategy.

The accomplished and ongoing efforts to ensure stronger budgetary stability for the property seem to be effective and significant. It is recommended that the Committee take note with satisfaction of such efforts, and that it request the State Party to continue its work to consolidate and ensure with regularity the human and financial resources needed for the effective management and conservation of the property.

The intention to update of the Management Plan, Visitor Monitoring and Management Plan and Risk Management Plan in 2025 should be noted with appreciation, as well as the close monitoring of potential threats.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.145

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Expresses its deep appreciation for the progress in the legal protection of the property through a set of measures involving a large number of stakeholders to enhance the effective enforcement of the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Nation;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the effective strengthening of the involvement of civil society, youth, communities, indigenous peoples and non-governmental actors in preventive and conservation measures through numerous activities, commends the State Party for its significant effort in this area and encourages it to continue its outreach and engagement strategy;*
5. *Also notes with satisfaction the accomplished and ongoing efforts to ensure stronger budgetary stability for the property, and requests the State Party to continue its work to consolidate and ensure the human and financial resources needed for the effective management and conservation of the property;*
6. *Further notes with appreciation the intention to update of the Management Plan, Visitor Monitoring and Management Plan and Risk Management Plan in 2025 as well the close monitoring of potential threats and further request the State Party to submit these plans, once available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

146. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1982-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 279,435

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 20 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/> and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- It informs that due to the internal security situation, limited activities could be implemented during the 2022–2024 period. The Haitian Institute for the Protection of National Heritage (ISPAN) concentrated its activities on emergency interventions and on the preparation of new projects;
- With the support of UNESCO, a team of experts undertook a mission to the property in November/December 2023 to collaborate with the Provisional Management Authority (AGP) on the development and finalisation of the Management Plan and the definition of a buffer zone;

- The Haitian Government has made funds available for the conservation of historical monuments, specifically the Citadel, the Palace of Sans Souci and annexed buildings, enhancement of the gardens and the Chapel of Milot. These projects are a follow-up to the PAST project (Preservation du Patrimoine et Appui au Secteur Touristique), which was financed by the World Bank and finished in July 2022. They will be financed under the allocation for 2024-2025 under the National Investment Budget for the Development, Restoration and Conservation of Heritage Sites;
- With the support of International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, extensive studies have been undertaken on the stability and restoration of the Chapel of Milot, which was destroyed by fire in April 2020, and on the consolidation of the Palace of Sans Souci. ISPAN will start a project to create awareness among the park's population about the risks of earthquakes and the adequate reinforcement of the vernacular architecture, which will also be financed through the International Assistance;
- Improvement works on the 5.8km stretch of route RN003, which goes through the park, remain suspended. A feasibility and environmental impact assessment on option 2 (an alternative route to the east of the park) was completed through the Bureau Ordonnateur National (BON). This study has not been made available to ISPAN yet;
- ISPAN extended the invitation to the World Heritage Centre for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission as recommended in Decision **45 COM 7B.33** paragraph 8 in spite of the difficult security context.

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

The State Party, particularly ISPAN, should be commended that it was able to continue its work on the management and conservation of the property despite the extremely complex national circumstances.

Appreciation should be expressed for the allocation of funds for the Development, Restoration and Conservation of Heritage Sites under the 2024-2025 National Investment Budget, which will ensure continuation of the actions that were undertaken in the framework of the PAST project.

It is noted that technical assistance provided through the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince is helping to progress the preparation of the Management Plan and the definition of a buffer zone. It is also noted that the expert mission of November/December 2023 proposed a methodology and a calendar for the finalisation of the Management Plan and Minor Boundary Modification concerning the buffer zone by January 2025. It is regrettable that this calendar was not adhered to, and the State Party should be urged to complete the process by January 2026 and keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its implementation.

Note is taken of the extensive technical desk-studies carried out on the stability of the Chapel of Milot and the palace of Sans-Souci. The State Party should be encouraged to verify these studies on site as soon as the security situation allows and to prepare the final intervention, stabilisation, and restoration projects. As far as the Citadel is concerned, it is noted that in July 2022 a comprehensive study was prepared in the framework of the PAST project. It is welcomed that based on these studies, ISPAN has defined action plans for interventions in the Citadel, the Palace of Sans Souci and the Chapel of Milot, as well as for an awareness building project for the local population on risks and mitigation measures related to seismic movements.

Concerning the improvement of the RN003, it should be noted that an assessment of this major enterprise is incorporated in the Terms of reference of the Reactive Monitoring mission, as detailed in Decision **45 COM 7B.33**, and that the observations and recommendations of this mission are indispensable for future positioning on this matter. In the meantime, it should be requested that the State Party transmit the feasibility and environmental impact assessment on the deviation of the road to the east of the park (option 2) to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies along the parameters set out by the above Committee Decision.

The World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission already requested by the Committee remains of extreme urgency but it is noted that the security situation in the country may limit free movement of experts and staff throughout the country.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.146

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes the continued complex internal circumstances in the State Party and that it has been difficult for the State Party to advance in the implementation of planned management and conservation actions;
4. Regrets that the preparation of the Management Plan and the definition of the buffer zone experienced continued delays and could not be completed by January 2025 as planned, urges the State Party to prioritise these actions so that the Management Plan and the Minor Boundary Modification for the delimitation of the buffer zone will be finalised by the end of January 2026, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress;
5. Commends the State Party on its allocation of funds for the Development, Restoration and Conservation of Heritage Sites under the 2024-2025 National Investment Budget and that it has continued the preparation of interventions for the conservation and public use of the Palace of Sans Souci, the Chapel of Milot and the Citadel;
6. Welcomes that a feasibility and environmental impact assessment on option 2 of the RN003, which is the alternative route of the road to the east of the park, was completed through the Bureau Ordonnateur National (BON) and financed by the European Union, and requests the State Party to make this study available for evaluation, as soon as possible, by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies along the parameters set out in paragraphs 6–9 of Decision **45 COM 7B.33**;
7. Reiterates the urgent need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission already requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.33**, to be organized as soon as possible in the security context of the country, in order to:
 - a) Advise the State Party on:
 - (i) The necessity and means to improve the section of the road through the park as a Park Road, in ways that mitigate the highly adverse impacts of the current proposals as identified by the Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments that the State Party already has undertaken,
 - (ii) Ways of progressing as a matter of urgency the deviation of the RN003 to the east of the park (option 2),
 - b) Assess the reasons for delays in the finalization of essential tools for the good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

147. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

148. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 94,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1994: Systematic monitoring report UNDP/UNESCO; August 1998: expert mission; March-April 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fires in 1998 and 2001 (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (formalization of the procedures to set up a Management Coordination Unit to implement the Strategic Plan; revision of the Master and Strategic Plans)
- Housing
- New development projects within the Historic Centre including urban transportation systems (Corredor Segregado and subway system) and interventions in historical buildings
- Ground transport infrastructure (development of the cable car project for tourism purposes)
- Management activities (unsuitable interventions)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/>

Current conservation issues

On 14 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The Municipal Programme for the Recovery of the Historic Centre of Lima (PROLIMA) is preparing a project to mitigate the impact of the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) in the historic centre and to improve pedestrian mobility;
- In 2024, Law No 31944 was adopted exempting Lines 2 and 3 of the Lima Metro from obtaining execution permits. However, the Municipality of Lima issued Ordinance 2590 declaring its authorization to issue permits in Lima and seeking to reaffirm its authority to do so in accordance with approved administrative procedures. Line 2 (from west to east) has been under construction since 2014. The Callao Transport Authority (ATU) prepared a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), which was approved by the Ministry of Culture in 2021, and all sculptures and objects of value in

the public space have been temporarily removed. The Ministry of Culture issued a partial authorisation for the works in 2024. The project for Line 3 is still under development;

- The Linea Amarilla road, built from 2012 to 2018, includes 9 kilometres of roads following the right banks of the Rimac river. The Rimac River Special Landscape Project will regain the river and its banks as green areas and mitigate the impact of the Linea Amarilla;
- The formal approval process of the profiles of the building blocks in the historical centre is about to be concluded. The Cultural Heritage Risk Management Area was established to oversee stabilisation and reinforcement actions. Since 2022, its emergency team responded to almost 400 incidents, including fire and collapse. Archaeological interventions and restoration of movable objects have been carried out. The pedestrianisation programme continues with the completion of 41 blocks;
- Over the years, PROLIMA has evolved and has now broad responsibility and authority over the conservation and management of the property;
- To date, the Ministry of Culture and/or PROLIMA have not received a new project for a cable car to Cerro San Cristobal. Once received, they will request for a HIA to be prepared for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;
- The San Francisco Plaza Recovery Project remains suspended due to judicial procedures. The project for remodelling the Plaza de Armas is submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies.

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

It is highly regrettable that the COSAC project was executed without a proper HIA and that the State Party did not respond to the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee from 2009 onwards. Without a HIA, it is unclear to which impacts a mitigation programme would respond to. In addition, it is unclear if the observations from the Ministry of Culture were incorporated in the final project. The State Party should be requested to transmit the mitigation project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Regarding the Lines 2 and 3 of the Lima Metro it should be stressed that interventions within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zones should be authorised by the bodies that have responsibility for their conservation and management, specifically the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima and the Ministry of Culture. As per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the World Heritage Committee should also be consulted for major interventions. The HIAs, inventory and conservation and temporary relocation of all cultural objects such as statues and monuments in the area of Paseo Colon under which the central station will be constructed, are noted.

The Rimac River Special Landscape Project along the trajectory of the Linea Amarilla road is noted and appreciated. ICOMOS will prepare a Technical Review of the project and the State Party should be invited to consider its conclusions and recommendations.

It is understood that PROLIMA has become the management authority of the property and that it is operating in an efficient manner. However, the recommendation of the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.117** (para. 7), concerning the designation of an autonomous management authority and the preparation of a Management Plan, remains valid. The State Party should be urged to respond to this recommendation. Information should also be requested on the functioning of the inter-sectorial commission that was established by Congress in 2021 by Law No 31184.

Note should be taken that the Ministry of Culture and/or PROLIMA have not received a new project for a cable car on the Cerro Cristobal and that they will request a HIA, which should be done in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, once the project is received.

