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# World Heritage

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## UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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

World Heritage Committee

Thirty first Session

Christchurch, New Zealand

23 June – 2 July 2007

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

#### SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines* (WHC.05/2), the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of thirty four natural and cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

***Decision required:*** The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.



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## II. State of conservation reports

### NATURAL PROPERTIES

#### AFRICA

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

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1983

Criteria:

(ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Potential impacts of civil unrest;
- b) Decrease of large mammal populations due to increased and uncontrolled poaching;
- c) Lack of effective management mechanisms.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Whilst the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) adopted key corrective measures as benchmarks for removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger, the Centre and IUCN believe it would be appropriate to also develop a set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property for future monitoring of the state of conservation of the property.

Corrective measures identified:

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2006 UNESCO-IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Establish, as a matter of urgency, an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property, in close collaboration with the armed forces, and giving priority to the development and rehabilitation of necessary infrastructures;
- b) Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property based on the management plan framework developed for the national system of protected areas. The management plan should give special attention to:

- (i) Establishing a revised zoning system for the property to guide management activities that fully considers the status of the property as a World Heritage property and Biosphere Reserve;
  - (ii) Establishing participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts associated to the management of areas in particular on the periphery of the property;
- c) Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

5 year timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

2007 Preparatory work and developing contacts for technical and financial support, as well as implementation of emergency measures linked in particular to surveillance of the property;

2008 -2009 Preparation of a management plan and implementation of priority activities;

2009 - 2011 Implementation and monitoring of activities under the management plan;

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.2; 29 COM 7A.2; 30 COM 7A.2**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 for technical assistance.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: The property received USD 20,000 in 2006 through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme for law enforcement and awareness activities.

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission in 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Conflict and political instability;
- b) Lack of management control and access;
- c) Poaching; human occupation and agricultural pressure;
- d) Bush fire.

Current conservation issues:

From 10 to 23 June 2006, a UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission visited the property. The results of the mission were presented orally to the 30th session of the Committee and a summary is provided here.

The mission confirmed that the State Party controls only 20% of the property, with 15% under the control of the UN peacekeeping force and the remainder under the control of rebel forces. The mission identified poaching as the major threat together with illegal exploitation of the Park, particularly for agriculture. However, the mission noted that the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List was still present. Most of the basic park infrastructure and equipment had been destroyed and a joint patrol mechanism for the entire park needed to be established with assistance of the UN peacekeeping force. The mission developed a number of recommendations, some of which

were adopted by the Committee as corrective measures and proposed an action plan with timelines.

The State Party submitted a report on 23 January 2007. The report reaffirms some of the information on the State of conservation of the property included in the report of the 2006 monitoring mission and provides a brief update on progress in implementing the adopted corrective measures.

a) *Establish an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property*

Following the recommendations by the mission, discussions are now underway with PNDDR (National Disarmament, Demobilization and Rehabilitation Department) to identify guards in the villages surrounding the park who could act as eco-guards with the responsibility of conducting monitoring and surveillance. However, so far, there is no functioning law enforcement system in the areas not controlled by the State Party. As for the southern part managed by the State Party, funding is being sought to support a squad of 24 agents, and to train guards from the communities neighboring the park.

b) *Develop and initiate the implementation of a management plan for the property, including a zonation of the property and participatory management arrangements with local communities to reduce pressures and impacts*

The management authority OIPR (Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority) has started drafting the management plan. The definition of zones, management units, and management roles will be developed through a workshop of stakeholders involved in the area surrounding the park. It is, however, not entirely clear if it will include the areas not controlled by the Government. No further progress was reported on the recommendation of 2006 mission to clarify the legal framework and harmonize the statutes and related zoning boundaries for the property as a Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage property, and a National Park.

c) *Enlarge the activities of the management structure to encompass the entire property*

No progress is reported.

d) *Progress on other recommendations of the 2006 IUCN mission:*

In accordance with the timeframe proposed by the 2006 mission, the State Party is currently seeking funding to allow for the restoration and to take effective control of the park. A proposal for an emergency plan was drafted and submitted to the German Development Cooperation (KfW/GTZ). OIPR also organized a visit of potential donors (including the German and Norwegian Ambassadors) to the park in November 2006.

In response to the recommendation to establish migration corridors linking the property with protected areas in Burkina Faso and Ghana, IUCN is assisting the State Party with fund raising for the establishment of co-management and conservation of wildlife corridors through its transboundary 3 IC Project 'Espace Comoé.' A regional planning meeting was organized in December 2006 with representatives from the State Party, IUCN and Burkina Faso.

The State Party report did not provide population statistics for wildlife in the park though it did state that large mammals have migrated to the core biodiversity zone and to the adjoining countryside. The recent halt of violence in the park has seen a return of elephants, buffaloes, hippopotami and hartebeest in the south. The lack of current ecological data on the park presents a serious challenge to assess the current conservation status of the property and also to ensure effective management planning, zoning and wildlife corridors. However, this is difficult to address while the State Party does not have full control of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN feel that work with the local communities should be a priority. The State Party should focus on building trust and raising awareness among the communities benefiting from the park's resources. The 2006 monitoring mission identified increasing pressure on the core zone from domestic animals and new farmers, which should

be addressed through co-management and clear guidelines on allowable uses. The State Party should establish a formal relationship between the park and the communities bordering the park with the goal of producing an agreement on rights, obligations and possible assistance available to these communities.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.2**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.2** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes that the State Party has started to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), but that it has not yet been able to establish an effective system of control and patrolling for the whole property;*
4. *Urges the State Party to implement in accordance with the adopted timeframe the corrective measures, in particular emergency measures linked to the surveillance of the whole property, as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 UNESCO-IUCN monitoring mission;*
5. *Calls again upon international donors to continue to support the efforts of the State Party in the preparation and implementation of the action plan and management plan;*
6. *Requests the State Party to collect, as soon as the situation allows, necessary ecological data to assess the conservation status of the property and help to define the boundaries of the management zones;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to develop a transboundary wildlife migration corridor with Burkina Faso and Ghana in cooperation with IUCN;*
8. *Also requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop benchmarks for the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
10. ***Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Cote d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

**3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) (N 155 bis)**

See Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add



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

##### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

##### Criteria

(vii) (viii) (x)

##### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

1994

##### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact of refugees ;
- b) Presence of armed militia and illegal settlers in the property ;
- c) Increased poaching, deforestation, pressure from fishing villages in the Park.

##### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have yet to be set; discussions are underway with the State Party.

##### Corrective measures identified

- a) Establish a "Committee to Save Virunga" (CSV) to address the threats to the property;
- b) Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property, and ensure a close follow-up on cases of illegal activity by military personnel;
- c) Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence;
- d) Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their regions of origin;
- e) Strengthen cooperation between the Park authority (ICCN) and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;
- f) Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities, in order to improve relations;
- g) Strengthen law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas. At the same time, it is also important to reinvigorate Park staff and improve their efficiency through specialized training;
- h) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;

##### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe was set so far.

##### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.3; 29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.7**

##### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,848 for equipment and staff allowances.

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties (“DRC programme”). (2001–2005): approximately USD 900,000 for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Current phase (2005-2008): USD 300,000 for the implementation of the emergency action plan. In January 2007, support from the Rapid Response Facility (USD 30,000) to re-build the capacity of ICCN to conduct anti-poaching patrols in the Mikeno sector of the Park.

### Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO monitoring missions in 1996 and 2006. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Encroachment;
- d) Expansion of illegal fisheries;
- e) Deforestation and cattle grazing.

### Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2007, a brief report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a short overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

During the 2006 monitoring mission, an emergency action plan was developed by ICCN and its conservation partners to support the implementation of certain recommendations of the mission. A 3 year budget of USD 300,000 is made available through the second phase of DRC programme. Main components are the reinforcement of the cooperation between the park authority, its partners, the DRC army, the provincial government and the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC), the continuation of efforts to evacuate the encroached parts of the property in a consensual manner, strengthening law enforcement and surveillance of the property through the materialisation of park limits, guard training and equipment and sensitisation of local communities, political and military authorities.

The main obstacle for the implementation of the corrective measures and the emergency action plan remains the prevailing insecurity in the region. The security situation around the park degraded significantly in the run up to the presidential and provincial elections. In July 2006, the dissident General Nkunda started a new rebellion, installing his operational base in the park in the Kiorirwe region. Following clashes with the DRC army and MONUC forces in November, Nkunda forces fled through the park and installed a new base close to the Mikeno sector of the park, where an important part of the gorilla population lives. In August 2006, Mai-mai fighters also invaded the central sector of the park, establishing camps on the shores of Lake Edward.

The implementation of the corrective measures has been hampered further by the first multiparty presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections which dominated the public agenda since the 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). As many corrective measures require political decisions and commitments, little progress was made so far. New Provincial Governors and the new Government were appointed in February 2007.

The increased insecurity seriously hampered the implementation of some of the corrective measures but also led to increased poaching and deforestation. The population of hippo around Lake Edward has been further decimated and it is now estimated that less than 300 survive (down from 20,000 at the time of inscription of the property and from an estimated 900 in 2005). In early January, 2 solitary silverback gorillas were killed by soldiers belonging to Nkunda. Until the writing of this report, 4 more gorillas are still unaccounted for. Both the World Heritage Centre and the DRC office of IUCN wrote to the Special Representative of the UN in DRC to request support from MONUC to evict these rebel troops from the park, but MONUC seems hesitant to engage in these operations without a clear responsibility for environmental protection in their mandate. Deforestation activities in the Mikeno area for charcoal production also increased significantly, with support from elements of the regular army.

Fortunately, the security situation has improved recently. On 18 January 2007, an agreement was brokered between the Government and General Nkunda, under which his troops are to be integrated in the army, and this process is currently underway. The DRC army is also undertaking some operations against Mai-mai and Rwandan rebels in the park. On 22 February 2007, two main camps of the Mai-mai on the shores of Lake Edward were attacked by the army, and 300 fighters surrendered after the attack.

This difficult situation has again resulted in a heavy toll on park staff. In the various attacks, several guards were killed or wounded. In early November, the head of the Rumangabo station was tortured by the Commander of the army camp in Rutshuru, probably to discourage his efforts to control the charcoal production which involves individual members of the military. Following international protest, the Minister of Defence ordered an investigation into this tragic event. In the wake of the Nkunda troop movements in December, guards from 3 patrol posts had to flee their homes with their families (totalling more than 100 people), leaving their belongings behind. Through the Rapid Response Facility grant, they have been receiving humanitarian aid (shelter, medicines and food). On 16 February, 2 of the abandoned patrol posts were re-occupied by the park staff.

The deterioration of the security situation together with elections has so far prevented much progress being achieved with the implementation of the corrective measures:

a) *Establish a "Committee to Save Virunga" (CSV) to address the threats to the property;*

Due to the situation, this committee has not yet been set up but discussions are underway with the local military authorities and local MONUC commanders.

b) *Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property, and ensure a close follow up on cases of illegal activity by military personnel;*

Following the decision to integrate the Nkunda troops in the army, many of them have left the park. However, after being re-integrated in the army (by mixing them with regular troops), some of these units have been again assigned positions in the park. After the recent operations by the army, there has also been a reduction of Mai-mai and Rwandan fighters in the park. A workshop is planned in April between ICCN and its partners and the army to discuss the role of the army in the conservation of the park and possible troop reductions in the park. In the mean time information leaflets on the importance of the park have also been distributed in the different military positions in the park.

c) *Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence;*

In spite of promises by the Minister of Defence to close down the camp in April 2006, this has still not happened. On 12 February 2007, a joint mission of ICCN and the army to the site concluded that USD 316,318 would be needed to relocate the camp. Early April, a new training cycle for troops will start and moving the camp before that does not seem feasible anymore. Moreover, during the mission, army officials pointed out that after the reunification training process will be finalised, the training camps will continue to be used as

permanent training facilities. There seems to be a real risk that the Nyaleke camp will become a permanent facility.

- d) *Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their regions of origin;*

Little progress could be made as a result of the prevailing situation, in particular in the main encroached areas of Kiorlorwe and the shores of Lake Edward. With the recent improvement of security in the Kiorlorwi area, a census of the illegal occupants and a sensitisation campaign, involving provincial parliamentarians has started. For the western part of the park, 28 communication agents have been recruited from amongst the communities to sensitise the occupants. A survey of possible sites to re-install the migrants is also underway.

- e) *Strengthen cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;*

For the southern sector of the parks; a joint strategic plan was developed by ICCN and its partners. The plan was sent for approval to the ICCN headquarters.

- f) *Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities, in order to improve relations;*

Tourism remains low in the park, as a result of the insecurity. The development of the strategy will need to involve the new authorities, which are currently being put in place following the elections. ICCN is also undergoing a restructuring process.

- g) *Strengthen law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas. At the same time, it is also important to reinvigorate Park staff and improve their efficiency through specialized training;*

The advance ranger force is now fully operational. A truck was supplied in the framework of the emergency plan. Whilst the advance force was unable to control the fierce poaching by armed groups during the election period, recently they have been quite effective in securing the Mikeno sector and the Ishango area on the shores of Lake Edward, home to one of the last remaining hippo groups. Several mixed patrols were also organised recently with the army around the fishing village of Vitshumbi.