Regarding the recovery of public spaces, it is noted that the recuperation project for the square of San Francisco remains suspended and the State Party could be requested to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any new development. Regarding the project for the Plaza de Armas, ICOMOS issued a Technical Review in January 2025 in which further explanation is requested on the decision to choose one particular historical moment (1860) as the basis for the design and a number of recommendations are made on the social and touristic use of the square, its carrying capacity, and tree planting scheme, among other matters. The State Party should be requested to consider these recommendations and inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.148

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.117**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) was executed while no appropriate Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken, notes that the Municipal Programme for the Recovery of the Historic Centre of Lima (PROLIMA) is preparing a project to mitigate the impact of COSAC in the historic centre and to improve pedestrian mobility, and requests the State Party to submit the mitigation project to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it becomes available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Stresses that interventions within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zones should be authorised by the bodies that have responsibility for their conservation and management, and notes that HIAs were prepared for the preparatory works in the area where the central station and ventilation shafts of metro Line 2 will be constructed and that cultural objects such as statues and monuments have been temporarily relocated;
5. Also notes that PROLIMA submitted a project to the Ministry of Culture to incorporate the infrastructure of metro Line 2 in the urban environment and requests the State Party to transmit this project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Welcomes the Rimac River Special Landscape Project along the trajectory of the Linea Amarilla road and also requests the State Party to consider the conclusions and recommendations that may result from the Technical Review by ICOMOS;
7. Further notes that, to date, the relevant authorities have not received a new project for the cable car on Cerro Cristobal and that a HIA, which should be done in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, will be requested for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken for the implementation of the Master Plan, among other matters the approval of street profiles and the continuity in the pedestrianisation of historical areas, the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Risk Management unit and the execution of archaeological interventions and restoration projects;
9. Also welcomes the confirmation that PROLIMA has become the management authority of the property and that it is operating in an efficient manner; however, this notwithstanding, recalls its previous recommendations that an autonomous management authority be established and that a Management Plan be prepared, and further requests the State Party to inform the Committee of the mandate and functioning of the inter-sectorial commission established under Law 31184 of 2021;
10. Notes furthermore that the project for the recuperation of the square of San Francisco remains halted pending the judicial process and reiterates its request that the State Party review the project in light of the recommendations of the Technical Review of March 2022, in particular regarding the fences around the square;

11. Notes moreover that ICOMOS issued a Technical Review in January 2025 regarding the project to recover public space in the Plaza de Armas, and further requests the State Party to consider its conclusions and recommendations and to inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

149. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

150. Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery (Suriname)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1680/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1680/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Financial resources
- Need to establish a monitoring system, an integrated risk preparedness plan and a land-use plan
- Determine the carrying capacity of the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1680/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1680/documents/>, informing on progress in the conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The site management authority (Jodensavanne Foundation) has secured sufficient donor funding for management and conservation activities, though funding for operational costs remains challenging;

- The designation of a Special Protected Forest Zone has not been achieved due to the land not being state-owned. Alternative protection methods for these areas will need to be explored;
- Archaeological findings are catalogued in an Excel database, with future plans to map them using a Geographical Information System (GIS). A web-based digital archaeological archive will be developed in 2025 financed by the Inter-American Development Bank's (IADB) 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II);
- A table with indicators is presented similar to the one supplied during the nomination process;
- Under the PURP II, the creation of a commercialization strategy for Jodensavanne, which will include a business plan for the self-sustainability of the property, a marketing strategy to increase visitor numbers, and a digital archaeological archive will be undertaken. An integrated risk preparedness plan for the two component parts of the site, a land-use plan, and a carrying capacity study will also be conducted. Preparations for tendering these studies are set to start in January 2025 and implementation is scheduled for 2025;
- The Jodensavanne Foundation has engaged local stakeholders, including indigenous and local community members, in managing the site. Recently, they worked with indigenous women from Cassipora, Pierrekondre-Kumbasi, Powaka, and Redi Doti in the framework of a workshop to develop tourism-related skills and support local communities. They also organized in 2024 the Jodensavanne Archaeological Volunteer project to raise awareness about conservation among the public and volunteers;
- The minor boundary modification to include Cassipora Creek Settlement will depend on the results of further archaeological research;
- Archaeological investigations are ongoing to study cultural exchanges between different groups (Jewish, enslaved Africans and Indigenous people) who lived together in Jodensavanne, as well as the residential history of Jewish houses and their location within the village square;
- As the site is a forested area, falling trees represent a current conservation challenge, as they can damage historic structures. Regular monitoring is undertaken.

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

The State Party should be commended for securing donor funding for the management, and conservation of the property. Nevertheless, it is urgently needed that funding be secured for the operational costs and to establish a stable and sustainable financial plan for the continuous long-term management and conservation of the property.

The forested area and the island across the river from Jodensavanne could not be designated as Special Protected Forest Zone, since it was found following a survey that they are privately owned. In response to Decision **45 COM 8B.50**, the State Party should be encouraged to identify an alternative protection method for the concerned area.

The database of archaeological findings is an important tool for the maintenance and conservation of the property and should be noted. It remains necessary to map the remains using a GIS, and to establish the web-based digital archaeological archive, and the State Party should be encouraged to realize these plans as soon as possible.

Further work is needed to establish quantitative indicators to measure the state of conservation of all aspects of the property. This monitoring system should also include information on environmental factors that affect the remains.

It should be noted with appreciation that the PURP II envisions a commercialization strategy and a business plan so that Jodensavanne can be self-sustainable. A marketing strategy to increase visitor numbers can contribute to sustainable tourism and financial security. These initiatives supporting financial stability are essential to ensure the conservation and management of the property. The integrated risk preparedness plan for the two component parts of the site, a land-use plan, and a carrying capacity study in PURP II will also be undertaken in 2025. The State Party should be requested to submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies once they are completed.

Conservation, promotion and management of Jodensavanne depend on regular engagement with local and indigenous communities and stakeholders. It is noted that the State Party is working with these groups and they are represented on the board of the Jodensavanne Foundation. The State Party should be encouraged to continue this engagement.

It is well noted that further archaeological research must be undertaken regarding the minor boundary modification to include Cassipora Creek Settlement. The State Party should be encouraged to complete this research and submit any minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre pursuant to Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines. It also seems important to establish whether the archaeological remains, located during pipe laying excavations at Jodensavanne in September 2024, belong to the military Post Gelderland, and if they are located within the boundaries of the established property. The list of attributes of the existing property should be completed with the inclusion of the new findings, and photos and maps of the remains (in relation to the existing property boundaries) should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. In this context, the State Party should be reminded that it should inform the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The archaeological investigations on cultural exchange between different groups who lived together in Jodensavanne are also noted and the State Party should be encouraged to continue this activity.

It is noted that the monitoring of trees is an ongoing measure to ensure the conservation of the site. The State Party should be encouraged to take preventive measures to avoid damage to historic structures caused by falling trees.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.150

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the State Party for securing sufficient donor funding for the management conservation of the site and urges the State Party to secure additional funding for the operational costs of the site and to establish a stable and sustainable financial plan for the continuous long-term management and conservation of the site;*
4. *Notes that the establishment of a Special Protected Forest Zone has not been achieved due to the land not being State-owned and encourages the State Party to identify an alternative protection method for the area concerned;*
5. *Welcomes the database of archaeological finds and their future mapping, as well as the future plans for a web-based digital archaeological archive;*
6. *Also encourages the State Party to continue working on quantitative indicators to measure the state of conservation of the property, in the context of a monitoring system which should include information on environmental factors that affect the remains;*
7. *Also notes that under the 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II), funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, the creation of a commercialization strategy including a business plan for the self-sustainability of the property, a marketing strategy, and a digital archaeological archive will be undertaken, and that a risk preparedness plan, a land-use plan, and a carrying capacity study will also be elaborated in 2025, and requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies once they are completed;*
8. *Notes with appreciation that the State Party has engaged with local stakeholders, volunteers, as well as local and indigenous community members in managing and promoting the property, and is undertaking research on cultural exchange between*

different groups who lived together in Jodensavanne, and further encourages the State Party to continue these activities;

- 9. Further notes that archaeological research must be undertaken regarding the Cassipora Creek Settlement and further encourages the State Party to complete this research and submit a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre;*
- 10. Further encourages the State Party to establish whether the archaeological remains, located during pipe laying excavations at Jodensavanne in September 2024 belong to the military Post Gelderland and, if they are located within the boundaries of the established property, requests the State Party to submit the updated list of attributes of the existing property (including photos and maps of the remains, in relation to the existing property boundaries) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
- 11. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre before undertaking or authorising all major projects, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
- 12. Finally notes the monitoring of trees to ensure the conservation of the site and further encourages the State Party to take preventive measures to avoid damage to historic structures by falling trees;*
- 13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

AFRICA

151. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

152. Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Benin, Togo)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

153. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

154. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

155. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1980-2022)

Total amount approved: USD 98,300

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/18/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Completed 24 restoration and maintenance activities on the churches, involving the local community and providing ad-hoc training, as part of Ethiopian-French bilateral international cooperation;
- A technical study on the feasibility of using Ethiopian "Assosa" bamboo for shelter construction has revealed significant uncertainties, leading to an architectural design competition to explore different structural solutions. The competition will follow the International Union of Architects (UIA) Guide for Design Competitions in Architecture and Related Fields to ensure it meets international standards;
- A participatory approach with the clergy community is proposed for the architectural competition;
- An international tender was planned to be launched in January 2025 to integrate geotechnical and hydrological studies into a unified assessment alongside the competition process. Detailed specifications presented demonstrate a consolidated approach that will investigate structural aspects and water dynamics to consider global warming impacts and climate change;
- Efforts are reported to improve the property's management system through the establishment of a local clergy-led advisory committee. The formal advisory council required by law remains inactive due to the current political situation;
- Due to the country's current political situation, an update of the Management Plan or a formal boundary change cannot be undertaken at this time. Instead, a revision of the city's Structural Plan is announced, making heritage management a key priority and providing for building regulations for its core and buffer areas;
- Progress on previous Committee requests for wider community involvement through the nationally funded Lalibela Project includes Restoration of traditional tukuls, archaeological topographical research, structural stabilisations through the restoration, repair and maintenance of loose materials, and initiating an inventory of liturgical objects in the site museum;
- Tensions and security issues in the vicinity of the property have to date hindered the execution of planned awareness workshops in schools and the creation of new tourist itineraries in and outside of Lalibela.

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

The State Party has made commendable progress through several preservation initiatives amid challenging security conditions. The report details 24 restoration activities with community involvement.

In addition, the report outlines a revised approach to shelter design through an architectural competition, which is welcomed. The new approach is moving beyond the previously proposed bamboo-only solution, and the competition framework shall consider diverse materials while maintaining a focus on structural performance criteria, including wind resistance and material longevity. The reported uncertainties of using bamboo for new shelters are well noted. It should be recalled that the Committee had previously expressed its concerns regarding shelters over the rock-hewn churches and cautioned against

extensive roofing due to the variability in the churches' physical fabric and insufficient data to predict impacts, such as microclimate changes and material shrinkage.

The detailing of regular conservation and maintenance measures is needed as part of any long-term strategy to inform comprehensive environmental and structural data collection, data analysis and hitherto adapted planning. It is essential to persist in the systematic collection of environmental data as well as a system to monitor the state of conservation of the churches. This system should be linked to the hydrological and geological studies mentioned above to understand the impact on churches and shelters over time in order to establish a foundation for identifying critical variables influencing the site. The State Party should be encouraged to adopt methodologies for comprehensive environmental data collection and monitoring along with a comprehensive maintenance strategy for the existing shelters.