- h) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;*

It is hoped that the new government will honour this commitment made at the 2004 Paris conference. UNESCO and WWF are discussing with the Belgium Government on funding to allow the preliminary studies to set up such a fund.

As mentioned in the report on Kahuzi-Biega, a recent map published by the mapping office of the ministry of mines showed that several exploitation permits were granted inside the reserve. Following an intervention by ICCN with the Minister, this issue is currently being studied by a working group set up between ICCN and the ministry.

So far no benchmarks or timeframe have been established. The World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with IUCN is currently discussing with ICCN the development of benchmarks. It is currently proposed that the benchmarks will be developed at a workshop in the site at the end of 2007, when the evaluation of the emergency action plan will be undertaken. In preparation for this discussion, a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was developed for the park and submitted to the Committee for approval.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.4**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the continued insecurity in and around the property continues to hamper conservation activities, leading to a limited progress on the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Urges the State Party in cooperation with MONUC to urgently take measures to disarm and evacuate the armed groups present in and around the park and reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property ;
5. Also urges the State Party and the protected area agency ICCN to implement as soon as possible the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
6. Strongly regrets that in spite of promises by the Minister of Defence, the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp inside the property was not closed down and reiterates its request for an immediate closure and removal of the camp from the property;
7. Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of mines, showing that exploratory concessions were granted inside the property and further urges the State Party to immediately revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
8. Requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
9. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
10. Decides to retain **Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(ix)

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

1997

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact of refugees;
- b) Presence of armed militia and illegal settlers in the property;
- c) Increased poaching;
- d) Deforestation.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have yet to be set. Discussions are underway with the State Party.

Corrective measures identified

Following corrective measures were recommended by the 2006 UNESCO mission and approved by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Develop a strategy to evacuate all armed groups from the property. The strategy will also need to take into account the closing of all illegal mining operations inside the property;
- b) Substantially strengthen the presence of the Park authority (ICCN) guards in the lowland sector of the Park;
- c) Reclaim as soon as the security situation allows the farms in the ecologically important corridor between the lowland and highland and delimitate it;
- d) Strengthen the cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint planning for all interventions in the Park;
- e) Conduct as soon as the security situation allows a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates;
- f) Strengthen the law enforcement in the property, thereby gradually increasing the amount of the Park that is covered by guard patrols;
- g) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe was set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.3; 29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.6**

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,848 for equipment and staff allowances.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties ("DRC programme"). (2001–2005): approximately USD 300,000 for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Current phase (2005-2008): USD 300,000 for the implementation of the emergency action plan with funding from Belgium complemented by funding for the inventory and monitoring component by UNF.

Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO missions in 1996 and 2006. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability;
- b) Poaching by military and armed groups;
- c) Encroachment in particular in the corridor between high- and lowland;
- d) Illegal mining and deforestation.

### Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2007, a succinct report of the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a short overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

During the 2006 monitoring mission, an emergency action plan was developed by ICCN and its conservation partners to support the implementation of certain recommendations of the mission. A 3 year budget of USD 300,000 is made available through the second phase of DRC programme. The objective is to extend the management and surveillance of the property towards the low altitude sector and the corridor between lowland and highland. Main activities are sensitisation of local communities in the target areas, political and military authorities, an inventory of large mammals and flagship species, efforts to strengthen law enforcement and surveillance through the materialisation of park limits, guard training and equipment and developing a collaboration with the local communities through the establishment of local conservation committees and the development of micro-projects.

The main obstacle for the implementation of the corrective measures and the emergency action plan remains the prevailing insecurity in the region. Rwandese militias, Mai-mai rebels and uncontrolled units of the Congolese army (FARDC) continue to be present in the park and the adjacent villages. In 2006, both the lowland stations of Nzovu and Itebero and the Madirhiri patrol post in the highland have been attacked by Rwandese militiamen and dissident factions of the FARDC, resulting in several casualties and one guard killed.

As explained in the Virunga report, the implementation of the corrective measures has been hampered by the organisation of the first multiparty elections in DRC. So far, following progress could be noted:

- a) *Develop a strategy to evacuate all armed groups from the property*

The development of such a strategy will need to involve both political and military authorities. With the new government at national and provincial level only in place recently, no systematic strategy could be developed as yet. An important element will be how the new government decides to deal with the continued presence of Rwandese militia in the region. Their evacuation seems an important condition to restore security in the region and secure the park. In the mean time, some progress was made in controlling some of the dissident FARDC factions. However the presence of armed groups remains the major obstacle for the management of the park.

- b) *Substantially strengthen the presence of ICCN Park guards in the lowland sector of the Park. Strengthen the law enforcement in the property, thereby gradually increasing the amount of the Park that is covered by guard patrols.*

All three park stations in the lowland sector (Itebero, Nzovu and Lulingu) are now manned by ICCN guards, and mixed patrols are being organised, in cooperation with the FARDC and in some cases even with Rwandese militia. Whilst the (re-)opening of the park stations is extremely positive, the possibilities of the stationed guards to patrol the areas remains limited as result of the insecurity. It will also be important to accompany the reinstatement of park staff in these areas with the development of community conservation committees and accompanying measures to install a climate of trust with the local people.

c) *Reclaim the farms occupying the corridor and materialise the limits of the corridor.*

To achieve this, strong support from the political authorities, in particular at provincial level will be needed. It will be extremely important for ICCN and its partners to sensitise the new provincial government for this issue. So far, ICCN already organised several patrols in the corridor and started sensitising the local communities and developing some community conservation activities. The development of a strong cooperation with the local communities is a prerequisite to successfully deal with this difficult question.

d) *Strengthen the cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint planning for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and benchmarks;*

Through the local Site Coordination Committees (CoCoSi), ICCN and its conservation partners are establishing joint operational plans for all activities in the park. MOUs to define the role of each partner are also being developed.

e) *Conduct as soon as the security situation allows a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates;*

In the framework of the DRC programme, a survey is currently implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). A preliminary and cursory exploration of the lowland was completed in December 2006. The presence of gorillas and chimpanzees was confirmed in the two areas visited, but no signs of elephants were seen. Despite the persistent pockets of insecurity, it is hoped that a full survey can be completed during the coming months.

f) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.*

See report Virunga National Park.

So far no benchmarks or timeframe were established. UNESCO in cooperation with IUCN is currently discussing with ICCN the development of benchmarks. It is currently proposed that benchmarks will be developed at a workshop at the park by the end of 2007, at the time of the evaluation of the emergency action plan.

In addition two other *major developments* with potentially important impacts on the park need to be mentioned here.

A UNESCO mission in October 2006 was informed that the service of the Ministry of Mines responsible for the mapping of mining concessions published a new map of attributed exploration and exploitation concessions. The maps showed several concessions inside the protected areas, including exploitation concessions in Kahuzi-Biega (PNKB) and Okapi Wildlife Reserve and a prospecting concession in Virunga National Park. After consultations with UNESCO, ICCN sent a letter in protest to the Minister of Mines on 6 November 2006 with a detailed file of explanations prepared with the assistance of the DRC programme. On 1 December, the Minister of Mines instructed the mapping office to verify the information presented by ICCN and amend the maps if necessary. A mixed technical working group was set up which is currently studying the issue.

The mission was also informed that the European Union in the framework of a multi-donor road rehabilitation programme, was planning the rehabilitation of the RN3 Kisangani-Bukavu. This road is crossing the highland sector of the park. It needs to be recalled that already in 1990, the rehabilitation of the road was underway with support from the German development bank (KfW) and that the planned rehabilitation of the stretch going through the park led to major discussions. An Environmental Impact study done by IUCN at the time recommended that the road be re-routed around the northern boundaries of the park. This issue was discussed by the World Heritage Committee at its 15th session (Carthage, 1991). However, with the start of the war, the road rehabilitation was never completed. For the current project, the EU contracted GTZ for a technical and socio-economical and environmental impact study, which was conducted in February/March 2007. As soon as the report of this study is available, it will be transmitted to UNESCO and IUCN.



In relation to the mobilisation of funding, Germany is planning to support conservation activities in PNKB through a five year support programme for ICCN funded by the German development bank (KfW). The PNKB component has a budget of 3 Million Euros.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.5**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the continued insecurity in particular in the lowland sector continues to hamper conservation activities, including the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Urges the State Party in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) to urgently take measures to disarm and evacuate the armed groups present in and around the park, in particular of the Rwandese militia and uncontrolled units of the DRC army (FARDC);
5. Notes that some progress was made in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular the re-installation of park staff in the lowland sector, the organisation of mixed patrols with the army and the start of survey work on of key animals in the lowland;
6. Requests the State Party and the protected area agency ICCN to implement as soon as possible the corrective measures, in close cooperation with the local communities around the park;
7. Notes the planned rehabilitation of the RN3 road crossing the property and urges the State Party to provide the Committee with the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment before any final decision on the rehabilitation is taken, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of mines, showing that mining concessions were granted inside the property and also urges the State Party to immediately revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;
9. Also requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property together with a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property;
10. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the road rehabilitation project and the issue of the mining concessions and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
11. **Decides to retain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*

**7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)**

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact of conflict: looting of infrastructure, poaching of elephants
- b) Presence of gold mining sites inside the property

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have yet to be set; discussions are underway with the State Party.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the DRC army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining;
- b) Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property;
- c) Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property, to allow for a proper Environmental Impact Assessment and until proper measures to reduce its expected environmental impact are put in place;
- d) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;
- e) Establish permanent cooperation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) and the Park authority (ICCN) to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property;
- f) In cooperation with the Government of Uganda, stop the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC;
- g) Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect the property from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation;

- h) Legalize and scale-up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road, including the establishment of a permit system with transit charges;
- i) Take measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve their efficiency.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe was set so far.

#### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.3; 29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.8**

#### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 23,000 for preparation of nomination, guard training and camp construction. In 2005, USD 40,000 to combat illegal poaching in the property.

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties (“DRC programme”). (2001–2005): approximately USD 250,000 for staff allowances, equipment, community conservation, monitoring and training activities. Current phase (2005-2008): USD 300,000 for the implementation of the emergency action plan with funding from Belgium complemented by funding for the inventory and monitoring component by UNF.

#### Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO monitoring missions in 1996 and 2006. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the project.

#### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants.
- b) Mining activities inside the property.
- c) Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property.
- d) Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri forest, which might affect the property in the near future.
- e) Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted.

#### Current conservation issues

From 12 to 23 May 2006, a UNESCO monitoring mission visited the property. The results of the mission were presented orally to the 30th session of the Committee (Vilnius, 2006). The mission identified three immediate threats to values of the property:

- a) the on-going large scale poaching of large mammals in particular elephants, with a clear implication of certain members of the armed forces and the police,
- b) illegal mining sites for the extraction of gold, diamonds and colombo-tantalium, under the control of traditional chiefs and involving certain elements of the military,

- c) the continued immigration from the densely populated highlands of Kivu, with increased settlement in the immediate vicinity of the property and around the road crossing the reserve.

In addition, the mission identified two issues that were expected to impact the property in the near future, in particular:

- d) the on-going rehabilitation of the road RN4 crossing the reserve, with potential direct impacts (such as the disturbance of animals by vehicle traffic) and indirect impacts (such as an increase in bush meat and timber trafficking and an increased immigration into the area) and
- e) illegal logging and deforestation to the east of the property, but steadily advancing towards the reserve.
- f) The mission also developed a series of recommendations, which were endorsed by the Committee as corrective measures (mentioned above). The mission did not propose clear benchmarks and did not propose a time frame for the corrective measures.

During the 2006 monitoring mission, an emergency action plan was developed by ICCN and its conservation partners to support the implementation of certain recommendations of the mission. A 3 year budget of USD 300,000 is made available through the second phase of DRC programme. Main components of the plan are the reinforcement of the immigration control system put in place by the park authorities, sensitisation of local communities, political and military authorities, strengthening law enforcement and surveillance, finalisation of the post-war survey of large mammals and flagship species and regular aerial surveillance of the property and preparatory work for the development of an updated management plan.

On 12 February 2007, a report of the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a brief overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

As explained in the Virunga report, the implementation of the corrective measures has been hampered by the organisation of the first multiparty elections in DRC. However, progress was achieved towards some of the set corrective measures:

- g) *Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the DRC army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining*

With financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund, a large scale joint operation with the military was organised in April-June 2006, to remove poachers from the insecure parts of the reserve. Through the operation, 6 commercial poaching gangs including 3 led by elements of the army were apprehended and their leaders transferred to the judiciary. So far, 2 of the military were condemned by the military tribunal to 3 years imprisonment. An agreement was also reached with the military, not to station any troops inside the Reserve after the operation. Currently, poaching is estimated to be down by 80% and approximately 90% of the Reserve is under control of ICCN.