While the architectural competition framework for the proposed shelters is fundamentally sound and welcomed, elements have been identified that require further elaboration prior to implementation of the selected shelter design, including the need for pilot testing protocols for the proposed designs, a detailed dismantling strategy for existing shelters, and documentation of maintenance requirements for any proposed new protective measures.

Clear specifications for the temporary nature of the proposed shelters should be established to avoid similar situation in future. For this purpose, the State Party may also consider referring to existing studies in the evaluation of the new shelters, including ICOMOS publications.

The decision to merge hydrological and geotechnical studies into a unified assessment framework, shared with the public to inform the outcomes of the architectural competition, represents a significant methodological advancement and is highly appreciated. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to share its findings with the national and international scientific community and include their reflections in the decision-making process.

The Committee may wish to acknowledge and encourage further positive developments in local community engagement at the property, including the establishment of a clergy-led advisory committee and direct community participation in maintenance and monitoring activities, despite ongoing political tensions and unrest in the area. The participatory approach is reflected in the Terms of Reference for the architectural competition, marking a step forward in improving the site's management system. However, the specific mechanisms of interaction with local communities remain unclear, and the formalisation of these interactions beyond ad-hoc involvement should be considered.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for an updated Comprehensive Management Plan, to be pursued when the conditions allow it, incorporating overall management provisions, boundary documentation as indicated in previous reports, and the requirements and process for a minor boundary modification that aligns with the city's strategic urban growth vision and sustainable development policies. This revision should build upon the existing 2013 Management Plan, address continuous monitoring of churches, maintenance requirements for shelters and the overall site, and formally establish mechanisms for community participation, taking into consideration both the outcomes of the architectural competition and the practical circumstances on the ground.

The Committee should also request the State Party to submit the information on the proposed shelters to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before proceeding with the implementation of the shelter design, while maintaining current community-based preservation efforts.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.155

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.105**, **44 COM 7B.118** and **45 COM 7B.35** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party on its effort to undertake a series of restoration interventions at the property based on a community-oriented participatory process, including the specifications for a planned extended hydrological study to investigate the historic hydraulic system within and around the property and a geotechnical diagnosis study to*

determine specifications for alternative anchorage options for future shelters covering the churches;

4. Welcomes the results of the continued collaboration under the Ethiopian-French bilateral programme in support of Lalibela;
5. Also welcomes the progress made in establishing a people-centred approach to preservation, maintenance and conservation of the churches implemented by the local community of clergy and laity;
6. Notes with appreciation the additional research conducted in response to the Committee's decision on the use of bamboo as a structural engineering element at the required scale for sheltering the churches revealed new uncertainties on the feasibility of this material, and also notes the State Party's decision to adopt the conclusion that one of the viable solutions to protect these churches from adverse weathering and stone deterioration is to cover them with permanent shelters;
7. Encourages the State Party to provide for a monitoring system to collect more data to define a state of environmental equilibrium for each of the 11 churches, necessary to accurately determine what impact shelters may have and before supporting the idea of permanent shelters;
8. Also notes that the security situation has allowed only ad-hoc interventions so far, and reiterates its request that a robust monitoring and maintenance regimen be developed based on the partnership approach explored with the clergy community;
9. Further welcomes the announcement of a new architectural competition to explore suitable alternative sheltering options for the churches jointly with the community of clergy and laity; considering that the shelter options should continue to evolve and be reassessed based on feedback from local communities and ongoing monitoring in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before taking the final decision of the options proposed, the following:
 - a) The results of the geotechnical and hydrological studies and other studies deemed necessary for the ongoing preservation efforts,
 - b) Detailed plans for the conservation measures required for each architectural group, including maintenance, data collection and monitoring measures,
 - c) The final results from the architectural competition that showcase the various sheltering options for each architectural group of churches, including but not limited to the anchoring system, the water drainage system, the dismantling approach for the existing shelter, and the regular maintenance requirements for the existing and potential new shelters,
 - d) Updates on the different components of the Ethiopian-French collaboration project, including the timetable of planned implementation;
11. Also encourages the State Party to continue the dialogue with all key stakeholders in the process of developing an Integrated Conservation Plan and reviewing the Management Plan with a people-centered approach to conservation and management, based on long-lasting sustainable partnerships with all stakeholders involved;

12. *Encourages moreover the State Party to continue its efforts in the formalisation of the local management system with proper community engagement of clergy and laity through adapting the legal provisions for the reserved area regulations;*
13. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
 - a) *A minor boundary modification that includes all cadastral maps of the property,*
 - b) *A Vision Statement on growth and development, in line with the 2015 Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention, that respects the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and underpins the revised Structure Plan of Lalibela and the Local Development Plan,*
 - c) *An update of the 2014 Management Plan that includes all management and planning provisions for the property;*
14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, 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 49th session.*

156. Lamu Old Town (Kenya)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2000-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 61,436

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

March 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2005: World Heritage Centre Advisory mission on water and sanitation assessments; May 2010 and February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring missions; January 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission (Nairobi) on LAPSET project; December 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Housing/ Deterioration of dwellings
- Solid waste
- Non-renewable energy facilities (Coal Power plant)

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report on time, as the World Heritage Committee requested at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

On 28 May 2021, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved USD 29,660 under the International Assistance for the project “Strengthening Governance and Management Structures at the Lamu Old Town World Heritage Site.” The project aimed to address potential threats to the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) by reinforcing governance in line with Decision **43 COM 7B.107**, building local leadership capacity, and fostering consensus with national authorities. It also supported the development of an action plan and the finalisation of an updated Management Plan through a participatory process. A comprehensive condition survey was conducted to establish a new conservation baseline and to revitalise outdated conservation by-laws.

To date, most awareness-raising activities and stakeholder mapping have been completed, and preparatory work for the condition survey has commenced. Nevertheless, the Management Plan remains unfinished, delaying the review of conservation by-laws and limiting the effectiveness of the newly mapped governance structures. The Committee is therefore invited to urge the State Party to expedite completion of the Management Plan, conclude the mapping and condition survey and submit both documents to the World Heritage Centre, for revision by the Advisory Bodies, at the earliest opportunity.

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

The State Party did not provide a timely report on the state of conservation of the property. This delay makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to furnish the Committee with an in-depth analysis that would enable effective monitoring of the property’s conservation status.

The information available through International Assistance monitoring indicates commendable progress in community outreach, capacity-building and stakeholder identification. These achievements lay a sound foundation for improved governance. However, the absence of a revised Management Plan—in spite of the resources allocated—create a gap in the management system of the property and potential risk to its OUV. Without an agreed framework, the implementation of conservation by-laws, the planned condition survey as well as the long-term monitoring measures cannot be coherently coordinated. The Committee should therefore urge the State Party to finalise the Management Plan, to complete and publish the condition survey, and to define clear indicators for measuring the effectiveness of governance reforms.

In the context of the lack of timely submission of information, the Committee may wish to reiterate the urgency of completing the clarification of boundaries of the property and putting in place a larger buffer zone to include all of Lamu Island, parts of Manda Island, and relevant mangroves belts in the area, as requested by the Committee numerous times in the past.

Regarding the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project, the Committee has repeatedly requested an MOU be entered between the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and the LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority that ensures the purposeful involvement of NMK in decision-making processes related to the LAPSSET project, particularly concerning the preservation of the property’s OUV. The Committee has also, in the past, reiterated its request that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be completed for the LAPSSET project. The State Party in its February 2023 report on the state of conservation of the property, reported that the SEA was not yet complete. The SEA and other relevant Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs) related to the LAPSSET project should take into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the OUV of this property.

The Committee, in Decision **43 COM 7B.107**, urged the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for comment and review by the Advisory Bodies:

- An updated clearly delineated map of the property and its enlarged buffer zone prior to formally submitting it to the World Heritage Committee as a Minor Boundary Modification in line with

Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines and before it is adopted into the national and county planning systems,

- The revised Management Plan, prior to its formal adoption.

These review processes will serve to provide assistance to the State Party in completing these important tools.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.156

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.126**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submitted in a timely manner a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee;
4. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in the project funded under the International Assistance, particularly in awareness-raising, capacity-building and comprehensive stakeholder mapping;
5. Encourages the State Party to revitalise and enforce the town's conservation by-laws once the Management Plan is finalised, ensuring consistency with Decision **43 COM 7B.107** and with the results of the forthcoming condition survey;
6. Invites the State Party to continue employing participatory approaches that engage local authorities, community groups and national agencies in decision-making and implementation, thereby strengthening governance and fostering sustainable development benefits for residents;
7. Underlines, again, the utmost urgency of:
 - a) Completing the clarification of boundaries of the property and putting in place a larger buffer zone to include all of Lamu Island, parts of Manda Island, and relevant mangroves belts in the area,
 - b) Completing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and other relevant Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs) related to the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project taking into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property;
8. Urges the State Party to continue its effort in finalizing the revision on the Management Plan and calls upon the international community to provide further technical and financial support, as appropriate, to help the State Party complete the condition survey and operationalise the revised governance structures;
9. Also urges again the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for comment and review by the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) The mapping and survey of the condition of buildings and streetscapes,
 - b) An updated clearly delineated map of the property and its enlarged buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comment prior

to formally submitting it to the World Heritage Committee as a Minor Boundary Modification in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines and before it is adopted into the national and county planning systems,

c) *The revised Management Plan;*

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, 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 49th session.*

157. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

158. Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2014-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 59,200

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012: ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission; May 2018: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Restoration works (issue resolved)
- Visitor pressure (issue resolved)
- Management systems/Management Plan (need for an updated Management Plan)
- Urban development (issue resolved)
- Commercial development
- Transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>. Progress on several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in that report, as follows:

- Commitment to participatory decision-making aims to involve the local community in development projects in the buffer zone through inter alia workshops and colloquiums. These mechanisms will be embedded in the reviewed Management Plan 2026-2030. The annual Consultative Committee meeting engaged 38 stakeholders from the local community;
- Archaeological investigations at Parc à Boulets have confirmed that the area historically formed part of the Immigration Depot. Further historical and archaeological research is required to elucidate and interpret this discovery;
- The buffer zone area 1 has been identified for development into a Cultural Heritage District, for which a Master Plan will be developed. This Master Plan and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that evaluates its impact will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- A Technical Committee has been established by the Management Plan Committee with the aim to evaluate the impacts of projects in the buffer zone on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- With regard to specific projects:
 - The Granary Redevelopment is on hold pending the development of the Master Plan,
 - The design of Immigration Square Terminal is being reviewed following the outcomes of the HIA and the ICOMOS Technical Review of the project,
 - The design of the Metro Express station is being reviewed in line with the outcomes of the HIA,
 - The Intercontinental Slavery Museum is to be integrated into the Heritage District,
 - Research and the purchase of property is progressing for the Beekrusing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre Phase II,
 - A Galerie d'Art Nationale will be housed in a historic building, subject to conservation planning;
- The State Party reaffirms its commitment to protecting the property and enhancing the heritage character of its buffer zone while balancing these with development needs.

ICOMOS provided a Technical Review in July 2023 of the *Overarching Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Report for Projects in the Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property*, submitted by the State Party in May 2023.