- h) *Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property*

During the 2006 operation, 20 mining sites with more than 1000 miners were closed down. A mission of the provincial authorities was conducted in August, confirming to the local authorities the illegality of mining in the property. However, there is a constant pressure from some military and civil authorities to re-open some of the mines. Therefore, it is important to reinforce sensitization on the need to close mines in the property by the newly instated provincial and national governments.

As mentioned in the report on Kahuzi-Biega, a recent map published by the mapping office of the ministry of mines showed that several exploitation permits were granted inside the

reserve. Following an intervention by ICCN with the Minister, this issue is currently being studied by a working group set up between ICCN and the ministry.

i) *Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property*

During a mission in October 2006, UNESCO urged ICCN to officially request the Ministry of Public Works and the World Bank to suspend the rehabilitation works until a proper impact study was done. Unfortunately, this was only done early March 2007, when works on the section crossing the reserve had already started. UNESCO immediately contacted the World Bank, which dispatched a mission to the Reserve to look into the issue. This mission is on-going at the time of writing of this report. The potential impact of the road rehabilitation is huge. Since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, the road is in such a state of disrepair that traffic is very low. A rehabilitation of this major road will increase the extraction of resources from the reserve, including timber in the Ituri Forest and migration pressures within the property and of the Ituri Forest. Whilst the road clearly is important for the development of the region and the country, it is critically important that adequate mitigating measures are identified to reduce the impact on the property.

j) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties*

See report Virunga National Park.

k) *Establish permanent cooperation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, MONUC and ICCN to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property*

No permanent cooperation could be set up so far during the election period. However, following the 2006 joint operation with the military, there exist good and sporadic contacts between the reserve authority and the military regional command in Kisangani.

l) *In cooperation with the Government of Uganda, stop the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC*

As this measure needs to be discussed on a bilateral basis between the Governments of DRC and Uganda, no progress could be made so far.

m) *Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect the property from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation*

No progress made so far. Recent reports about the granting of a forest concession to the east of the Reserve demonstrates the urgency of this measure.

n) *Legalize and scale up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road.*

No progress made so far. This measure will be critical to mitigate the impact of the on-going road rehabilitation. However, an adequate control of the road will be a logistical challenge as traffic on the road will increase manifold.

o) *Take measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve their efficiency.*

ICCN recently recruited 15 additional guards to ensure surveillance of the areas cleared from poachers and mines by the 2006 operation. Guard training has also been reinforced through the emergency action plan.

As requested by the Committee, the World Heritage Centre contacted the CITES secretariat requesting their assistance in investigating the trading networks and countries of destination of ivory poached in the Reserve and other DRC properties. The secretariat replied that it did not believe it was appropriate for them to undertake an in-country investigation unless requested by the State Party. However, CITES proposed to highlight this issue during the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14), which will take place in The Hague in June 2007 and suggested to develop a joint capacity building programme for the region.

So far no benchmarks or timeframe were established. UNESCO in cooperation with IUCN is currently discussing with ICCN the development of benchmarks. It is proposed that these benchmarks will be developed at a workshop in the reserve at the end of 2007, when the evaluation of the emergency action plan will be undertaken.

In relation to the mobilisation of funding for the property, Germany is planning to support conservation activities in RFO through a five year support programme for ICCN funded by the German development bank (KfW). The RFO component has a budget of 2.7 Million Euros.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.8**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Expresses its satisfaction with the significant progress made in the implementation of some of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in particular closing down of illegal mining operations in the property, curbing poaching by uncontrolled military and other organised groups and in securing the property;*
4. *Requests the new Government and the protected area agency ICCN to implement as soon as possible the other corrective measures;*
5. *Strongly regrets that the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property were not suspended as requested by the Committee and reiterates its request for a proper Environmental Impact Assessment to identify necessary mitigating measures to reduce its impact, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Expresses its concern about the map produced by the Ministry of mines, showing that mining concessions were granted inside the property and urges the State Party to revoke any concessions that might have been granted, as mining operations are incompatible with the World Heritage status of the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property together with a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the road rehabilitation project and the issue of the mining concessions and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
9. ***Decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

### 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

### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Depletion of the Walia ibex population and of other large mammals
- b) Encroachment
- c) Impacts of road construction

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Whilst the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) adopted key corrective measures as benchmarks for a removal of property from the List of World in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN believe it would be appropriate to develop a set of benchmarks based on the OUV of the property.

### Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified by the 2006 UNESCO/IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The mission also developed additional recommendations to improve the State of Conservation of the property.

- a) Finalize the extension of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP) to include the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain with the interlinking corridors;
- b) Gazetting of the new park boundaries, including the extensions of Lemalimo, Mesarerya, the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen Mountain as well as the realignment of the boundary to exclude certain villages;
- c) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision, to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property by introducing no grazing and limited grazing zones based on ecological criteria and by setting up a strict management regime in zones where grazing will still be tolerated in the short to medium term, and secure funding for its implementation;
- d) Develop a strategy and action plan, as part of the planned management plan revision to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity, in order to limit in the medium term their impact on the natural resources of the property, and secure funding for its implementation.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No precise timeframe was set so far although the Committee mentioned that the corrective measures could be implemented in the short term (1-2 years).

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.4; 29 COM 7A.5; 30 COM 7A.9**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 185,000 for technical cooperation and training, including support for a technical assistance mission to identify work that remains to be done to finalize the management plan.

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO/IUCN monitoring missions in 2001 and 2006.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Declining populations of Walia ibex, Simien fox and other large mammal species;
- b) Increasing human populations and livestock numbers in the park;
- c) Agricultural encroachment;
- d) Road construction.

### Current conservation issues

From 10 to 27 May 2006, a UNESCO - IUCN monitoring mission visited the property. The results of the mission were presented orally to the 30th session of the Committee (Vilnius, 2006) and a summary is provided here.

The mission noted that significant progress had been achieved in implementing some of the corrective measures set by the Committee, in particular the re-alignment of the boundary to exclude villages (former benchmark 1), and the extension of the property to include Mesareya and Lemalimo Wildlife Reserve (former benchmark 2). The mission further noted that while these extensions had increased the effective conservation of a larger population of Walia ibex inside the park, 75% of the Simien fox population still remained outside the current boundaries and a further extension of the park towards the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared Mountains and the Ras Dejen mountains would be necessary to fully achieve former benchmark 4. The mission concluded that the former benchmark 3, requiring a significant and sustainable reduction of people living inside the core area had not been achieved. The mission also recognized that livestock grazing is a serious concern for the integrity and conservation of the values of the property and had not been addressed in the corrective measures set by the Committee. Based on the recommendations of the mission, the Committee adopted four new corrective measures which could be used as benchmarks (see above). The mission further looked at a number of other critical issues such as the road passing through the property, a newly planned road in the vicinity of the proposed extension, the newly constructed lodge and the risk of disease transmission from livestock as well as the preparation of the management plan and tourism planning in the region and had provided specific recommendations on these issues, which had been included in the mission report.

On 21 February 2007, a report of the state of conservation of SMNP was submitted by the State Party. The report provides information on progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted:

- a) *Finalize the extension of SMNP with the interlinking corridors*

The report mentions that work on the demarcation of the extension to Ras Dejen is planned for the first half of 2007 and will be funded through the Austrian financed SMNP – Integrated Development Project. Consultations with the local communities are already underway and field work will start shortly. The report mentions that the critical issue of the relocation of the illegally installed Arqwaziye village, mentioned by the 2006 mission, will be negotiated during



the demarcation process, and that villagers are expected to be willing to re-locate to a site along the road to Dilibza town, which is currently under construction.

b) *Re-gazettment of the new park boundaries*

The State Party notes that re-gazettment of the entire new boundary is planned once the extension to Ras Dejen is completed. It is expected that this re-gazettment could be completed in the next two years.

c) *Develop a strategy and action plan to significantly reduce the impact of livestock grazing on the conservation of the property and secure funding for its implementation*

Draft terms of reference for a short-time consultancy to develop this strategy have been prepared by the State Party, and both IUCN and UNESCO have provided technical comments. The consultant report states that the strategy could be developed in the next one to two years but that so far no funding for its implementation could be secured, given the fact that the future continuation of the Austrian project is not guaranteed.

d) *Develop a strategy and action plan to support the development of alternative livelihoods for the people living within the park as well as its immediate vicinity and secure funding for its implementation*

With financial support from the World Heritage Fund, an international consultant developed a detailed and comprehensive proposal for an alternative livelihood project. In the proposal, 30 different business types are studied and planned, which could create 725 jobs and benefit more than 3,800 people. It is believed that the implementation of the project would provide opportunities to the local communities which would encourage people to leave the park. The local communities are reported to support the plan. The major obstacle for its implementation is the projected cost of USD 8.7 million. The State Party, therefore, requests the support of UNESCO and IUCN to assist with fundraising for this project.

The State Party report further provides information on progress in implementing some of the other recommendations of the 2006 mission:

The report confirms that following the mission, the initially proposed route of the Bwahit – Dilyibza road across the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared mountains, planned to be included in the further extension of SMNP, was banned by official letter of the President of the Amhara State Government and that the Regional Government had allocated additional funds to design and construct an alternative route through the valleys outside the proposed extension. The Centre and IUCN welcome this decision but note that there will be a need to closely monitor the traffic pressure on the Debark – Mekane Birhan road crossing the park to evaluate the additional traffic as a result of the road extension and if necessary take appropriate measures to control it.

In October 2006, the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre and IUCN a draft management plan prepared by a local consultant for comments. Whilst the draft provides a very complete description of the park, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN feel that the management objectives were not clearly referring to the OUV of the property and that the proposed zonation was unclear and failed to address the key issue of grazing in the property. The World Heritage Centre is currently trying to establish cooperation between the park authority and the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) to provide further assistance with the finalisation of the management plan. FZS has a lot of experience in management planning and recently prepared a management plan for Mbale Mountains National Park in Ethiopia. At the time of preparation of this report, a team of FZS and the park authority, with support from the World Heritage Centre are conducting a joint mission to identify gaps in the draft management plan and develop a strategy and budget to finalise it.

The report further mentions that a Tourism Master Plan for the property is to be prepared in the coming months. The Centre through its tourism programme has already provided some

technical advice to the State Party and is currently trying to identify ways to increase its technical assistance.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.9**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
  2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
  3. *Commends the Amhara Regional Government for its decision to re-align the planned Bwahit – Dilyibza road in order to avoid it crossing the proposed extension of the park in the Silki Yared – Kiddis Yared mountains and requests the State Party, in particular the Amhara Regional Government, to closely monitor the impact of the new road on the traffic through the park;*
  4. *Welcomes the efforts by the State Party and in particular the park authority to have initiated the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);*
  5. *Encourages the State Party, with the assistance of UNESCO and IUCN, to approach potential donors to allow for the implementation of the alternative livelihoods project and calls on international donors to support this project and other activities to rehabilitate the property;*
  6. *Request the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Party, in cooperation with relevant partners, to implement the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission, in particular the finalisation of the management plan and of a Tourism Master Plan for the property;*
  7. *Also requests the State Party, together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
  8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) as well as the other recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
  9. *Decides to retain Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*
- 10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1991

Criteria:

(vii) (ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1992

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Political instability and civil strife

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Whilst the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) adopted key corrective measures as benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN believe it would be appropriate to develop a set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified during the 2005 IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

- a) re-establish physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to the management authority in order to allow a better control of natural resource use within the property;
- b) establish Land Commissions (Commissions foncières) in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents;
- c) significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal commercial natural resource extraction issues;
- d) immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property; and
- e) initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce corollary destabilization of soils by motorized traffic.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.6; 29 COM 7A.6; 30 COM 7A.10**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 143,250, in particular USD 108,250 for projects within the urgent rehabilitation programme and inscription of the property as a mixed property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

UNESCO mission in 1998, IUCN mission in 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Political instability and civil strife;

- b) Poverty;
- c) Management constraints;
- d) Ostrich poaching;
- e) Soil erosion;
- f) Demographic pressure;
- g) Livestock pressure; and
- h) Pressure on wood resources.

*Current conservation issues:*

On 1 February 2007, the State Party submitted a report providing information on progress towards achieving corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).

In September 2006, the State Party and UNDP, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), launched the project for the “Co-management of natural resources of Aïr-Ténéré and its surrounding areas” (COGERAT). Through this project, the State Party is implementing the corrective measures set by the Committee. The following results are noted in the State Party report on the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) *Re-establishing physical presence of the management authority in Iférouane and provide adequate resources to the management authority*

Whilst the project coordination unit is established in Agadez, the project established project units in the municipalities adjacent to the park, including in Iférouane. The park warden is also based in Iférouane. The park warden and each head of unit were equipped with a four-wheel drive vehicles and communication equipment. Involvement of the local population in monitoring and surveillance is planned but has yet to take place. The State Party is in the process of increasing forestry personnel to about ten by June 2007. The establishment and enforcement of laws and regulations governing the site and the natural resources is underway.