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

The State Party report indicates significant progress in embedding stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes, also through formalization with a revision of the Management Plan for the property. The establishment of a Technical Committee by the Management Plan Committee to evaluate projects in the buffer zone of the property is welcome.

The requalification of the urban areas surrounding the property through new buildings and the adaptive reuse of historical structures has been the topic of repeated engagement between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The urban context, which includes the Trou Fanfaron bay, harbour buildings, Immigration Square and a large area of the historical inner city, is all included as a buffer zone of the property. The intention to reconceptualize buffer zone 1 is strongly supported and welcomed, and the creation of a Master Plan for this precinct will provide the required framework for the development of the envisaged Cultural Heritage District. However, the generally poor state of conservation of the built fabric in buffer zone 2 (commonly referred to as China Town) remains of great concern, and the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to document and stimulate restoration and appropriate use of the historic built fabric, for which an inventory exists.

The archaeological investigations undertaken upon the Committee's request at the Parc à Boulets have uncovered that this area forms part of the historic Immigration Depot (Aapravasi Ghat). Further onsite research and desk investigations are therefore required to establish the extent and nature of these archaeological remains, which may in future justify an extension of the boundaries of the property.

Following the submission of the *Overarching Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)*, ICOMOS provided advice to the State Party through an extensive Technical Review of the projects evaluated through the HIA/VIA. This Technical Review underscored the conclusions of

the HIA/VIA and made specific recommendations with regard to, amongst others, the reworking of the Immigration Square proposal, including to establish a maximum envelope for the proposed hotel component through digital modelling of views both to and from the property and aligned with the adopted Planning Policy Guideline 6. The proposed design and location of the Metro Express End Station at the Immigration Square has developed in a positive direction but requires further consideration. It is important that a reworked access to the fishing harbour in Trou Fanfaron Bay will not increase traffic along the quayside between the property and the bay.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.158

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.158, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes:
 - a) *The State Party's continuing commitment to the mission of creating a participatory decision mechanism with the local community and all stakeholders,*
 - b) *The establishment of the Technical Committee with the aim to evaluate the impacts of projects in the buffer zone on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,*
 - c) *The ambition to establish the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre Phase II extension in the Cerné Docks;*
4. Notes reported outcomes of the archaeological investigations undertaken between 2022 and 2023 at the Parc à Boulets, which have established the importance of this area as part of the historical Immigration Depot, and encourages the State Party to undertake further onsite and desktop research, with a view to a possible extension of the boundaries of the property through a minor boundary modification process, as outlined in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to also include these areas into the property;
5. Also notes with appreciation that the Management Plan for the property will be reviewed under the participatory decision-making mechanism that involves local community and requests the State Party to submit the draft reviewed Management Plan 2026-2030 to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is adopted;
6. Further notes:
 - a) *The status updates provided on the five projects mentioned above,*
 - b) *The State Party's proactive responses to the outcomes of impact assessment processes following the ICOMOS' Technical Reviews,*
 - c) *A Master Plan, which will be developed to integrate the cultural developments in the Buffer Zone 1 into a Cultural Heritage precinct, and which will be assessed through an impact assessment process, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. Also requests that the State Party:
 - a) *Continue to rework the Immigration Square proposal, based on the outcomes of the Overarching HIA/VIA and the guidance included in the Planning Policy Guideline 6 (PPG 6) and the Action Area Plan 01 (AAP 01),*

- b) *Establish a maximum envelope for the proposed hotel component of the Immigration Square proposal through digital modelling of views both to and from the property and aligned with the PPG 6,*
 - c) *Ensure that the reprogramming of the Trou Fanfaron harbour precinct does not negatively impact the spatial relationship between the property and the Trou Fanfaron Bay through an increased traffic movement along the quayside;*
8. *Also encourages the State Party to establish programmes to document and stimulate the restoration and appropriate reuse of historical structures located in the buffer zone of the property, especially the buffer zone 2 (commonly referred to as China Town), which requires more attention;*
 9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.*

159. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1994-2024)

Total amount approved: USD 337,940

For details, see page <https://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 779,729 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); USD 42,000 by One UN Fund in 2017-2018; USD 65,225 by UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund; USD 50,000 by the Netherlands Funds in Trust.

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 and Conservation 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
- Accelerated building deterioration due to rising risks (e.g. 2019, 2022 and 2025 Cyclones)
- Climate Change and severe weather events

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents>, which reports on the following:

- Implementation of the International assistance funded project approved in 2022 continued, allowing the restoration of five macuti houses;
- The Heritage Emergency Fund project to train local communities in climate change resilience and risk and disaster mitigation was implemented in June 2023;
- While no conservation work has yet been carried out on the Hospital complex, efforts are underway to mobilize funds, following the island's recognition under the 2025 World Monuments Watch;
- Restoration undertaken on the Largo do Museu bandstand, included maintenance work on the Ilha de Moçambique Museum building and the courthouse;
- The State Party has obtained financial support from national and international partners for restoration of vacant public buildings and expansion of the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM) offices;
- Implementation of the 2022-2027 Management Plan continues with support from regional partners, NGOs, and UNESCO, with training on cultural entrepreneurship, heritage education, and heritage interpretation undertaken;
- The revision of GACIM's statutes is still awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers;
- The macro-scale Urban structure plan for the entire district of Ilha de Moçambique received government approval and was published in the official Gazette, although a more detailed plan is required for the World Heritage property;
- The cadastre was completed for Macuti town neighbourhoods, while work continues in Stone and Lime town;
- Efforts are ongoing to alleviate island's demographic pressure, with proposed solutions such as urbanization and allocation of land on the mainland as viable alternatives;
- The 2022–2027 Management Plan that also puts forward a new buffer zone delimitation proposal is still pending adoption by stakeholders and submission for a Minor Boundary Modification;
- No significant progress was made on the proposal to build a tourist complex on Goa Island, located in the newly delimited buffer zone;
- A mapping of erosion-prone coastline areas was undertaken to develop architectural and structural reinforcement for coastal protection;
- Restoration of Nossa Senhora de Baluarte Chapel is scheduled for February 2025;
- A technical Disaster Management and Response Team was established and tasked to update the 2017 Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

On 13 February 2025, additional information was submitted by the State Party, informing the World Heritage Centre of the Cyclone Diekelede that hit the island in January 2025 along with a situation report on community participation in assessing heritage conservation and resilience against cyclone-related disasters.

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

The State Party has made commendable efforts towards addressing the climate induced challenges affecting the property, including rehabilitation of traditional macuti houses, integration of community training programmes on climate change adaptation, resilience-building, and disaster risk mitigation. The proactive mobilisation of a multisectoral team to respond to the impact cyclone Diekelede is appreciated. It is crucial to maintain this dynamic, with continued support from UNESCO and other partners, and to mobilise the necessary funds for the rehabilitation of the Hospital Complex and the improvement of GACIM's staffs working conditions.

Given recurring nature of the climatic threats, it is imperative that the State Party expedite implementation of the emergency actions under the International Assistance approved in 2022, notably the restoration of the remaining traditional houses and historic monuments, taking into account the guidelines put forward in the approved manual that was developed for the conservation of the island's built heritage along with the approved urban structure plan and ensure that progress is reported upon to the World Heritage Centre. The State Party's intention to develop a more detailed Urban Structure plan specifically for the property is welcomed. However, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request in Decision **45 COM 7B.36** to submit the detailed plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before its approval and ratification process.

The establishment of a technical Disaster Management and Response Team to update the 2017 Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan is noted. The State Party is encouraged to provide updated information on the revised Disaster Risk Management Plan and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The progress in the implementation of the 2022-2027 Management Plan is well noted, particularly the conduct of training on heritage education and interpretation and entrepreneurship, along with the efforts in disseminating the Plan to the relevant stakeholders to foster broad ownership and participation. However, it is urgent that the State Party update the Plan based on the technical review provided by ICOMOS in April 2023 for improved implementation results.

It is further appreciated that the inventory was completed in Macuti town neighbourhoods and will be undertaken in Stone and Lime town in line with the regulation on the island's Classification and Management of the Built and Landscape Heritage. Given the urban pressures and climate vulnerability, further to the applied systematic classification, the inventory should also integrate comprehensive architectural, structural, and material condition assessments, ensuring holistic documentation of the urban fabric and harmonization with the existing management frameworks of the property. These inventories should be finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for information.

Recalling that work on the revised buffer zone has been ongoing since 2011, and recognizing the State Party's intention to include the result of the documentation of the built and landscape heritage along with natural heritage and ecosystems surrounding the property, the State Party should expedite this process and submit the Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Goa Tourist Complex whose proposed location falls within the territory of the buffer zone of the property. Furthermore, the intention to draw up a sea defence architectural and structural project to reinforce the barriers and coastal protection of the property is welcome, as mentioned in the previous report, but it should be reiterated that that these projects should undergo a heritage and visual impact assessment that considers the attributes and values of the World Heritage property and should be undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.159

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the rehabilitation of the traditional macuti houses that were affected by cyclone Gombe in March 2022, especially the approach taken in engaging and strengthening local capacity in responding to climate-induced threats, but requests the State Party to expedite implementation of the ongoing projects supported by UNESCO through the approved International Assistance, and encourages the State Party to mobilise the necessary funds to meet the needs on the ground, including the rehabilitation of the Hospital Complex and the improvement of the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM)'s staffs working conditions;*

4. Commends the State Party for the formation of the technical Disaster Management and Response Team to facilitate the rapid response to the impact of the recent Cyclone Diekelede, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a comprehensive report of the damages caused by the cyclone along with a needs assessment and an urgent intervention plan to be used for emergency support mobilization;
5. Also welcomes the State Party's intention to develop a more detailed Urban Structure plan specifically for the property and reiterates its request that the State Party submit the detailed Urban Structure Plan of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its approval and ratification process;
6. Also encourages the State Party to progress with the restoration efforts for the historic monuments, considering the guidelines put forward in the manual for the conservation of built heritage of the island along with the urban structure plan, and further requests that progress is reported upon to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Takes note of the ongoing implementation of the 2022-2027 Management Plan and efforts undertaken in disseminating the Plan to the relevant stakeholders to foster broad ownership and participation, and urges the State Party to ensure that technical review provided by the ICOMOS in April 2023 are considered for improved implementation results;
8. Also commends the State Party for the building inventory work undertaken within the neighbourhoods of Macuti town with the intent to extend it to the Stone and Lime town, which follows the regulation on the Classification and Management of the Built and Landscape Heritage of the Island, requests furthermore the State Party to expand the inventory to integrate comprehensive architectural, structural, and material condition assessments, ensuring a holistic documentation of the urban fabric, and also reiterates the request to the State Party to finalize and submit these inventories to the World Heritage Centre for information, including more detailed information on their current use in the inventory;
9. Also recalling that work on the revised buffer zone delimitation has been ongoing since 2011, and recognizing the State Party's intention to include the result of the documentation of the built and landscape heritage along with natural heritage and ecosystems surrounding the property, strongly encourages the State Party to expedite this process and to submit the Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Notes that no progress is reported on the proposal to construct the Goa Tourist Complex, whose proposed location falls within the delimited buffer zone of the property, and reiterates its reminder to the State Party to ensure that any new developments on this project is shared with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and assessed through appropriate impact assessment processes pursuant to paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Also notes the State Party's intention to draw up a sea defence architectural and structural project to reinforce the barriers and coastal protection of the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a heritage and visual impact assessment of this project, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

12. *Further notes the establishment of a technical Disaster Management and Response Team to update the 2017 Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and furthermore reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the Disaster Risk Management Plan with the incorporated sea defence infrastructure strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2026, 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 49th session.*

160. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

161. Memorial sites of the Genocide: Nyamata, Murambi, Gisozi and Bisesero (Rwanda)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

162. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

163. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

164. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

ARAB STATES

165. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

166. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

168. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

169. Babylon (Iraq)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

170. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

171. Petra (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

172. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

173. Anjar (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/293/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/293/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2006: UNESCO expert mission to Lebanon; 1997: Mission to Lebanon; 1997; Mission to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Military presence in the vicinity of the site

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/293/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 January 2025, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the property would be subject to a report on its state of conservation to be presented at the 47th session of the Committee, following concerns regarding the potential impact of hostilities in 2024.