- b) *Establish Land Commissions in the four Municipalities and clarify respective land-use and resource access rights for local residents*

Following the signature of an agreement between COGERAT and the relevant government authorities, a feasibility study for the establishment of land commissions in Iférouane, Gogaram, Timia, and Tabelot was conducted in November 2006, which will soon allow their establishment in the these four municipalities. The project will also support cooperation between the municipalities and assist with the improvement of the municipal development plans.

- c) *Significantly improve monitoring and surveillance of the property in order to address poaching and illegal commercial natural resource extraction issues*

Between August and December 2006, COGERAT carried out three missions together with the technical department of the regional and local governments as well as representatives of the local communities in order to raise awareness and identify priority actions. As a result, a new strategy for anti-poaching and fighting against illegal resource extraction in the Reserve was developed. For 2007, the project will organise regular large-scale missions together with the region’s security forces funded jointly by the State Party and the project. It is expected that these missions will also raise awareness of the importance of conservation and anti-poaching activities amongst the armed forces.

The State Party reiterates its strong commitment to fight the looting of its cultural and natural heritage. As an example, the report cites the arrest of Western tourists in November 2006,

who were trying to export precious stones and fossil artefacts. To better address the looting of cultural relics COGERAT launched a study to produce a national tourism charter.

d) *Immediately halt all commercial collection of timber and thatch from the property*

The State Party report confirms that efforts are underway to address this issue. The 6 year objectives of the COGERAT project are to reduce the illegal exploitation of natural resources within and around the Reserve, including timber and thatch, by 50% and to reduce wood consumption in the urban centres in the region by 15%. To achieve this, COGERAT together with the regional environmental services are planning to set up local management structures. On the basis of a study to clarify land use and resource access rights, sustainable management systems for timber and thatch are expected to be put in place in 2007.

e) *Initiate soil and vegetation stabilization actions to control soil erosion, and measures to reduce corollary destabilization of soils by motorized traffic*

Combating soil erosion and restoring degraded lands are major objectives of the COGERAT project. The innovative approach of the project is based on the development of a system of co-management of the natural resources between the government and the local municipalities in the 20 million ha area covered by the project. Its 6 year objectives include the restoration of 55.000 ha of degraded lands and the sustainable management by the municipalities and the local communities of further 100.000 ha land. So far COGERAT carried out 7 studies on improving the agro-sylvi-pastoral farming systems and combating land degradation. This enabled the project to identify pilot sites within the Reserve and its surrounding areas. Soil and land restoration activities in the pilot sites are planned for 2007.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the start of the COGERAT project, which is expected to greatly assist the State Party with the implementation of the corrective measures in order to address the threats to the integrity and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Given the extent of these threats, it will take time before the project will be able to positively impact them.

The State Party report did not provide any further information on the status of resources or trends in resource use, such as data on populations and distribution of threatened species, levels of poaching, the extent and degree of wood and thatch harvesting. These data will be important to clearly follow up the progress made towards the benchmarks set up for a future removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.10**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A;*
2. *Recalling its Decision 30 COM 7A.10, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);*
3. *Welcomes the start of the COGERAT project, funded by the Global Environmental Facility, which will assist the State Party in implementing the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) in order to address the threats to the integrity and Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
4. *Notes that given the importance of these threats, it will take time before the project will be able to reverse the threats to the property;*

5. *Requests the State Party together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to monitor the status of resources and trends in resource use in the property, in particular the status and distribution of threatened species, levels of poaching, and extent and degree of wood and thatch harvesting, in order to facilitate monitoring of progress towards benchmarks;*
7. *Urges the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures, in close cooperation with the COGERAT project, whilst at the same time take urgent action to address poaching and illegal commercial activities;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property, and on progress with the implementation of the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
9. *Decides to maintain the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the list of World Heritage properties in Danger.*

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Years of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1985

Criteria:

(vii) (ix) (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1992

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Bodo insurgency resulting in destruction of Park infrastructure and depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Whilst the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) adopted key corrective measures as benchmarks for a removal of property from the List of World in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN – The World Conservation Union - believe it would be appropriate to develop a set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Corrective measures identified

Corrective measures were identified by the joint 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission and adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

- a) Accelerate efforts to re-build Park infrastructure;
- b) Take prompt measures to fill vacant positions within the Park;
- c) Ensure timely release of funds to the Park, in compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling; and
- d) Undertake a comprehensive wildlife survey in the Park, which could act as a future baseline for monitoring recovery of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.10; 29 COM 7A.9; 30 COM 7A.13**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000 (for purchase of equipment, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities).

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN missions in 1992 and 2002, as well as UNESCO/IUCN mission in 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Bodo insurgency 1988-2003;
- b) Forced evacuation of Park staff;
- c) Destruction of Park infrastructure;
- d) Poaching and logging;
- e) Illegal cultivation.

Current conservation issues:

In February 2007, the State Party submitted a Rapid Rural Assessment of Wildlife Values of the property. This report included information on the status of habitat and key wildlife species within the park, NGO conservation efforts, and administrative issues. The State Party has reported on progress for three of the four corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and on progress in implementing some of the other recommendations of the 2005 UNESCO/IUCN mission.

Following progress was reported in the implementation of the corrective measures:

a) *Accelerate efforts to re-build Park infrastructure*

The State Party has reported on good progress in re-building Park infrastructure with 29 camps currently operational. Volunteers and the Forest Department are also involved in ongoing activities to clear roads and trails. The report did not include new information on communication within the Park, particularly re-building of bridges and culverts.

b) *Take prompt measures to fill vacant positions within the park*

A current shortfall of 140 positions out of 445 sanctioned posts is reported, but interviews are underway for filling these positions.

c) *Ensure timely release of funds to the Park, in compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling of the State Party*

The State Party has not reported on park funding in relation to the release of funds.

d) *Undertake a comprehensive wildlife survey in the Park, which could act as a future baseline for monitoring recovery of the property*

The State Party report acknowledged that the short time period and time of year of the assessment produced only limited quantifiable data that could be used for establishing baselines for key wildlife species.

A tiger census has been planned for March 2007 as there has been no tiger census data since 2000, which showed a decline from the high of 89 tigers recorded in 1997 to 65 tigers in 2000. The most recent elephant census was in 2005, showing a decline of over 50% from 567 elephants in 2002 to 247 elephants in 2005. There is an active rhinoceros reintroduction programme with a single female having been brought to an enclosure in the Park in 2006. There is no data showing the presence of swamp deer, which therefore, appears to have become locally extinct.

The State Party has also reported on contributions by the NGO community which include an innovative use of former poachers in conservation.

The State Party's report includes little information on progress in implementing the other of the 2005 mission recommendations except for the establishment of a camp in Panbari



Range Area of the Manas World Heritage property. Specifically no information is provided on the following recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission:

- (i) working with Bhutan to form a transboundary property, and holding consultation between India and Bhutan in relation to the release of water from the upstream dam in Bhutan;
- (ii) coordination between Park staff and the Bodo people on planning and conservation activities;
- (iii) identifying sources of funding, the Supreme Court ruling and the timely release of funds for park management, mechanisms for transferring funds directly to the site such as the Wildlife Areas Development and Welfare Trust, and mechanisms for revenue generation;
- (iv) management plan for invasive species;
- (v) defining roles and expectations of all relevant stakeholders in relation to future community development activities.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre welcome the State Party's progress on re-building infrastructure, filling vacancies, and carrying out the rapid assessment of wildlife in the Park. However, it is noted that further work is required to achieve these benchmarks, as well as in relation to the wildlife survey as such information is essential for assessing the maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note the inconsistency in the elephant population between the State Party's reports for 2006 and 2007. The 2006 report noted an increase from 567 to 658 (covers the larger area of the Chirag Ripu Elephant Reserve), whereas the 2007 report indicated a decline from 567 to 247. This inconsistency should be clarified.

While the rapid assessment of wildlife is a very positive step in understanding the status of key species, accurate information for the key species is needed to provide the baseline required for the development of clear benchmarks. It is also noted that the information on bird populations and bird habitats is very limited.

IUCN and the World Heritage Centre note that all approvals in relation to the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme of India have now been secured and hope that implementation of its activities would commence soon. This was recognized by the Committee, in the decision made at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), as being crucial support for conservation of the property.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.11**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A;*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);*
3. *Notes that the State Party has conducted a rapid assessment of wildlife values and made progress on re-building infrastructure and filling vacancies in the property;*
4. *Also notes that the State Party has not reported on progress relating to the benchmark on funding for the property, or on implementation of many of the recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission;*

5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission in 2009 to the property to assess progress in achieving the benchmarks and implementing the remaining recommendations from the 2005 monitoring mission, and to indicate a definite time-frame for their completion;
6. Also requests the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to develop a clear set of benchmarks based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the state of conservation of the property and on progress in addressing the corrective measures set by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005) and the other recommendation of the 2005 mission report, in particular the monitoring of key species and creation of a transboundary property with Bhutan, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

#### Criteria

(viii) (ix) (x)

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

1993

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Urban encroachment;
- b) Agricultural fertiliser pollution;
- c) Mercury contamination of fish and wildlife;
- d) Lowered water levels due to flood control measures;
- e) Damage from Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Whilst the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) adopted key corrective measures as benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN believe it would be appropriate to also develop a set of benchmarks based on the outstanding universal value (OUV) of the property for future monitoring of its state of conservation.

#### Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were proposed by the State Party, in consultation with IUCN in relation to the key threats to the property:

##### *1. Alteration of the Everglades National Park hydrological regimes*

- 1.1) All East Everglades Land Acquisition complete (approximately 44,000 hectares)
- 1.2) Complete Water Control Plan (CSOP Final EIS) and complete 8.5 Square Mile Area Construction
- 1.3) Construction projects for the L-67A and C and L-29 water conveyance structures, Tamiami Trail Bridges, and road modifications are all underway

##### *2. Adjacent urban and agricultural growth*

- 2.1) Complete C-111 land exchange between the South Florida Water Management District and the US Government
- 2.2) Complete the Water Control Plan (CSOP Final EIS)
- 2.3) Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond

### *3. Agriculture and urban runoff phosphorous limits*

- 3.1) Meet or exceed the interim and long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into Shark River Slough and the long-term phosphorous reduction limits for water flowing into the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basin areas in Everglades National Park.

### *4. Protection and management of Florida Bay*

- 4.1) Complete the construction of the C-111 Detention Area features from the 8.5 Square Mile Area to Frog Pond and implement CSOP operations
- 4.2) Complete the C-111N Spreader Canal and revised operations

### *Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures*

In the report submitted by the State Party, a time frame for the adopted corrective measures is proposed.

### *Previous Committee Decisions*

**28 COM 15A.11; 29 COM 7A.10; 30 COM 7A.14**

### *International Assistance*

N/A

### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

N/A

### *Previous monitoring missions*

IUCN mission to identify benchmarks and corrective measures, April 2006;

### *Main threats identified in previous reports*

- a) Quantity and quality of water entering the park;
- b) Continued urban growth on the eastern boundary of the park and potential expansion of the urban development boundary.

### *Current conservation issues*

The State Party submitted its report on 1 February 2007, on progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures cited above. The report also gives indications on planned timeframes for the different actions. The key points are:

#### *a) Alteration of the Everglades National Park hydrological regimes*

There have been significant allocations (USD 253 million) for a range of ecosystem restoration projects in the 2007 fiscal year. These will support continued construction of the Modified Water Deliveries Project (Mod/Waters) to restore water flows into the park. The funding will also support specific restoration activities within the Everglades National Park. The US Army Corps of Engineers is continuing its efforts to increase water flows into the Park's largest drainage basin, Shark Slough. Cost estimates to complete the remaining Mod/Waters project features have increased by USD 196 million since the 1996 status report. The State Party considers current project appropriations to be adequate to complete all three of planned corrective measures (1.1, 1.2; 1.3) by 2011.

#### *b) Adjacent urban and agricultural growth*

A series of hydrological restoration actions have been undertaken in the Taylor Slough and Eastern Panhandle watersheds to restore a more natural water flow regime through Taylor

Slough and into North Eastern Florida Bay. The Corps revised C-111 plan and recommended a series of actions to maintain the currently authorised levels of flood protection for adjacent agricultural areas, while limiting groundwater losses from the property's wetlands. By 2006, the majority of the C-111 project features were completed, while construction of the central detention area was delayed by a required land exchange between the National Parks Services (NPS) and the South Florida Water Management District. This land exchange was completed in 2006, and all remaining corrective measures (2.1; 2.2; 2.3) are scheduled for completion by November 2011.

The majority of the park is within the Miami-Dade County. Population growth rates have been estimated at more than 3% within Southern Miami-Dade, with an anticipated 600,000 additional people by 2025 and 1.2million by 2050. To date intensive residential development has largely been confined within an Urban Development Boundary (UDB). The current plan is to place all of the projected new dwelling units inside the UDB and 60% of the new dwelling units within the UDB after 2026, in order to preserve the County's remaining wetlands, farmlands and open space. These proposals are included within a South Miami-Dade Watershed Study, which is scheduled for completion in 2007.