On 7 February 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/293/documents/>, providing the following information:

- In November 2024, the property was granted provisional enhanced protection under the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Document C54/24/4.EXT.COM 4.4);
- The property was not impacted by the hostilities of 2024;
- Archaeological remains are protected through regular maintenance, including weeding and structural consolidation. Vulnerabilities are mainly due to historical construction techniques, outdated excavation methods, and invasive vegetation. Various workshops have been conducted on conservation, archaeological excavations, surveys, and documentation;
- Ongoing collaboration with the Lebanese University and Lyon 2 University focuses on Anjar's medieval architecture, urbanization, and rural-urban interactions from the Roman to medieval periods;
- A Management Plan is under preparation, and land expropriation is underway to prevent urban development and preserve the surrounding landscape;
- In the framework of a project for enhancing accessibility and inclusion at Lebanon's cultural sites, and pending financial contributions, the property will serve as a model for other sites. The initiative

includes provisions for visitors with visual disabilities, and aims to ensure engagement with culture, nature, and the environment;

- Efforts are ongoing to transform the site into a natural reserve, preserving endemic plants and raising awareness of its ecological and cultural significance. Collaboration with the Association for Bird Conservation in Lebanon (ABCL) focuses on protecting birdlife;
- In collaboration with governmental institutions, efforts are ongoing to implement the 2004 zoning regulations to manage Anjar's landscape;
- The municipality of Anjar has asked to move the main entrance from the north to the south of the site, with the installation of movable shops. The Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) is closely monitoring to evaluate its impact.

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

In November 2024, the property was provisionally inscribed on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. Considering the concerns raised regarding the potential impact of hostilities in 2024, it is reassuring that the State Party has confirmed that the property was not affected.

The information provided on the state of conservation of this property reflects the State Party's commitment to ensure its protection and conservation, despite the challenging context. This has been demonstrated through actions at the site level, as well as the level of its setting and natural characteristics.

It is recommended to encourage the State Party to pursue these efforts, in collaboration with local and international partners, and to provide updates to the World Heritage Centre as necessary. It is also recommended that the Committee recall to the State Party the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, information regarding major projects, including for any major restoration or development interventions, which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.173

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision 4 EXT.COM 4.4);
3. Takes further note of the information provided by the State Party, and the reassurance that the property was not impacted by the hostilities in 2024;
4. Acknowledges the efforts and commitment of the State Party to the conservation of the property as well as to the adequate management of its wider setting, and encourages the State Party to pursue these efforts with local and international partners, and to provide updates to the World Heritage Centre as necessary;
5. Recalls the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, information on planned or ongoing projects, including for any major restoration or development interventions, that may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, prior to making any decisions that could irreversibly affect the property;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property.

174. Baalbek (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

175. Byblos (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

176. Tyre (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

177. Medina of Essaouira (formerly Mogador) (Morocco)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

178. Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2025)

Total amount approved: USD 56,970

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: USD 19,798 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for the assessment of the impact of floods on cultural heritage in Sudan, in 2020; 25,000 EUR from the French Government for mitigation measures at both cultural World Heritage properties in Sudan; USD 30,000 from the World Heritage Centre; USD 67,510 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

February 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Advisory mission; 2020: UNESCO assessment mission (impact of floods)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion (Development and agriculture pressure)
- Mining (mining project/ associated infrastructure and increased traffic)

- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Flooding, desertification and windblown sand erosion)
- Management systems / conservation plan
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/documents/> and includes updated information on the situation at the property, as follows:

- There is a lack of financial support to address onsite conservation challenges, exacerbated by a second severe rainy season in 2024, and increased pressure by communities for expanding the residential area towards south of the Western Cemetery;
- At the two Meroe components, sand accumulation traps humidity and significantly contributes to accelerated erosion at the royal necropolis. Vegetation growth and flooding of the Nile are impacting the Royal City. Although an awareness raising workshop and vegetation cleaning were carried out, uncontrolled visitation continues to affect both components, with reported collapse of stones;
- At Naqa, flooding from the wadi has again impacted the Lion Temple and Roman Kiosk. A recent visit to Naqa in December 2024, confirmed the site's good condition. However, the archaeological mission house, which stored archaeological materials and objects, has been looted. The area is still surrounded by landmines, which protects the mission house from further looting;
- At Musawwarat es-Sufra, the monuments are generally in good condition, even though rain has eroded the Great Enclosure;
- Proposals for emergency and long-term measures have been made, pending the required funding. Urgent measures address sand removal, structural repairs, backfilling of archaeological structures, clearing drainage systems, vegetation, and protection measures. Long-term measures include creating vegetation belts, developing site management and conservation plans, involving communities and resuming conservation activities;
- The State Party specifies that the requested relocation of the proposed museum will be addressed in the post-conflict recovery phase and will require further consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

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

The ongoing armed conflict in Sudan, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, continues to affect management capabilities at the property, with a second rainy season exacerbating challenges. A set of necessary measures for each component of the property has been established, and require urgent financial support.

The State Party has submitted an Emergency International Assistance request titled "The Impacts of Climate Change in a Country in Conflict: Urgent Intervention Measures at Cultural World Heritage Sites in Sudan (Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region and the Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe)", which was approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee on 26 February 2025. For this property, the supported activities include clearing sand dunes at the royal necropolises to prevent moisture retention and minimize salt buildup, clearing vegetation from the Royal City, and undertaking preventive conservation to reinforce vulnerable structures at risk of collapse at Augustus Temple.

Regarding the community's request to expand the residential settlement towards south of the Western Cemetery at the Meroe component, the State Party should be requested to refrain from permitting any development within the property and its buffer zone, until the Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone is updated, integrating planning regulations for the buffer zone and assessing the predicted heritage impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This Plan, for which advice may be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, could also comprise a sustainable tourism strategy. It is noted that the relocation of the museum, as requested by the Committee in its

previous decision, will be addressed in the post-conflict recovery phase, within the overall longer term tourism management of the site.

Considering the looting of cultural objects from the mission house in Naqa, it is recommended that the Committee call upon all parties associated with the conflict in Sudan and the international community, in particular neighbouring countries, to undertake effective measures against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects coming from Sudan.

The property continues to face several significantly concerning threats and challenges, and hence it is recommended to continue to closely monitor the situation, and to request an updated state of conservation report by 1 February 2026 for examination at the 48th session of the Committee, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property may require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.178

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **46.COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),*
3. *Continues to expresses its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that the lack of adequate resources is posing additional challenges, impeding essential maintenance and conservation actions that are needed to address weathering and climate related threats;*
5. *Commending the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, monitor, and assess its current condition, in spite of the difficult prevailing context, strongly encourages the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;*
6. *Welcomes the works planned in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved in February 2025, and also requests the State Party to limit conservation works to urgently needed interventions, while any further restoration actions should be undertaken following the preparation of detailed studies and discussions to define optimal solutions;*
7. *Requests the State Party to refrain from permitting any development within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, until the management plan is updated to include planning regulations for the buffer zone, assess the potential heritage impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and integrate a sustainable tourism strategy;*
8. *Reiterates its call for an increased mobilisation of the international community and all scientific missions involved in the property to support the State Party's efforts, including by providing the necessary technical assistance and adequate documentation to the State Party;*
9. *Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, appeals to all States*

Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;

10. ***Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2026, 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 48th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

179. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2004-2025)

Total amount approved: USD 155,870

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38,398 by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the development of a sustainable tourism plan; 20,374 USD by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decisions in relation to Boundaries and Strategic Conservation; USD 19,798 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund; 25,000 EUR from the French Government for mitigation measures at both cultural World Heritage properties in Sudan; USD 67,510 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Deterioration as a result of exposure to difficult environmental conditions such as wind with sand and floods; desertification)
- Buildings and Development (Urban encroachment; Housing)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems / management plan (Absence of a management plan with official commitment)
- Armed conflict

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

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024).

Some information about the property has been gathered during regular meetings organised by UNESCO with the State Party and its partners to monitor the situation of Sudan's cultural heritage in the prevailing context, as follows:

- The site has not been directly impacted by the conflict;
- There is a lack of adequate resources to address onsite conservation challenges, exacerbated by a second severe rainy season in 2024, and increased pressure by the large-scale displacement of population in the vicinity of the property.

The assessment report, prepared under the 'Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage' project funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in August 2024, highlighted the impacts of intense rainfall that month on the archaeological structures at Gebel Barkal, including erosion, structural degradation and water accumulation.

In December 2024, the National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) informed the World Heritage Centre of a planned project for a visitor facility in front of the museum at Gebel Barkal to be executed through financial support, at the location where a tent structure had already been installed to accommodate community engagement activities. Following this exchange, the World Heritage Centre was informed by NCAM that the funds have been redirected towards the rehabilitation of the museum, completion of the protective fence, and pursuing further community engagement activities.

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

The ongoing armed conflict in Sudan, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, continues to affect management capabilities at the property, with a second rainy season exacerbating challenges.

The State Party has not provided a report on the state of conservation of the property since 2022, in accordance with previous requests of the Committee.

The continued community engagement and awareness-raising activities at the property are welcomed. On the other hand, it would be important to ensure that any project related to construction or development at the property should only be implemented if adequately planned, with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. In the photographs provided by the State Party, it appears that the tent structure that has been installed in front of the Gebel Barkal Museum – although intended as a temporary structure – visually stands out in the landscape of the sacred mountain and is anchored to the ground.

Furthermore, with the increased pressure by the large-scale displacement of population in the vicinity of the property, the installation of facilities may further exacerbate the ongoing increased presence at the site and hence posing additional pressure. It is important to recall the recommendation of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, which highlighted the need to consider the relocation of visitor facilities outside the property and called for a broader reflection on tourism management. Also, previous decisions of the Committee requested the State Party to prioritize urgent measures at the site. In this context, the redirection of funding support towards implementing crucial activities is welcome. It is recommended to request the State Party to limit interventions at the property to immediate needs, such as securing the museum, without causing irreversible impacts to its structure, improving storage facilities and undertaking the inventory of cultural objects.