It is noted that the development of the Watershed Study is an important initiative. IUCN recommends that the UDB not be expanded, and that recommendations be adopted which protect the UDB in Miami-Dade County and which minimise the impact of urban growth pressures in Southwest Florida on the Everglades National Park. Maximising open space and farmland adjacent to the Everglades National Park is important, as this will reduce the pressure to further lower canal water levels, thus better protecting the wetlands and natural habitats within the park.

c) *Agriculture and urban runoff phosphorous limits*

Interim and long term phosphorous limits have been established for water flowing into Shark River Slough and the Taylor Slough/Coastal Basins of Everglades National Park, with long term compliance required by 31 December 2006. Regular monitoring activities and reporting continue to document a general trend of reductions in phosphorous levels for waters discharged into the Everglades. Water quality presently entering Taylor Slough and the coastal basins (corrective measure 3.1) is well below the long term limit. However, recent data indicate that inflows to Everglades National Park in Shark River Slough are extremely close to or exceed the long term phosphorous limits.

Actions to improve the quality of water entering the Everglades National Park, particularly water entering the Shark River Slough, should be continued.

d) *Protection and management of Florida Bay*

Expanding development along the lower east coast of Florida has led to massive diversions of storm water into the Atlantic Ocean, and away from the southern Everglades. These diversions reduced fresh water inflows to Florida Bay resulting in increased salinity, especially close to the near shore embayment of central Florida Bay. Plans to increase water deliveries to Florida Bay and improving the quality, timing and distribution of flows into the Bay are focused on water management improvements to Taylor Slough. These plans are focussed around completion of on-going C-111 projects (4.1; 4.2), which is expected by 2012.

IUCN recommends that the impacts of these activities on the water quality and salinity in Florida Bay continue to be carefully monitored. IUCN also notes the need for continuing attention to managing and reducing the number and impact of boaters in Florida Bay, within the park's current general management planning process.

It is noted that progress is being achieved in relation to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) adopted in 2000 and in implementing the corrective measures adopted as benchmarks at the 2006 World Heritage Committee. CERP is the world's largest environmental restoration project and aims to re-establish natural water flows to the greater

Everglades ecosystem. It will take the next 30-40 years to fully implement and has a currently estimated cost of USD 10.5 billion. This figure does not include a separate USD 1.1 billion budget for the clean-up of pollution in the Everglades.

It will be important to continue to monitor the impact of the restoration activities on the status of OUV of the property, including key species in the Everglades National Park, such as populations of the Cape Sable seaside sparrow, the wood stork and the manatee. Development of benchmarks related to the OUV should be used to assess the effectiveness of achievement of the corrective measures for this property.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.12**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.14** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the considerable efforts and investments made in the restoration and conservation of the Everglades National Park;*
4. *Notes the progress made in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) which will guide decisions on a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, as well as the timeframes proposed by the State Party;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to continue its commitment to the restoration and conservation of the property and to provide the required financial resources for the full implementation of activities associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP);*
6. *Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop benchmarks for the property based on its outstanding universal value;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008** on the progress made in the restoration and conservation of the property, including the progress towards the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
8. *Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### 13. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1982

#### Criteria

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

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

1996

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural intrusions
- b) Illegal logging
- c) Poaching
- d) Invasive exotic species
- e) Management deficiencies

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Benchmarks have not yet been set.

#### Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were proposed by the 2003 IUCN/UNESCO mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) (**28 COM 15.A13**):

- a) complete the compensation and relocation of the seven families and 32 land owners remaining in the core zone;
- b) cancel all Honduras Forestry Development Commission (COHDEFOR) resolutions related to dead wood harvesting in the Olancho, Colón and Atlántida departments;
- c) prevent unauthorized activities in the buffer zone, including: agricultural expansion, illegal logging and poaching, specifically by putting into operation permanent and temporary checkpoints located at critical access points;
- d) develop inter-institutional work plans that provide clear definitions of the roles and responsibilities of the various public and private entities involved in the Reserve's management; and
- e) disseminate the environmental management plans related to the Ministry of Agriculture's development strategy within the Sico'Paulaya Valley zone.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

No specific timeframe has been set by the Committee or State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.13; 29 COM 7A.12; 30 COM 7A.15**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 190,025 for technical cooperation and training.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 under the management effectiveness assessment (Enhancing our Heritage) project.

Previous monitoring missions:

IUCN monitoring missions in 1995 and 2000; World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring missions in 2003 and 2006

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Illegal livestock grazing and agricultural intrusions
- b) Illegal logging
- c) Poaching
- d) Invasive exotic species
- e) Management deficiencies
- f) Potential impacts from hydroelectric development project Patuca II

Current conservation issues:

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission was carried out from 11-15 December 2006, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). The mission aimed to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures set by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) in view of a possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The official mission report is available in English and Spanish for consultation by the Committee. During this mission the State Party reported on the implementation of previous recommendations, including:

- a) The remaining settlers (7 families and 32 landowners) were relocated from inside the core zone in July 2004, and no more permanent human settlements exist in the core zone. However, during the over flight of the property, the mission team observed a new clearing in the forest of approximately 10 hectares, in which several head of cattle were seen grazing.
- b) All the resolutions of COHDEFOR concerning the commercialization of dead wood from the effects of hurricane Mitch have been cancelled.
- c) Changing approaches to sustainable agricultural practices have had a significant impact, with 13 agroforestry cooperatives now managing about 100,000 ha in the buffer zone. Other achievements include the intensification of cattle management and the uptake of traditional organic coffee growing and processing techniques.
- d) Critical areas and access points of the core and buffer zones have been demarcated, and the land registration process has almost been completed.
- e) The Regional Advisory Committee for the Conservation and Protection of the Reserve (*Comité Regional de Orientación para la Protección y Conservación de la Reserva - COROB*) has established an annual operational plan, as well as an action plan for the identification of illegal logging areas, confiscation of illegal wood and the filing of



charges against those responsible, in cooperation with the Armed Forces, the National Preventive Police and the National Human Rights Commissioner.

- f) The environmental management plans related to the Ministry of Agriculture's development strategy have been disseminated within the Sico Paulaya Valley zone.
- g) The Government has significantly increased the presence of the Armed Forces in the area. Between February and November 2006, a total of 8,663,303 Lempiras (approximately USD 458,837 ) was spent on military operations in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (RPBR), such as the setting up of control posts, terrestrial, aerial and coastal patrols, and fire fighting. During this period, 491,157 board feet of wood and six motor saws were decommissioned; nine persons arrested and handed over to the authorities, and 67 forest fires extinguished.

The President of the Republic of Honduras personally expressed his commitment to the protection of RPBR during an extended meeting with the mission team. The mission team noted that the level of threat to the property has further decreased since the previous mission (2003), and recognized the efforts of the new Honduran Government to protect the values of the property. The team also noted the significant long-term financial and technical assistance given by the German cooperation, particularly in its support of a very extensive cadastral process for all lands within the property's buffer zone, thus stabilizing the illegal appropriation of public lands by people involved in aggressively expanding the agricultural frontier into the property. However, this process was not yet completed at the time of the mission, and the important follow-up process of legally registering the parcels demarcated by the cadastral process remains to be done. Until this is completed, legal ownership will continue to be in doubt, and the opportunity for aggressive frontier land conversions and appropriations will remain.

The mission team received several reports on the difficulty of carrying out the full judicial process in the region. Due to the absence of prosecutors and legal expertise at the local level, individuals arrested for illegal activities (particularly those involved in illegal land clearing and appropriation) must be transported to the capital at significant expense, dissuading the full application of the law and resulting in few convictions of people arrested by police. The on-going relative impunity with which people have been infracting the law is discouraging law-abiding citizens to support police work in the region, as the risk of retribution to whistle blowers, though improved with the presence of the military, is still perceived as too high.

The mission team noted the important investment made in large part by the German cooperation on infrastructure within the property, particularly the construction of a spacious and modern building for the management authorities. The building provides a comfortable place for staff to work and sleep in this remote region, encouraging a greater presence in this part of the property. However, the team also noted that the management team remains small, underfinanced and at times ill-equipped, reducing its impact at the field level, particularly in other parts of the property.

Involvement of local organizations in co-management initiatives, though existing to a certain extent, still needs to be strengthened. Participatory structures (e.g. regional co-management committees) could help improve this situation.

Following the expansion of the Biosphere Reserve boundaries on two occasions in the past several years, there now seems to be wide confusion about the actual boundaries of the World Heritage property as it was inscribed in 1982. This was confirmed on several occasions during the mission, when it was apparent that there is widespread belief that the Biosphere Reserve boundaries are the same as those of the World Heritage property. The original nomination dossier maps are unclear and require updating.

In order to consolidate the management and conservation gains made in recent years, the following priority issues should be addressed by the State Party:

- h) The presence of the Armed Forces, while welcome and having a measurable effect on conservation needs to be backed up by the full complement of judicial institutions operating effectively to ensure full application of the law and the dissuasion of further illegal activities.
- i) Parts of the buffer zone (mainly in the north-western part of RPBR) have not yet benefited from the cadastral process; this process should be completed, and should be followed-up with the full legalization of all lands having been cadastred.
- j) Structures through which local organizations and communities can effectively participate in management processes need to be developed and strengthened.
- k) Decommissioned wood should irrevocably be destroyed or otherwise withdrawn from the market so that no possibility exists for the wood to be legalized and to re-enter the market through administrative loopholes, thus reducing the incentive for illegal logging or for processing illegal wood.
- l) New intrusions into the property must be dealt with swiftly and by applying the full measures of the law to discourage replication.
- m) Given the rough nature of the maps provided at the time of inscription, and given the current uncertainties as to the precise boundaries of the property today, a formal clarification of the boundary is strongly recommended, and should rely on GIS technology and satellite imagery, which is currently available to the authorities.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.13**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.13** and **30 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for making significant progress in implementing the corrective measures set by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session;*
4. *Notes that a few outstanding issues remain to be resolved in relation to dealing with illegal logging and land clearing activities, and in relation to multi-stakeholder involvement in the management processes;*
5. *Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2006 monitoring mission to assure the consolidation of gains and progress achieved to date, in particular:*
  - a) *Assure swift and strict enforcement of the law regarding illegal settlement, land use and logging, particularly by ensuring the implementation of the full cycle of the law;*
  - b) *Complete the cadastral process of all lands surrounding the property, and provide legal titles to the owners of these lands;*
  - c) *Demonstrate effective participation of local organizations and communities in the management processes of the property;*
  - d) *Demonstrate that decommissioned wood is not re-entering the market, but disposed of in a manner that eliminates all profit incentives;*

- e) *To quickly identify any new intrusions into the property and to deal with them swiftly, so as to further discourage this practice;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, with a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2006 monitoring mission, and a map clearly indicating the boundaries of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, and*
7. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission in early 2009 to assess if the remaining corrective measures have been completed;*
8. *Decides to remove the **Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)** from the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **14. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1985

Criteria:

(iii) (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1985

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Major deterioration of the palaces following the 1984 tornado;
- b) Restoration without respect for the authenticity of materials, volumes or colours.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Establishment of national legal and administrative mechanisms regulating the protection of Benin's cultural heritage;
- b) Approval by the Committee of new boundaries for the property and its buffer zone;
- c) Completion and adoption of the conservation and management plan;
- d) Restoration of half of the structural elements considered to be in a serious state of degradation.

Corrective measures identified:

- a) Finalise the national legislative and administrative mechanisms regulating the protection of Benin's cultural heritage;
- b) Define a new boundary for the property and clearly indicate the buffer zone in order to protect its integrity and submit it to the Committee for approval;
- c) Evaluate and update the conservation and management plan of the property;
- d) Continue the restoration and conservation activities to restore at least half of the structural elements of the property still considered to be in a serious state of deterioration.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

2005 to 2007

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.14; 29 COM 7A.13; 30 COM 7A.16**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 60,000 in 2000 and USD 17,000 in 2005.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 400,000 were provided by the Japanese Government for the restoration of the Behanzin Palace in 1998; USD 50,000 provided in 2005 by Riksantikvaren (Norwegian Cultural Heritage Direction) for the implementation of the action plan defined in Decision **28 COM 15A.14**.

Previous monitoring missions:

2004: Joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre Mission; 2006: World Heritage Centre/CRATerre-ENSAG/Getty Conservation Institute Monitoring Mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Lack of a national legislative mechanism regulating the protection of cultural heritage;
- b) Absence of measures to define and protect the buffer zone of the property;
- c) Update of the management plan still outstanding;
- d) Major deterioration of nearly two-thirds of the earthen brick structures.

Current conservation issues:

During its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission to evaluate the implementation of the action plan defined by the Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**, to make recommendations concerning the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to make a report to the Committee during its 31st session in 2007.