The State Party has submitted an Emergency International Assistance request titled "The Impacts of Climate Change in a Country in Conflict: Urgent Intervention Measures at Cultural World Heritage Sites in Sudan (Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region and the Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe)", which was approved on 26 February 2025. For this property, activities focus on the components of Gebel Barkal, Nuri, El Kurru and Sanam, and include the removal of early archaeological soil heaps, securing burial chambers and temple, renewing protective covers, and completion and reinforcement of fencing, alongside community awareness-raising campaigns.

The property continues to face several significant threats and challenges that are of concern, and hence it is recommended to continue to closely monitor the situation, and to request an updated state of conservation report by 1 February 2026 for examination at the 48th session of the Committee, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property may require a broad mobilization to

preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.179

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 46th session;*
4. *Continues to expresses its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;*
5. *Notes with concern that the lack of adequate resources is posing additional challenges, impeding essential maintenance and conservation actions that are needed to address natural weathering and climate-related threats;*
6. *Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in implementing community engagement and awareness raising activities, nevertheless regrets that the State Party did not inform the World Heritage Centre about the installation of a tent structure in front of Gebel Barkal Museum prior to the commencement of works and requests the State Party to avoid executing any further construction projects, including visitor facilities, until a broader reflection on tourism management is undertaken;*
7. *Also welcomes the redirection of funding support towards implementing crucial activities for the protection of Gebel Barkal, and also requests the State Party to prioritize emergency measures at the property, and in particular at the Gebel Barkal Museum, and limit interventions to securing the structure without causing irreversible impacts, improving storage facilities, and undertaking the inventory of cultural objects;*
8. *Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on significant projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;*
9. *Further welcomes the works planned in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request that was approved in February 2025, and further requests the State Party to limit conservation works to urgently needed interventions, while any further restoration actions should be undertaken following the preparation of detailed studies and discussions to define optimal solutions;*
10. *Reiterates its call for an increased urgent mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
11. *Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, appeals to all States*

Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;

12. ***Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2026, 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 48th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

180. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia)

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 <https://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 <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

International Safeguarding Campaign, 1973-1989

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Control of illegal construction continues, and several demolition orders were executed during the reporting period. Court proceedings are ongoing for three cases against violations, and orders to halt work are in place for four others;
- Preventive archaeology activities (excavations and soundings) were undertaken for 11 construction cases;
- Land acquisition by the National Heritage Institute (INP) has continued, including one plot in the ring of the Roman Circus;
- The inventory of listed monuments and their state of conservation is being updated, through mapping and research;

- Consultation will be relaunched for the development of a Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMV) based on updated Terms of reference and specifications, following a critical assessment of a draft plan from the Commission set up by the Minister of Cultural Affairs in 2023;
- The revision of the Urban Development Plan (PAU) is progressing to reflect the boundaries of the park of Carthage-Sidi Bou Saïd adopted by decree in 2022, through collaboration between the INP, the Municipality of Carthage and the Urban Planning Agency of Greater Tunis;
- The creation of a multidisciplinary management unit integrating experts from different institutions is planned to strengthen the management of the property;
- The State Party also reports on on-going research and publications;
- The rehabilitation of the National Museum on Byrsa Hill, based on an international competition that was run with collaboration from ICOMOS, will not go ahead as planned due to technical reasons.

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

The continued vigilance in addressing illegal construction in the Borj Boukhris field, circus of Carthage and Douar Chott areas, along with cases brought to court and planning orders is welcomed. The acquisition of a plot in the Roman Circus by the INP is further welcomed, as are measures to help protect this area such as the intention to acquire more plots as a means of protecting sensitive archaeological areas.

Over the past ten years, the Committee's other main concerns have been the need to define a buffer zone, strengthen management, enhance conservation, integrate the protection of the property within the encompassing PAU, and develop a presentation and tourism management plan. All of these were seen as necessary to achieve satisfactory protection and management that could control development, constrain illegal development and overall improve the conservation and protection of the property and its immediate setting.

Although most of these aspects are mentioned in the report, work to address them is still at an early stage. A collaboration between the INP, the Municipality of Carthage, the Urban Planning Agency of Greater Tunis and civil society is being developed as a basis for taking forward a revision of the PAU. Revised Terms of Reference and specifications are being drafted for the PPMV by a Commission set up by the Minister of Cultural Affairs in 2023. The intention is to establish a multidisciplinary management unit in the near future, with experts from different institutions in order to strengthen the management of the property, and presumably start work on a management plan.

Although detailed maps of the park of Carthage-Sidi Bou Saïd were developed and adopted by decree in 2022, no mention is made of further work to respond to the request of the Committee regarding a minor boundary modification proposal for delineating a buffer zone, with information about the criteria used to define it, as well as regulations and protective measures to ensure its support for the property.

The continued absence of effective protection and management means that significant effort and resources are still needed to monitor and address what appear to be persistent illegal developments. Therefore, there remains an urgent need to progress all the current work at pace in order to address previous decisions of the Committee, and the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS missions of 2012 and 2019, so that robust systems are put in place to address development pressures.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.180

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.149, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*

3. Welcomes the continued vigilance on illegal construction work and the measures taken to address them in the Boukhris field, circus of Carthage and Douar Chott areas;
4. Also welcomes the acquisition by the National Heritage Institute of a plot in the ring of the circus of Carthage as a measure to protect this area, and the on-going aim to acquire more plots in sensitive archaeological areas;
5. Noting that some progress has been made in the revision of the Urban Development Plan (PAU), the relaunch of work for the preparation of the Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMV), the update of the inventory of listed monuments, and the intention to establish a multidisciplinary management unit, remains concerned at the slow pace of progress in addressing key considerations of the Committee over the past ten years that were seen as necessary pre-conditions to achieve satisfactory protection and management, which could control development, constrain illegal development, and overall improve the conservation and protection of the property and its immediate setting;
6. Urges the State Party to pursue its efforts at pace in order to address previous decisions of the Committee, and the recommendations of the 2012 and 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS missions, notably:
 - a) Submit a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage Centre, providing information about the criteria used to define the buffer zone, as well as regulations and measures for its management;
 - b) Update the PAU to reflect the protection level of the park of Carthage-Sidi Bou Saïd, and in coherence with the planned minor boundary modification proposal;
 - c) Revise, adopt and implement the PPMV for the property;
 - d) Building on preservation and management tools for the property, coordinate the roles of the different stakeholders concerned to complete and adopt the Management Plan, including a tourism management strategy;
 - e) Ensure that drafts of the various plans are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their adoption;
7. Notes that the rehabilitation of the National Museum on Byrsa Hill, based on an international competition that was run with collaboration from ICOMOS, will not go ahead as planned due to technical reasons;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

181. Djerba: Testimony to a settlement pattern in an island territory (Tunisia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1640/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1640/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Amount: USD 200,000 from the Foundation Docteur Sadok Besrou (Canada) to engage local stakeholders in the safeguarding of World Heritage in Djerba

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Governance: Lack of adequate management structures, legal protection
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system: abandonment, fragmentation, lack of maintenance and inadequate rehabilitation works
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation Financial resources

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1640/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1640/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List is presented, as follows:

- In December 2023, a workshop was held in Djerba, including a visit to the property to verify its state of conservation;
- In 2024, the “Djerba World Heritage” management cell (CDPM) was created by ministerial decree. A regional steering committee (COPIL) was formed by decree signed by the Governor of Medenine, consisting of key institutional stakeholders and civil society members. COPIL was presented with a road map developed by the CDPM;
- A ministerial council set a way forward for implementing the Committee’s recommendations, and highlighted the need for a detailed timeframe for actions, legal protection, effective management, sustainable funding, and interministerial coordination;
- The state of conservation has been assessed and updated for ten monuments and the process will continue;
- In June 2024, a bilateral agreement was signed between the Besrou Foundation (Canada) and UNESCO to sustain funding for the property. Within this framework, an 18-month project was developed to engage stakeholders. Other funding sources are also being explored;
- Criteria were established for a carrying capacity study, which has been initiated for ten mosques;
- Maps indicating the revised boundaries of the property and the buffer zones, following its inscription in 2023, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

- A decree was issued for the protection of the property's monuments. Seven conservation areas will be established and officially delineated in collaboration with the Office of Topography and Cadastre. A Safeguarding and Valorisation Plan (PSMV) will then be initiated.
- Further issues affecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been identified, including fragmentation of private land, densification in some areas, anarchical construction, construction violations, and inadequate maintenance of some structures;
- The CBDM provided recommendations for updating Urban Development Plans (PAU).

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

The State Party has undertaken commendable steps to enhance the property's protection and management, in line with the Committee's recommendations, including civil society engagement. The protection decree for the property's monuments is welcomed. In collaboration with the Office of Topography and Cadastre, official safeguarding zones will be delineated to initiate the PSMV. Urban specifications are being developed and an analysis for updating urban development plans has been undertaken to reflect the property's World Heritage status. The creation of the CDPM and COPIL is also an important step in ensuring coordinated actions and establishing effective governance.

The updated inventory on the state of conservation for ten buildings is a positive step. The process, which will extend to all elements and areas within the property, will help to identify urgent conservation priorities and inform comprehensive conservation plans.

The bilateral agreement between Besrou Foundation and UNESCO will contribute to raising awareness and strengthening capacities among local actors. Further funds are being mobilised for the conservation of mosques and historic urban areas. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to pursue fundraising efforts to ensure sustainable funding for long-term conservation actions and regular maintenance within the property.

The launch of the carrying capacity study, addressing environmental factors and visitor impact on natural ecosystems, is welcomed. Its outcomes should be integrated into sustainable tourism policies.

The World Heritage Centre has taken note of the maps submitted by the State Party showing the revised boundaries of the property and buffer zone, following its inscription in 2023. However, further information is still needed regarding the location and description of the newly included attributes and their contribution to the OUV, particularly the links between them, as well as the justification for the delimitation of the new buffer zone and the legal mechanisms supporting it. Hence, the State Party is requested to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to address these aspects. In the meantime, the State Party is encouraged to engage with the World Heritage Centre for further guidance on any needed adjustment.

The State Party has identified other conservation issues that could impact the property's OUV. Measures, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), should be carried out to control these factors. For development projects, the State Party should submit information, including plans and images, for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.181

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.37**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the efforts made by the State Party, with the involvement of all relevant ministries, towards the implementation of its previous recommendations,*
4. *Takes note with appreciation that the protection and management requirements for the property are being addressed through the following actions:*

- a) *The creation of the Djerba World Heritage management cell and the regional steering committee to ensure coordination and engagement of relevant actors and stakeholders,*
 - b) *The issuance of a protection decree for the property, and the delineation of areas for the initiation of the Safeguarding and Management Plan (PSMV),*
 - c) *The update of the inventory on the state of conservation of ten buildings, with plans to continue this process,*
 - d) *The initiation of a carrying capacity study,*
 - e) *The submission of a map showing the revised boundaries of the property and buffer zone as inscribed in 2023,*
 - f) *The identification of measures to address factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including enhanced coordination with civil society and recommendations for updating Urban Development Plans (PAU);*
5. *Requests* the State Party to continue implementing the actions initiated for the property's protection, conservation and management, and to consider the following:
- a) *Prioritize the continuation of activities related to the development of the PSMV, and the update of PAU, as these are crucial regulatory tools for ensuring enhanced preservation of the property,*
 - b) *Based on the completed inventory of architectural elements within the property, define conservation priorities, develop an overall conservation plan and initiate implementation of priority conservation measures,*
 - c) *Integrate the outcomes of the carrying capacity study, including environmental factors, into the definition and implementation of policies aimed at sustainable tourism for the property;*
6. *Also requests* the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to further adjust the boundaries of the property, and to provide further information regarding the location and description of the newly included attributes given the need to demonstrate the links between the component parts and their contribution to the OUV, as well as the justification for the delimitation of the new buffer zone and the legal mechanisms supporting it;
7. *Reminds* the State Party of its obligation to submit information on significant projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;
8. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

182. Kairouan (Tunisia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add

183. Medina of Sousse (Tunisia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: EUR 35,000 from the French Government for the integration of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in Tunisia; USD 87,716 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the integration of conservation, tourism and livelihood strategies

Previous monitoring missions

January 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework: Absence of a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV)
- Governance: Lack of coordination; absence of a consultation framework concerning interventions
- Housing: Urban pressure and densification; visual impact on the integrity of the property
- Changes in the values associated with this heritage: Social and economic factors; loss of traditional knowledge; alteration of building elements and materials

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>. The progress made in terms of conservation is presented below:

- As part of the process of drawing up the safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV), a detailed diagnostic of the buildings in the medina was carried out in 2024, based on architectural, morphological and functional criteria. This mission was carried out by a qualified design office;
- At the request of the State Party, a workshop on integrating the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape into the management of medinas was organised by the UNESCO Regional Office for the Maghreb in February 2024 in Sousse;
- The National Institute of Heritage (INP) and the municipality are continuing their efforts to monitor and support urban interventions, and to draw up a series of studies and projects aimed at safeguarding the property and its historic urban landscape. The status of the property and the need to preserve its surroundings are reflected in the current Urban Development Plan (PAU) revision project;
- In 2024, the INP continued restoration work on the Kasbah and the medina wall;
- Through a three-way partnership between the INP, the municipality and the Association for the Safeguarding of the Medina of Sousse (ASM), the plan is to develop a reference manual for buildings in the medina. Based on the results of the 2024 diagnosis, it will aim to provide a framework for the work carried out by residents during restoration or rehabilitation projects on their properties, and propose measures to support and raise awareness among the local community;

- Based on the recommendations of the 2023 mission and through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project for the integration of conservation, tourism and livelihood strategies, a detailed inventory of craft trades has been compiled and a training programme developed with a view to revitalising the craft sector;
- Annexes to the report present studies carried out in 2021 and 2024, in particular the study for the rehabilitation of a historic building in the buffer zone of the property.

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

Some of the recommendations made by the 2023 mission have already been implemented, in particular through a range of studies, the detailed results of which will be used as a basis for drawing up the PSMV. The State Party could be encouraged to maintain its efforts and continue to implement the mission's recommendations.

The detailed field survey helps to underpin our knowledge of the property and contributes to the analysis of the attributes that bear the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The state of conservation was assessed and the traditional and current patterns of use of the urban infrastructure were documented. Preliminary statistics and analyses have already made it possible to sketch out proposals for action on heritage buildings and urban morphology.

The contributions of the training workshop on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape are already being felt in the surveys carried out on the buffer zone and its context. The qualities of the buffer zone, including the visual fields, were identified as well as potential conservation and rehabilitation actions.

A joint management mechanism for the medina, involving various representatives of civil society, has been set up. Tangible results on the management and conservation of the property are expected, particularly in terms of dealing with emergencies and monitoring interventions in the medina. It is pertinent to recall that in the absence of a management plan for the property, the 2023 mission recommended that the PSMV should include a section detailing the management structure for the property (its composition, governance and remit, and identifying the key players, their responsibilities and scope for action).

The municipality's initiative to reflect, in the revision of the PAU, the specific status of the property and the need to preserve its surroundings is a significant step forward. Furthermore, while the communication strategy for the PSMV is an important milestone, it is relevant to remind the State Party of the importance of putting in place a tourism strategy.

It is important to welcome the studies carried out by the State Party and its initiatives aimed at raising awareness among the inhabitants of the medina and revitalising traditional trades. Information relating to the project to restore the Lycée Beb Jdid with a view to transforming it into a cultural centre are also welcomed.

The State Party could be encouraged to continue and strengthen its efforts, particularly with regard to legislation, improving administrative control and management mechanisms, and strengthening coordination and human and financial resources, and to carry out the necessary additional studies (for example on mobility or drawing up a risk management plan), and consider setting up an archive centre. The State Party could also be encouraged to maintain its communication with the World Heritage Centre, continuing to inform it of any significant projects planned within or adjacent to the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.183

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.150, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to set up a coordinated management system for the property, to draw up a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) and for fundraising, in order to stem the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts;
4. Recalling the findings and recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission of January 2023, requests the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the mission, and in particular to:
 - a) carry out a pilot project, reflecting the provisions of the PSMV, in one area of the medina to ensure that it is adapted and applicable to the context, before developing it on a property-wide scale,
 - b) ensure that, in the absence of a management plan for the property, the PSMV includes a section detailing the property's management structure,
 - c) finalize, adopt and implement the PSMV in order to ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property, its conservation and management, including tourism management, the socio-economic regeneration of the property and coordination between all stakeholders,
 - d) integrate into the PSMV the sustainable development aspects of the second phase of the Sousse Urban Development Programme (PDUI-II), while respecting the OUV of the property, in order to ensure the link with the city of Sousse as a whole, and to give it precedence over the Urban Development Plan (PAU) as soon as it is adopted, so as to ensure better protection of the property;
5. Also encourages the State Party to continue to submit information on all major projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;
6. Finally Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, 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 49th session.

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 under Agenda Items 7A and 7B.

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, considering the significant number of SOC reports prepared for the 47th session of the Committee in 2025 (248 reports) and 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 **47 COM 7B.184** 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.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)

On 2 November 2024, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.75**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents/>.

The State Party reports that Uganda Wildlife Authority, with WWF-Uganda support, has developed an Ecological Monitoring Protocol (2023-2028) to ensure regular wildlife monitoring in the property. While asserting that climate change has not significantly impacted mammals, advanced technology assists in tracking species like elephants, whose distribution remains limited. The Ecological Monitoring Protocol also includes provisions for water quality and quantity assessments, with biannual surveys and ongoing ranger training in water monitoring techniques.

Confirming that establishing a wildlife migratory corridor between the property and other Ugandan National Parks is deemed unfeasible due to long-standing human settlements, transboundary

collaboration with Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains active, with joint meetings and coordinated patrols reinforcing conservation efforts.

Concerning development projects, the State Party reiterates that no cable car projects have been initiated, nor are planned in the near future. The State Party, however, reassures that care will be taken to consider the Committee's recommendations in the next General Management Plan (GMP). In addition, the State Party informs that all hydropower projects underwent rigorous Environmental and Social Impact Assessments. The minimal potential risks identified are being addressed to avoid any threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The ongoing monitoring is also done to mitigate potential negative impacts.

Furthermore, the State Party restates that the property's tourism business plan emphasizes low-impact tourism and informs that a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Plan has been introduced and is currently being implemented.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN acknowledge the State Party's progress in addressing concerns raised by the Committee, deeming further reporting unnecessary at this time. However, it is considered that there remain some outstanding concerns such as the limited availability of data on wildlife populations and Committee Decision **45 COM 7B.75** paragraph 4, pertaining to the viability of the remaining elephant population, which relate directly to criterion (x), as well as the significant ongoing decline of the glacier.

The State Party is encouraged to continue implementation of necessary plans and measures, particularly in relation to elephant population viability, hydropower impact mitigation and glaciers melting. The State Party should also continue to submit updates to the World Heritage Centre including the revision of the GMP (2026-2036), the Tourism business plan and the implementation of the Ecological Monitoring Protocol and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Plan, to ensure that the OUV of the property is adequately protected and sustained.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia)

On 20 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report in response to the World Heritage Committee's request at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). A summary of this report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/documents>. The report, covering the period from December 2022 to November 2024, outlines the progress made in addressing Decision **45 COM 7B.151** and previous Committee decisions. The National Authority for Sambor Prei Kuk (NASPK), under the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, has continued to implement an extensive range of measures to conserve and enhance the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). These efforts include restoration activities, improved visitor management, and sustainable tourism initiatives.

In response to the Committee's request regarding the assessment of visitor capacity within temple zones, NASPK launched a detailed visitor survey in 2022, which has informed dynamic visitor management strategies. These include the introduction of expanded tour routes, cycling paths, guided tours, and educational materials aimed at balancing tourism with conservation. The Prasat Yeay Poan complex itinerary serves as a pilot project, demonstrating a model approach to heritage interpretation. Additionally, the Sambor Prei Kuk site museum has expanded its exhibits, showcasing archaeological findings and regional historical contexts. Conservation efforts have focused on annual maintenance, structural restorations, and risk management strategies, with regular updates to risk mapping to mitigate natural and human-induced threats.

Given the substantial progress achieved, it appears that all concerns previously raised by the Committee are all being addressed and that no further reporting on the state of conservation of the property is required at this time. Nonetheless, the State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of ongoing measures to preserve the property's OUV, to report progress to the World Heritage Centre, and to inform the Committee, via its Secretariat, of any project that may have an impact on the attributes supporting the property's OUV before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Additionally, the potential for minor boundary modifications should be considered in line with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Astronomical Observatories of Kazan Federal University (Russian Federation)

On 27 November 2024, in response to Decision **45 COM 8B.45**, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report outlining the progress made in its implementation.

In particular, the medium-term measures of the property's Management Plan have been initiated. These include increased staffing and funding at the Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory, as well as minor renovations at the Kazan City Astronomical Observatory. In line with the long-term objectives of the Management and Master Plans, a restoration programme for the Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory is currently under development, with adequate funding secured, and initial steps have been taken to improve its territory.

Regarding the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), no new construction or reconstruction works are planned within the buffer zone of the Kazan City Astronomical Observatory. The requested HIA for the Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory is expected to be completed following the finalisation of the Kazan agglomeration Master Plan in 2025. The State Party is encouraged to share the outcomes of the HIA with the World Heritage Centre.

The State Party has provided clarifications regarding the legal status of the two approved buffer zones.