This mission, carried out from 19 to 24 February 2007, reached the following conclusions:

a) *Completion of the legal mechanism :*

The draft law for the protection of cultural heritage and natural heritage with cultural characteristics, prepared by the Cultural Heritage Direction in 2004, was transmitted by Presidential Decree N° 2006-425, on 28 August 2006, to the President of the Benin National Assembly. The mission noted the commitment of the authorities and appreciated their determination to provide the country with a law to protect the cultural heritage as soon as possible. The mission further concluded that the process for the completion of the legislative mechanism had progressed since the end of the presidential elections of April 2006, as witnessed by the transmission to the National Assembly of the draft law signed by the President of the Republic. Sufficient guarantees exist to confirm that this process is progressing and Benin will have a law governing cultural heritage that will enable it to propose new sites for inscription on the World Heritage List.

b) *Boundaries of the property and establishment of the buffer zone:*

The boundary of the property was realigned in February 2006. This enlarged the area of the property by 47ha 60 in comparison to the original 44ha. The buffer zone was also determined. It extends to 200 m from the boundaries of the property and comprises three specific zones with different restrictive levels. On the regulatory level, the Municipal Decree 2006-N°4/013/MCA/SG-SAG of 05 July 2006 concerning urban regulations, institutes this buffer zone. The mission considered that this measure had been fully fulfilled by the Benin State Party, which had officially submitted a request for a minor revision of the boundaries of the property for approval by the Committee at its 31<sup>st</sup> session.

c) *Evaluation and updating of the Conservation and Management Plan of the property:*

The evaluation of the old management plan covering the period 1999-2004 was carried out in May 2006. Based on its recommendations, a new management plan for 2007-2012 is being prepared under the coordination of an expert of CRATerre-ENSAG (International Centre for Earthen Constructions). A provisional version of this plan was submitted to the evaluation mission team. The document is almost complete. The mission was particularly impressed by the investment of the stakeholders in the preparation of the management and conservation plan, and by their mastery of its content. The work organized around these meetings with the stakeholders provided the opportunity to discuss the opinions of the site users, to update the historical data, to establish consensus on the site's vision and cultural significance, and to affirm the sacredness of the Royal Palaces. It also initiated reflection on issues of authenticity and integrity, and finally allowed an evaluation of the conservation activities carried out between 1985 and 2006. The 2007-2012 action plan focuses on four practical objectives that concentrate on the continuous improvement of the state of conservation of the site. The mission considered that work was progressing satisfactorily and that the plan should be submitted by the State Party of Benin by end-April 2007 at the latest.

d) *Continuation of restoration and conservation work to recover at least half of the structural elements of the property still considered to be seriously deteriorated:*

In comparison to the situation observed in 2004 during the ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre Mission, where only 15ha were undergoing restoration work, the mission, following an in-depth examination of the site, made the following remarks:

- (i) the complete clean-up of the entire perimeter facilitated the evaluation of the state of conservation of all the elements of the property;
- (ii) other than the royal areas of Ghezo, Glélé, and Gbehanzin, the other royal areas (Huegbadja, Akaba, Agadja, Tegbessou, Kpengla, Agoli Agbo, Agonglo) have undergone stabilization and restoration work. The more culturally significant elements have been saved: the kings' tombs, the main entrances (honuwa); the most important temples; the palaces of the kings (adjalala). Some of the wall sections have been rebuilt, but this work must be continued to make the boundaries of the different areas more distinct;
- (iii) the Dossèmé, domain inhabited by the women incarnating the spirits of the Kings of Abomey, is also 95% restored thanks to the property's own funds.

Maintenance of the property is ensured through daily inspections that are carried out over the 47ha in order to anticipate degradation and intervene rapidly. Staff is foreseen to carry out minor repair work. Larger equipment (diggers, wheelbarrows, etc.) will shortly be purchased, to improve efficiency in the work presently underway. The clean-up of the site boundaries and the Courtyard of the Amazons is carried out by Abomey Townhall. New conservation work will soon begin, notably on the Agadja royal area (with Norwegian funds), on the Houegbadja royal area (Museum funds and Public investment programme), and also on the Akaba royal area (Funds from the site and contributions from the Royal families). Activities will also be carried out in 2007 in the framework of a partnership established by the Town of Abomey with the City of Albi (France), for the installation of a lighting system for the Singbodji Square, its sanitation, signposting to facilitate access to the site, and the production of promotional documentation (postcards and pamphlets).

In view of all the activities being carried out, the mission concluded that the State Party had achieved the quasi-totality of the action plan elaborated by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**. It also concluded that the implementation of this action plan has revealed that there are no longer any threats or risk of loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the Royal Palaces of Abomey.

Therefore, the mission recommended to the World Heritage Committee to remove the Royal Palaces of Abomey from the List of World Heritage in Danger during its 31<sup>st</sup> session.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Also recalling Decisions **28 COM 15A.14**, **29 COM 7A.13** and **30 COM 7A.16**, adopted during its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Congratulates the State Party for having carried out almost entirely the programme of corrective measures elaborated by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **28 COM 15A.14**,
4. Notes with satisfaction, that there are no longer any threats or risk of loss of outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit by **1 February 2008**, at the latest, a report on the state of conservation of the property and specifically on the progress made in the conservation work undertaken concerning the elements still at risk;
6. Decides to remove the Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**15. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1980

Criteria:

(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

2004

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

Continuing deterioration and serious threats affecting the property

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

To be defined during the monitoring mission

Corrective measures identified:

- a) Updating of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
- b) Delineation of boundaries for core and buffer zones linked to land-use plans and appropriate protection;
- c) Implementation of the property's conservation and management plan;
- d) Extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati.

Timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures:

None so far agreed with the State Party

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15B.41; 29 COM 7A.15; 30 COM 7A.15**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: Technical co-operation (USD 24,320 in 2002) for the preparation of a management plan and extension of the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds:

Total amount provided to the property: Support from France, Japan and UNESCO (USD 1,438,000) and further by Norway through Funds-in-Trust (USD 201,390) contributes to the implementation of the “*Emergency Conservation of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara Endangered World Heritage Sites*” project.

Previous monitoring missions:

ICOMOS mission 23-27 February 2004

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Ruins damaged by sea erosion;
- b) Collapsing monuments;
- c) Lack of clear boundaries of the property and buffer zone;
- d) Population pressure; no participation of community;
- e) Unclear management systems leading to inactivity;
- f) Out of date legal framework.

Current Conservation issues

During its 30th session, the World Heritage Committee noted the involvement of the Government of Norway in a project entitled “*Emergency Conservation of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara Endangered World Heritage Sites*” which is being implemented by the UNESCO Office in Dar es Salaam. The Committee further noted the receipt of a site Management Plan, a comprehensive Kilwa Tourism Master Plan and a revised Nomination file for the property, which it considered, and which provided an excellent overview of key issues. The Committee requested the State Party to:

- a) Revise the Statement of Significance;
- b) Confirm whether it intends to propose an extension to the original Nomination to include those areas addressed by the Management Plan, in particular Kilwa Kivinje on the mainland and neighbouring Sanje ya Kati island;
- c) Address the recommendations of the 2004 ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

In its 2007 report, the State Party has provided a revised Statement of Significance which narrows the focus to the original nominated areas of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara. ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre suggest that this should be formally submitted for approval by the World Heritage Committee in the format of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. The report makes no mention of the possibility of extending the site to include the settlement of Kilwa Kivinje.



The report sets out progress in addressing conservation issues. Details are given of work carried out in association with the Norwegian Government to construct gabions along the shore beneath the Gereza fortress on the island of Kilwa Kisiwani, and of planting mangrove plants in shallow water, which will, when grown and enmeshed, break waves from the Indian Ocean. On Songo Mnara a lime kiln and water reservoir have been constructed for on-going small scale conservation work. The Swedish Government, through SIDA, is also supporting the Department of Antiquities with a capacity building programme, under which a number of staff members have received various training-sessions in conservation and management of cultural heritage, both within and outside the country.

The report mentions an emergency conservation project which started in October 2006 and has so far concentrated on Songo Mnara but no details are given as to what this encompasses.

An outline is given of a project to create a land-use plan and boundaries for core and buffer zones based on surveys and mapping of the islands through the district fund and Marine and Coastal Management Environmental Project over the next year. ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre welcome this initiative, which is urgently needed to allow housing and agricultural activities to take place without damaging the standing monuments and the buried archaeological remains.

It is suggested that buffer zones of 20 and 10 hectares be established for Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara respectively. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that any proposals for delineating boundaries need to be based on a survey of the islands, with particular reference to the remains identified at the time of inscription. The process of establishing boundaries also needs to be linked to appropriate protection.

The report acknowledges the limitations of the current protective arrangements and the need to establish a revised national legal frame work in Tanzania. The process of reviewing the current law has already started with a draft policy document, which is being revised by an Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee. It is anticipated that a new law could be in place by 2010.

Although a section in the report follows the progress of the Management Plan, this is seen as something separate from the other reported activities. There is a need to see the Management Plan as the over-arching document for the property, dealing with all aspects of conservation, day-to-day management, community participation, tourism, etc.

Adequate resources for addressing the major conservation issues related to water ingress of the masonry and unstable structures remain difficult to find. The State Party has approached the Portuguese Government (through the Gulbenkian Foundation), and the World Monuments Fund regarding the possibility of rehabilitating the Portuguese Fort and other monuments such as the Makutani Palace, Husuni Kubwa, and the Malindi Mosque. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS suggest that, as a first step, funding should be sought for a detailed cost-estimate Conservation Plan for the main monuments which could serve as a basis for a ten-year Action Plan that might attract financial support. The State Party might also submit an International assistance request for this work.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.15**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision 30 COM 7A.15, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*

3. *Commends the State Party for its continued efforts to strengthen measures for the conservation and rehabilitation of the property; and particularly the improved mechanisms for community participation and local involvement in basic maintenance and conservation work;*
4. *Notes the revised Statement of Significance submitted as part of the state of conservation report and requests the State Party to formally submit this statement, altogether with the statements of authenticity and integrity, and the justification for criterion (iii), as a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, in line with the recommendations of the Periodic Report;*
5. *Approves proposals for surveys of the two islands and the development of a land-use plan and delineated core and buffer zones, and requests the State Party to submit for approval, boundaries for core and buffer zones linked to land-use plans and appropriate protection;*
6. *Urges the State Party to use the Management Plan as the main vehicle for managing the property;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to submit an International assistance request for support in developing a Conservation Plan for the main monuments that could form a cost-estimate ten-year Action Plan that might mobilise additional funding ;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the state of conservation of the property including the following information, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008:*
  - a) *Follow-up actions on the recommendations of the ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission of 2004;*
  - b) *Progress on delineating boundaries and buffer zones, and on updating of the statement of Outstanding Universal Value for formal approval by the World Heritage Committee ;*
  - c) *Clarification of its intention to submit a proposal for an extension of the property to include Kilwa Kivinje and Sanje ya Kati and possibly indicate associated revised criteria;*
9. *Also requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission to assess the progress made in improving the state of conservation of the property, and to define the corrective measures and benchmarks that will enable the Committee define a timeframe for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
10. ***Decides to retain the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## ARAB STATES

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

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

#### Criteria

(iv)

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2001

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism, for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table;
- b) The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property;
- c) A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property.

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Following the reactive monitoring mission carried out in November 2005, a series of corrective measures were identified and discussed with the State Party. Those measures would allow reaching the benchmarks necessary for the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger which are being proposed in the draft decision below.

#### Corrective measures identified

The corrective measures recommended during the 2005 reactive monitoring mission are proposed in the draft decision below.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the Committee took note of the timeframe proposed by the State Party which was of three years. However, at this stage, this seems unrealistic and an additional year is recommended in the draft decision.

#### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.17; 29 COM 7A.17; 30 COM 7A.19**

#### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 14,000

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

Hydrology expert mission in 2002; World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in November 2005

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Rise in the water table;
- b) Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- c) Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- d) Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

### Current conservation issues

The State Party supplied a “*Technical Report on Abu Mina Monastery Site and Underground Water Problems*” by Dr. Hassan Fahmy Iman (Consultant to the Supreme Council of Antiquities)”, which was received on 30 January 2007.

It was reported that the proposed conservation plan would concentrate on the protection of surface and below-ground archaeological elements during the lowering of the water table, to monitor the structural stability of all elements. Recent technological developments will be used to assess the structural efficiency of the building materials. An architectural documentation system is to be set up. Furthermore, a deterioration phenomena survey, geotechnical investigations, and structural analysis will be carried out.

The report indicates that a detailed soil investigation was carried out, including monitoring of the ground water level variations, field tests and the production of maps. Based on the data gathered, a proposal is included for the lowering of the water table.

A draft outline for a restoration plan is also included, reiterating the recommendations of the experts’ mission of 2005.

In February 2007, in response to the request formulated within the Retrospective Inventory exercise, the State Party provided the World Heritage Centre with an appropriate map of the property, clearly indicating its boundaries. The next step is to adopt a buffer zone that would protect the area from development pressure, as the one included in the report is not clear enough nor confirmed officially.

### Draft Decision:      **31 COM 7A.16**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in addressing the issue of the rising water table;
4. Adopts the benchmarks identified by the 2005 reactive monitoring mission:
  - a) Consolidated structures;

- b) *Water table lowered and monitoring system established in and around the property;*
  - c) *Management plan implemented;*
5. *Urges* the State Party to implement the necessary corrective measures, by 2010, as follows:
- a) *Carry out a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures against earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;*
  - b) *Lower the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;*
  - c) *Establish an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;*
  - d) *Prepare a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);*
  - e) *Undertake consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.*
6. *Requests* the State Party to identify a buffer zone surrounding the core area of the property, altogether with protection regulations and to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** the relevant information and map for consideration by the World Heritage Committee;
7. *Also requests* the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed progress report on the implementation of the above measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
8. **Decides** to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
- b) State of war in the country.

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

In light of the present situation in the country, specific benchmarks could not be identified or discussed.

### Corrective measures identified

[as identified in Decision **27 COM 8C.45**]

- a) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
- b) Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
- c) Establishment of a local management co-ordination unit on the site;
- d) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- e) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.

The dam project has been cancelled and therefore items a) and b) are no longer applicable.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the Committee or the State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.18; 29 COM 7A.18; 30 COM 7A.20**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 approved in 2003 for emergency assistance (USD 5,000 spent and the remaining funds returned back to the World Heritage Fund).

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust. Extra-budgetary funding is allocated to cultural heritage preservation in Iraq, if not specifically for the site of Ashur (equipment, training, etc.).

### Previous monitoring missions

Assessment mission in November 2002

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project;
- b) Fragile mud brick structures;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

### Current conservation issues

As reported at the 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions of the Committee, the assessment mission to the site aiming at developing an emergency conservation plan as well as the basis for a management plan of the property, could not take place, due to security constraints. However, the building of the dam which had partly justified the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger had been cancelled, thus diminishing the threats identified.

At the date of drafting this document, no written report had been received by the World Heritage Centre, which was however informed by the State Party that such a report could not be produced within the present conditions in the country.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.17**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.20** adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes with great concern the deterioration of the situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;*
4. *Requests the international community, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to continue their efforts in assisting the responsible Iraqi authorities in the protection of the natural and cultural heritage in the country;*
5. *Requests the State Party, should the situation allow it, to establish an on-site management unit and to initiate the preparation of a Conservation and Management Plan for the property, and to present a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
6. *Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

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

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*

**19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List*

1993

*Criteria*

(ii) (iv) (vi)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

2000

Threats and dangers for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Serious deterioration of the built-up heritage (40% of the residential houses being replaced by compact cement and multi-storey buildings);
- b) The remains of the houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- c) Since the souq activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souq is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- d) The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- e) The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

By reviewing all these elements, it was recognized that the situation of the city corresponds to the following criteria of danger as identified in the *Operational Guidelines*, paragraph 179: Ascertained danger: (ii), (iii) and (iv) and Potential danger: (ii) and (iii).

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The present situation does not allow the formulation of benchmarks for this property.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Stopping the illegal constructions and clamping down on major building violations, mostly in public spaces, to re-design the original urban pattern;
- b) Carrying out the inventory of the buildings of the historic town;
- c) Completing the urban conservation plan, and the socio-economic revitalisation action plan;
- d) Ensuring the adoption and implementation of the urban regulations for the historic core.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

To be discussed with the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.20; 29 COM 7A.19; 30 COM7A.21**

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 121,918 for 2001-2004.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,200 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre; January 2007: Joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission.

Main threat identified in previous report

Serious deterioration of the city's heritage. In particular, around 40% of the city's houses were replaced by concrete buildings, and many other houses and the ancient souq are in a deteriorating state. Large sections of the city's open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up.



### Current conservation issue

A report was received from the State Party in February 2007. This reported that in December 2006, in response to high level concerns, a special governmental meeting had been convened and a cabinet decree issued requiring various ministries and the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) to initiate a programme of work. In February 2007 the Social Development Fund awarded USD 85,000 for a pilot project for subsidies to support rehabilitation and restoration. Furthermore GTZ, the German Development Agency, is currently establishing an urban development project in Zabid. The overall foreseen budget for the Zabid Urban Development project for the next three years is of about USD 2 million. This will include funds for the Conservation plan and for a housing restoration subsidies scheme, similar to what has been done in Shibam.

An ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission took place in January 2007. The mission confirmed that the city is in decline, with little conservation framework in place, with more than 50% of the buildings within the city walls now built of concrete. Furthermore, the lack of active maintenance and the poor quality and uncontrolled nature of modern construction mean that there is little confidence that the situation can be reversed.

The mission reported that no progress has been made with improving the legal and administrative framework as Zabid does not seem to be high on the Government's Agenda. The well motivated local GOPHCY office is under resourced and lacks appropriate authority and does not appear to be well supported by local and regional Councils. The Preliminary Urban Conservation Plan produced rapidly as a scoping document in 2002 has not been completed or integrated into the Urban Development Plan nor has this latter been transmitted to the local authorities. No conservation work was carried out by GOPHCY in 2006/2007.

On the positive side, a few rich owners look after their highly decorated stucco houses well and some litter has been cleared from the souq. The Social Development Fund has recently sponsored restoration projects on the main gates of the city and the Al-Ashaer Mosque.

Zabid is no longer seen as an economic centre and as a result there are inadequate services. Rubbish is not properly cleared and there is no overall mechanism for the provision of services to houses. All this combined with unrestrained and uncontrolled new building presents an unattractive picture for tourists – for whom there are no reasonable provisions. However a new paving programme is being developed and will be carried out in conjunction with storm water drainage with funds allocated by the Social Development Fund. A pilot project will start in mid 2007.

A quick engineering survey by the mission concluded that the traditional houses were well constructed and could be adapted for modern living but traditional skills are lacking and the absence of maintenance and services is beginning to impact on the integrity of the Urban fabric.

The skyline of the town is now dominated by a water tower and masts, as well as two and three storey concrete structures. At the initiative of the mission, a two week field survey was carried out to quantify the extent of remaining traditional buildings. The results of the survey show that surviving traditional buildings account for only 44% of the total, while 46% of buildings are either new insertions or new buildings on open ground. Thus possibly less than 50% of the urban fabric retains authenticity. Furthermore there is almost complete re-development around the periphery of the old city inside the walls and in the assumed buffer zone area. Within the centre of the city there are a few enclaves of traditional buildings but ruins are spreading and there is general degradation of open spaces.

### *Conclusions:*

The mission concluded that as a result of degradation, lack of conservation, no supportive devolvement, and widespread inappropriate new building, Zabid was losing the values for which it was inscribed on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, it concluded that unless the process was immediately stopped and reversed, Zabid should be considered for removal

from the World Heritage List. The mission set out the scope and content of a programme of urgent actions to be carried out – in effect a rescue plan.

This Urgent Action Plan details what needs to be undertaken by whom and in which timescale. It covers legal protection, inter-governmental committees, local stakeholder involvement, costed schedules, capacity building, necessary resources and the provision of relevant conservation documents in Arabic. Medium and longer term objectives are also set out – in effect the contents of a Management/Conservation Plan.

While ICOMOS commends the content of the Urgent Action Plan, it is concerned that the cost of such a plan will be extremely high and currently there is no prospect of all the necessary funding being in place. Furthermore it is also concerned that the overall integrity of the city is under threat and that authenticity now only survives within individual buildings rather than in the pattern of the urban fabric. Zabid was a city that displayed a network of traditional buildings with one or two grander structures. Thus its outstanding universal value resided in the collection of urban structures rather than in the exceptional buildings.

Even if the funds could be found for the rescue plan, and it was implemented successfully, Zabid would probably still not display anymore the values for which it was inscribed. ICOMOS reluctantly comes to the conclusion that consideration should be given to the eventual removal of Zabid from the World Heritage List. However, the World Heritage Centre considers that it would be appropriate to assess the outcomes of the first year of the recommended Urgent Action Plan.

**Draft Decision:        31 COM 7A.19**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Regrets that the main recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions - notably the completion of an urban conservation plan, and a socio-economic revitalization action plan – have not been implemented;
4. Notes with great concern the continuing decline of the city, the lack of a conservation framework, the loss of possibly up to 50% of the traditional urban fabric within the city walls, the lack of active maintenance and the poor quality and uncontrolled nature of modern construction;
5. Urges the State Party to consider how the Urgent Action Plan set out by the mission could be implemented and in particular how the activities foreseen for the first year can be completed:
  - a) Adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year:
    - (i) Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 – 2006;
    - (ii) Government provision to GOPHCY in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilise the degradation of the World Heritage property;
    - (iii) Completion of heritage protection laws;
    - (iv) Completion of the draft Conservation Plan, with translation into Arabic. Provision of short version for wide dissemination;

- b) *Physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years:*
- (i) *Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets,*
  - (ii) *Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works,*
  - (iii) *Appropriate house improvement design – bathrooms and kitchens, infrastructure and air conditioning,*
  - (iv) *Good designs for new houses within Zabid,*
  - (v) *Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls,*
  - (vi) *Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions,*
  - (vii) *Prescription rules and regulations for following by inhabitants and owners,*
  - (viii) *Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan,*
6. Requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the implementation of the above activities, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. Decides to retain the **Historic town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger** for a further year with a view to re-considering, in the light of the State Party's report, **whether it might justify eventual removal from the World Heritage List at its 32nd session in 2008.**

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2002

#### Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2002

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Lack of legal protection;
- b) Lack of an effective monuments protection agency;
- c) Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel;
- d) Lack of a comprehensive management plan.

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Proposed in the draft Decision

#### Corrective measures identified

Proposed in the draft Decision

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed in the draft Decision.

#### Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.21; 29 COM 7A.20; 30 COM 7A.22**

#### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: In 2003, USD 100,000 for Emergency Assistance for the enhanced conservation and management of the property.

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 800,000 provided by the Government of Italy for the "Emergency Consolidation and Restoration of the Minaret of Jam and Monuments in Herat" and USD 138,000 by the Government of Switzerland for the "Emergency Consolidation and Restoration of the Minaret of Jam". These projects are currently being implemented.

#### Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring mission as such, but UNESCO expert missions sent every year since 2002 in order to implement the operational project for the property.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability;
- b) Inclination of the Minaret;
- c) Local infrastructural requirements;
- d) Lack of management plan.

### Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a brief progress report to the World Heritage Centre on 8 February 2007. It describes the successful implementation of consolidation measures at the base of the Minaret through masonry work in July/August 2006. This activity, carried out within the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Funds-in-Trust projects financed by the Governments of Italy and Switzerland, in co-operation with staff of the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture and UNESCO experts, provided important training and capacity-building to a team of Afghan conservation experts and site workers. This first intermediate step is essential for the future long-term stabilisation and safeguarding of the Minaret. In addition, monitoring of the Minaret was carried out through topographic measurements. It brought the positive result that in the years 2002 to 2006, no further inclination of the Minaret has occurred. In summer 2007, a soil investigation will be carried out, whose results will enable the World Heritage Centre to decide on the long-term consolidation measures needed.

In addition, following the UNESCO mission in February 2004, the World Heritage Committee had recommended the construction of a footbridge and a ford across the Hari River, in order to facilitate villagers' access from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley, as well as allowing a limited number of vehicles to cross the river. At present, the State Party has not yet implemented this recommendation.

In response to the request of the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the relevant Afghan authorities, ICOMOS and UNESCO held joint discussions to define the benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Given that on-site expert mission reports in 2006 provided sufficient information on the state of conservation to guide and direct future actions, it was agreed that a Reactive monitoring mission was not essential to reassess the state of conservation of the property or to set the benchmarks.

Afghanistan continues to be confronted by challenges resulting from the country's post-conflict situation, including the highly instable security situation, lack of national technical and institutional capacity, and extreme poverty. The benchmarks defined take into account this reality, and are proposed in the draft Decision, altogether with the relevant corrective measures identified.

As for the targeted timeframe, a minimum of four years has been agreed as necessary to address the benchmarks and mitigate the threats to the state of conservation of the property, i.e 2011. A detailed action plan was developed in 2006 within the framework of the UNESCO/Italy FIT project for the emergency stabilisation of the Minaret of Jam, in close co-operation between the Afghan authorities, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.