In support of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage," a series of scientific events were organised in 2023 and 2024, involving site managers from Asia and Africa, as well as representatives from ICOMOS National Committees.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the State Party is adequately addressing the conservation issues related to the recently inscribed property. The State Party is encouraged to continue with the implementation of the Management Plan and all associated measures and plans, ensuring that any new projects within the property and its buffer zone are subject to timely HIAs, which should be shared with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies to prevent any potential threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. In this context, the State Party is invited to provide clarification on terms such as "redecorated" and "cosmetic renovation" in relation to authenticity in the activities implemented within the Management Plan.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Brasilia (Brazil)

On 2 December 2024, the World Heritage Centre received a report on the state of conservation of Brasilia, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents> and whose content reflects decisive progress in the implementation of Decision **45 COM 7B.108**.

The Preservation Plan of Brasília's Urban Ensemble (PPCUB) was finally approved (Law No. 1041/202), through an efficient participatory process, providing regulatory tool for urban planning within Brasília's Urban Ensemble and a framework for heritage preservation agencies at both federal and district levels.

Regarding the creation of the Management Committee and Management Plan, significant progress was made through the adoption of complementary Law No. 1041/2024 stating (Article 138) that a specific complementary law - to be incorporated into this PPCUB - shall address the creation, composition, responsibilities, and implementation of the Management Committee of Brasília's Urban Ensemble, with deliberative and consultative functions.

Finally, a very important number of beneficial awareness raising and education activities is also reported, over past two years, with publications and events for a large range of publics.

In view of the above, the conservation issues with regard to the property have been adequately addressed and the State Party is commended for its continuous efforts.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue monitoring the interventions at the property, as well as follow-up on the effective implementation of the Preservation Plan of Brasília's Urban Ensemble (PPCUB).

AFRICA

Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire)

On 29 November 2024, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.120** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1648/documents>.

The State Party reports that continued efforts to improve the management and conservation of the property have been made, starting with a good example that in 2022, the State Party initiated the enlargement of the property's boundaries and buffer zones, in consultation with the concerned communities. Concrete and solid measures have been taken to strengthen the management system, including the appointment of a site manager, confirmed by decree, and the establishment of a dedicated team. This team will gradually be reinforced both in terms of staff and budget, with an emphasis on training traditional masons, notably through regular restoration operations. It is indeed encouraging to note also the solid budget allocation by the State Party for the management entity.

The Committee's concerns about inappropriate interventions have also been addressed, and despite the severe weather that occurred, affected mosques in Kouto, Kaouara, Sorobang and Samatiguila have been rehabilitated and are now in good condition. The State Party also indicates that, as requested by the Committee, the impact of climate change on the property is being addressed with the development of a risk management plan that is under elaboration in a collaborative initiative with various actors and stakeholders in the management system for the property, namely the Ivorian Office for Cultural Heritage, the Executive Secretariat for the management of the property, the local management committees and national experts from the Péléforo-Gbon-sCoulibaly University in Korhogo specialising in climate issues. An International Assistance of USD 85,058 has been obtained from the World Heritage Fund to consolidate these conservation efforts and implement all recommendations of the Committee made at the time of inscription of the property. Despite some delays encountered in the implementation, the measures tailored to the recommendations of the Committee are ongoing and will be closely monitored by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory bodies, including through regular updates and implementation reports from the national counterparts.

Additionally, the State Party reports that the creation of a cooperation of traditional masons to safeguard skills is under consideration, an initial core group of about 40 traditional masons has already been formed. Moreover, a restoration programme for five of the 12 mosques not inscribed due to their state of conservation is underway until April 2025, which, given the desire of the State Party to see all 20 mosques inscribed on the World Heritage List, has led to the development of a vast restoration programme for the twelve remaining mosques.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that a subsequent report to the Committee is not necessary at this stage, in order to provide more time to the State Party to implement the activities scheduled in the International Assistance granted, including the revision of property boundaries and buffer zones, to consolidate its management initiatives for the property and finalise the disaster risk management plan, which should be later shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review.

Asmara: A Modernist African City (Eritrea)

On 29 November 2024, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.122**, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of Asmara – A modernist African City, which is available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1550/documents/>

The State Party has expressed its strong commitment to the conservation, management, and sustainable development of the property through several strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts. The Asmara Heritage Project (AHP) remains the principal entity overseeing the conservation of the site, coordinating its efforts with multiple institutions, including the Department of Public Works Development and the Department of Culture and Sports. Notably, AHP, that presently has a staff of 20 persons with diverse professional expertise, is engaged in finalising the Urban Conservation Master Plan, revising the Integrated Management Plan, and promoting the property to increase awareness on the importance of citizen participation in its conservation efforts. These efforts are a first step in solidifying the structure's role as the central management body, and further discussions between its parental institution, the Central Region Administration and the Commission of Culture and Sports, on how to strengthen AHP are ongoing to better respond to the Committee's request.

The State Party has also been proactive, responding to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee regarding the Local Economic Development Plan (LEDP). This study, launched with the support of the World Heritage Centre, through an International Assistance of USD 29 950 approved in 2021, has already progressed through data collection and methodological structuring, with an expected completion in September 2025. The LEDP is being designed in strict alignment with the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), ensuring that economic development measures are harmonised with the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It will further integrate resource mobilisation strategies, including the prospective establishment of a Conservation Fund, to provide sustainable financial mechanisms for heritage conservation.

Furthermore, the State Party has taken considerable steps towards addressing the urgent conservation needs of the 14 historical buildings identified in 2018 as priorities for restoration. Despite financial and technical constraints, a rapid survey conducted in 2023 affirmed that these structures, despite their state of conservation, retain their authenticity and integrity. AHP has subsequently drafted cost estimations and submitted budget requests to national and local authorities for maintenance work, which are currently undergoing approval processes.

Also, recognising the importance of international cooperation, the State Party reports that the Central Region Administration, in concertation with the Commission of Culture and Sports, has actively sought financial and technical assistance from UNESCO and other international entities to facilitate the comprehensive conservation study of these historic buildings. In continuation of this effort, a request was submitted to the national government to launch an international financial and technical assistance programme that is waiting for approval. Additionally, in a forward-looking approach, the State Party has initiated the development of a revised Integrated Management Plan (2026-2031) that aims to formulate a strategic, long-term vision for the site heritage management. The plan is expected to be finalised in 2025 with financial support from Germany.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies acknowledge the State Party's progress in addressing concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee. Given the significant progress already made and the comprehensive scope of the remaining tasks, further reporting is deemed unnecessary at this time. However, the Secretariat and the Advisory bodies will ensure continued support to the State Party and monitoring of the implementation of necessary plans and measures, particularly the finalisation of the LEDP, the consolidation of the establishment of a financial mechanism for the conservation of the

identified priority buildings, the elaboration of a revised Integrated Management Plan (2026-2031) and the restructuring of AHP, ensuring also that all plans will be shared with the Centre for review.

Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)

On 13 December 2024, in response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8188>, that itemizes the progress made in addressing the points raised in Decision **45 COM 7B.134**, in particular the issues of impacts of climate change on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the finalization of the Integrated Management Plan.

The State Party has acknowledged the impact of climate change and informed that thanks to the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, several projects have been successfully accomplished, and other conservation works are in place at the Gereza Fort, Malindi Seafront, Husuni Kubwa and Makutani to protect the OUV of the property.

Furthermore, thanks to International Assistance from the World Heritage Funds approved by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in June 2021 for an amount of USD 29,560, the State Party is currently finalizing the review and update of the Integrated Management Plan for the property to accommodate the current site management systems, including also the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone of the property.

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 and thus no further reporting is required from the State Party at this point. However, the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies will ensure continued monitoring and support to the State Party, including through fund mobilization, for the continued monitoring of the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property, the finalization of the updated Integrated Management Plan and the overall land use plan, as well as the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone of the property, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

ARAB STATES

Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain)

On 19 November 2024, in response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) in Decision **44 COM 7B.125**, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192/documents>, and presents the progress made in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee.

Heritage-related zoning has been integrated into national zoning regulations, designating sites such as the archaeological area of Qal'at al-Bahrain as Archaeological Site and the surrounding farms as Heritage Gardens. The latest update of the zoning code regulations was finalized in August 2024, while their official approval and publication process are currently underway.

In May 2024, Bahrain's Subcommittee of Services requested that the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) purchase agricultural lands in the property and its buffer zone. Accordingly, establishing memoranda of understanding with landowners is no longer necessary, since those lands will be under the direct management of BACA.

The construction of a tunnel from Nurana to the mainland is no longer planned. Instead, a bridge is currently being proposed at a minimum distance of 2 km from the shore. Previously, the Committee had

approved the State Party exploring options for the location of the bridge, foreseen to cross the visual corridor within a distance ranging from 2 to 3 km to the shore (Decision **37 COM 78.47**). Once the design details are available, they will be submitted with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), including an analysis of visual impact, to the World Heritage Centre. Furthermore, the unlawful land reclamation identified in 2020 was removed.

The State Party is to be commended for its efforts in addressing the requests made by the Committee at its previous sessions. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies continue to monitor interventions at the property, particularly major development projects, such as the proposed bridge. All relevant information concerning the bridge project, including an HIA in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should be submitted for technical review once available, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Himā Cultural Area (Saudi Arabia)

On 18 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, in response to the request made by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.147** at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). The report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1619/documents>, presents the progress made in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee.

A GIS-based database for documenting rock-art and epigraphy is scheduled for 2025–2027, for which the scope of work has been outlined. The data collected through previous inventory projects will be transferred into this database. A survey campaign took place between April and May 2024, after which a five-year plan to conduct a comprehensive inventory for the property and its buffer zone was launched, and is considered a long-term undertaking.

The monitoring programme is being implemented through a standardized methodology for regular weekly visits and compilation of relevant information. Staffing has been increased and staff trained, while community engagement meetings have taken place to monitor the evolution of needs and requirements.

The implementation of the conservation programme for wells is underway, with initial works completed and further works planned for 2025–2026. Community consultations are ongoing to ensure a sustainable mechanism that ensures access to water as well as conservation. A project planned for 2025–2027 will focus on condition assessment and the preparation of conservation management plans. Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) will be undertaken for any future development project, whether within the property's buffer zone or its wider setting.

Moreover, a minor boundary modification proposal to expand the buffer zone of the property was submitted in January 2024 and approved by the Committee at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024).

The State Party has been adequately addressing the property's state of conservation and previous decisions of the Committee. Its commitment and ongoing efforts are commendable. The State Party is therefore encouraged to continue implementing all measures needed to ensure adequate research, documentation, conservation and management of the property. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for any future development project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, all relevant information, including an HIA, prepared in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should be submitted for technical review.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.184

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,**

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:
 - **Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)**
 - **Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia)**
 - **Astronomical Observatories of Kazan Federal University (Russian Federation)**
 - **Brasilia (Brazil)**
 - **Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire)**
 - **Asmara: A Modernist African City (Eritrea)**
 - **Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)**
 - **Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain)**
 - **Himā Cultural Area (Saudi Arabia)**
3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;
4. 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.