### Draft Decision:      **31 COM 7A.20**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling its Decision 30 COM 7A.22, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),

3. *Notes the efforts made by the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property and the important progress achieved in the consolidation of the Minaret of Jam in 2006;*
4. *Reiterates its strong encouragement to the State Party to construct a footbridge and a ford across the Hari River, in order to facilitate villagers' access from the Bedam Valley to the Jam Valley, as well as allowing a limited number of vehicles to cross the river, as set out in the recommendations of the UNESCO mission in February 2004;*
5. *Adopts the benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger as follows:*
  - a) *Increased capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Culture and Information in charge of the preservation of the property ensured;*
  - b) *Precisely identified World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones;*
  - c) *Long-term stability and conservation of the Minaret of Jam ensured;*
  - d) *Site security ensured;*
  - e) *A comprehensive management system including a long-term conservation policy developed and implemented.*
6. *Encourages the State Party to implement the following corrective measures for:*
  - a) *Development of adequate capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Culture and Information in charge of the preservation of the property by developing and implementing an adequate training programme in conservation and management;*
  - b) *Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:*
    - (i) *Undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys and re-defining core and buffer zones, as well as identifying zones affected by illicit excavations;*
    - (ii) *Marking of the core zone as "World Heritage protected area";*
    - (iii) *Officially revising the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys in order to complement the already identified Outstanding Universal Value.*
  - c) *Long-term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret of Jam and the archaeological remains by:*
    - (i) *Completing the documentation and recording of the Minaret and the archaeological remains;*
    - (ii) *Undertaking soil investigation in the vicinity of the monument in order to obtain information on the cause of the inclination of the Minaret and to define the long-term consolidation measures;*
    - (iii) *Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination;*
    - (iv) *Establishing a full inventory of decoration including digitalisation and reference system for all eight sides of the base of the Minaret;*
    - (v) *Implementing emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret.*
  - d) *Ensured site security by:*

- (i) *Exerting strict control of illicit excavations and protecting the site against looting, notably through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards;*
  - (ii) *Implementing measures enforcing the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments ensured.*
  - e) *Development and implementation of management system by undertaking appropriate training for the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the property;*
7. *Invites the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to meet the above benchmarks;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2008 a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008; and*
9. ***Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

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

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Risk of imminent collapse of the Buddha niches;
- b) Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings;
- c) Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets;
- d) Continued use of certain heritage areas for military posts;
- e) Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions).

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Proposed in the draft Decision.

Corrective measures identified

Proposed in the draft Decision.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A timeframe of four years has currently been identified as necessary to meet the benchmarks.

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.22; 29 COM 7A.21; 30 COM 7A.23**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 150,000 (in 2002 and 2003) from the World Heritage Fund was allocated for assistance to Afghanistan, which partly supported the preparation of the Emergency nomination of this property.

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3,337,027 (2003-2007) through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the project "Safeguarding of the Bamiyan site", Phases I and II.

### Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring mission as such, but UNESCO expert missions sent every year since 2002 in order to implement the operational project for the property.

### Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Fragile state of the cliffs and niches;
- b) Absence of a site management plan and monitoring system;
- c) Presence of anti-personnel mines in the area.

### Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a progress report on the state of conservation to the World Heritage Centre on 8 February 2007. It described recent archaeological findings and mentioned that almost all the fragments of the Giant Buddha statues were salvaged from the two large niches and then sorted, documented, and stored in temporary shelters. Scaffolding was installed inside the Eastern Giant Buddha niche to prepare for conservation works in 2007.

In order to avoid the imminent collapse of the cliffs affected by the 2001 explosion, the two Giant Buddha niches were subject to emergency consolidation. This operation, which began in 2003 under the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project, was successfully completed in 2006. The project also continued to document the numerous Buddhist caves and conserve the mural paintings inside prioritized caves. A monitoring system was installed to measure the impact of climatic conditions and to identify the best measures to protect the mural paintings.

The State Party is in the process of finalising the Management Plan for the property, following review of the draft that was completed in December 2006. The Governor of Bamiyan officially established the Bamiyan Cultural Landscape Coordination Committee (BCLCC) in 2006, to protect the Cultural Landscape of the Bamiyan Valley. This intersectoral body will implement the protective zoning plan (Cultural Master Plan), approved by the Ministry of Urban Planning in March 2006.

Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets are being addressed by the initial site-management and monitoring system. However, due to the situation of the country, it remains extremely difficult to ensure effective governance of the site. Though the military is no longer active in the heritage areas of the Bamiyan Valley, anti-personnel mines



and unexploded ordinances remain unidentified and uncleared in certain areas of the property, and no archaeological studies or conservation works can be carried out in these areas prior to demining. In 2006, UNMACA (United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan) demined the area of the Giant Buddha niches, but the demining needs continuation in other areas of the site.

During an Expert Working Group for the property in December 2006, the relevant Afghan authorities together with ICOMOS and UNESCO held discussions to define the benchmarks for eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, in response to the request of the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Given that a number of on-site expert mission reports in 2006 provided sufficient information on the state of conservation and necessary future actions, they agreed that no reactive monitoring mission was necessary to reassess the state of conservation of the property or to set the benchmarks, which had now been collectively agreed to by ICOMOS, UNESCO and the State Party.

Afghanistan continues to be confronted by a post-conflict situation: a highly unstable security situation, lack of technical and institutional capacity-development, and extreme poverty. Proposed benchmarks taking into account this reality, have been identified and are proposed in the draft Decision, altogether with possible corrective measures.

As for the targeted timeframe, a minimum of four years has been identified as necessary to address the benchmarks and mitigate the threats to the state of conservation of the property. *Recommendations of the Expert Working Group for the Preservation of the Bamiyan Site* (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/354>) can be referred to as a detailed action plan, which complements the identified corrective measures in order to meet the proposed benchmarks.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.21**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts and commitment of the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property;*
4. *Adopts the following benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger as follows:*
  - a) *ensured site security,*
  - b) *ensured long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches,*
  - c) *adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings, and*
  - d) *implemented Management Plan and Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan);*
5. *Encourages the State Party to implement corrective measures for:*
  - a) *ensured site security by*
    - (i) *exerting strict control of illicit excavations and looting through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards, and*

- (ii) *clearing unexploded ordinances and anti-personnel mines from the property;*
  - b) *ensured long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches by installing a permanent monitoring system;*
  - c) *adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings by*
    - (i) *completing the conservation of the fragments of the Giant Buddha statues and*
    - (ii) *completing the conservation of the mural paintings in the prioritized buddhist caves;*
  - d) *the Management Plan and the Cultural Master Plan (the protective zoning plan) both implemented by developing institutional capacity, notably for the Ministry of Culture and the intersectoral Bamiyan Cultural Landscape Coordination Committee (BCLCC);*
6. *Invites the international community to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to meet the above benchmarks;*
7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2008 the Management Plan and a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008; and*
8. ***Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)**

### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

### Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2004

### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Destruction of the property caused by the earthquake in December 2003.
- b) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Proposed in the draft Decision.

### Corrective measures identified

They are being proposed in the draft Decision and refer to the *Concluding Recommendations of the ICHHTO-UNESCO-ICOMOS Workshop*, organised in Bam in 2004, which outlined the short through long-term actions required to address emergency conservation needs.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

The timeframe has been estimated at three more years by the State Party, that is 2010.

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 14B.55 & 56; 29 COM 7A.23; 30 COM 7A.25**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 (Emergency Assistance, 2004)

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 568,000 (2004-2007) from the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust Project "Emergency Technical Co-operation for Bam Post-Earthquake"; USD 300,000 (2005-2008) from the UNESCO Italy Funds-in-Trust Project "Rehabilitation of Bam's Cultural Heritage"; USD 20,000 (2004) from the World Bank Italian Trust Funds for Development for the "Organization of an international workshop for the conservation and management of Bam's cultural heritage, April 2004."

### Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO has undertaken numerous missions since January 2004. The latest UNESCO mission took place in February 2007.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of comprehensive management plan;
- b) The boundaries of the property inscribed on an emergency basis were not aligned with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property ;
- c) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

### Current conservation issues

In order to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office are redefining the protective zones and identifying the benchmarks. In addition, they have submitted a report on 28 January 2007 on the following activities:

- a) The final, comprehensive draft of the management plan should be completed and then reviewed and adopted at the final stakeholders meeting to be held on 15 to 17 April 2007. It should then be approved by the Higher Council for Architecture and Urban Development and be in effect by late 2007.
- b) In January 2007, the Iranian authorities suggested minor modifications to the original core and buffer zones. The core zone will be slightly enlarged at its northern boundary near Qaleh Dokhtar. This minor extension will protect Qaleh Dokhtar against informal settlements. In the southern area, the original buffer zone coincided with the core boundary, and for that reason will be extended so that it effectively surrounds the core zone. In the western area, the buffer zone originally cut through the important Bagh Chemak (Garden of Chemak), an integral part of the cultural landscape. The revised buffer zone will enclose the entire Bagh Chemak. The minor modifications to the boundaries do not alter the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and will be discussed in Document *WHC-07/31.COM/8B*.
- c) Benchmarks and corrective measures have been proposed by the Iranian authorities and UNESCO and are presented hereunder in the draft Decision.

- d) Corrective measures currently taken at the property include a conservation programme to preserve the Arg-e-Bam and its setting in a manner that respects the authenticity and integrity of the remaining structures. Significant progress has been made in an operation to stabilise the lower part of the citadel, and measures are being discussed to solve the structural problems in the upper part of the citadel. The emergency phase of the stabilisation and reinforcement of the Governor's House will begin once Iranian experts formulate a detailed work plan. The emergency stabilisation of the Arg-e-Bam is expected to be completed within the next three years; a significant amount of debris has already been carefully removed from the Arg-e-Bam and surrounding area.

The State Party believes that by 2010 it can implement the corrective measures to lead to the removal of Bam and its Cultural Landscape from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The *Concluding Recommendations of the ICHHTO-UNESCO-ICOMOS Workshop*, outlined the short through long-term actions required to address emergency conservation needs.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.22**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property;*
4. *Adopts the following benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger to be reached by 2010:*
  - a) *Conservation of the Arg-e-Bam and other cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property;*
  - b) *Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural, and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;*
  - c) *Implementation of Management Plan;*
  - d) *Precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property;*
  - e) *Adequate protection of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam.*
5. *Encourages the State Party to implement corrective measures for:*
  - a) *Stabilisation and protection of the Arg-e-Bam and other significant cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property by:*
    - (i) *Stabilisation of both the lower and upper parts of the citadel;*
    - (ii) *Removal and documentation of debris;*
  - b) *Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;*

- c) *Management Plan implemented by:*
    - (i) *Approval at final stakeholders meeting;*
    - (ii) *Legal Adoption by late 2007;*
  - d) *Precise definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property by completing the mapping of the archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape;*
  - e) *Adequate protection of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam by increased number of guards and vehicles;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2008 a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
7. ***Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document *WHC-07/31.COM/7A.Add*

### **24. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)**

#### *Year of inscription on the World Heritage List*

1981

#### *Criteria*

(i) (ii) (iii)

#### *Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

2000

#### *Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

- a) *Damage to the external walls and demolition of hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens.*
- b) *Serious state of degradation of the historic monuments and garden complex within the World Heritage Property.*

#### *Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger*

To be assessed and discussed with the State Party during proposed joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission.

#### *Corrective measures identified*

- a) *Implementation of Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*

- b) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks and preservation of the remaining third tank of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, as well as overall preservation of the hydraulic works as archaeological relics;
- c) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- d) Redefine the boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens and present to the World Heritage Committee the proposal for extension, taking into account the recommendations to include the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Rangjit Singh, proposed following the 2003 and 2005 missions;
- e) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressures, including removal of parking for busses in the immediate vicinity of Lahore Fort;
- f) Prioritisation for allocation and use of the available resources according to the management objectives determined in the Master Plans.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

To be discussed with the State Party during proposed joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission.

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.26; 29 COM 7A.25; 30 COM 7A.27**

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000 (Government of Norway: USD 900,000; Getty Foundation: USD 75,000)

Previous monitoring missions

October 2000, April 2001, June 2003 and November 2005.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Demolition of two of the tanks and partial demolition of a third tank of the hydraulic works of the Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Encroachments and urban pressure;
- c) Insufficient management mechanisms (including incomplete legislation, lack of financial resources);
- d) Lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- e) Problems relating to the management of the properties.

Current conservation issues

An eight-page report was received by the World Heritage Centre from the State Party in January 2007. This report stated that, *inter alia*:

- a) Master Plans have been prepared for the Shish Mahal at the Fort and for the Shalamar Gardens;

- b) As part of the Action Plan established for 2006-7, which envisages the surface consolidation and joint filling of the Old Water reservoir, the overall conservation works have been completed. Fencing around the remaining structure has also been erected. However, due to the lack of information concerning the original design, it is no longer possible to restore two of the demolished reservoirs to their original state. Steps have been taken to remove and clean dirt deposits adjacent to the hydraulic structure;
- c) Following recommendations made in previous reactive monitoring mission reports, Action Plans have been written and approved for the preservation and restoration of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens for 2006-2007 and appropriate funds allocated for specific projects. The Government of Punjab has approved a total of USD 4.5 million for an eight year period. In addition, a Punjab Heritage Fund has been established which receives its income from the proceeds of ticket sales and is utilised for preservation and restoration works at the World Heritage property;
- d) A number of steps have been taken to improve the environment around the World Heritage Property. The Rim Market, located outside of the eastern gate (Akbari Gate), will be relocated in order to establish a buffer zone and to open the Akbari Gate as a point of entry for visitors. The great trunk road passing along Shalamar Gardens from the south to the north will be diverted and encroachments within 200m perimeter of the wall will be removed. Encroachments located close to the wall on the eastern side will be demolished in order to establish a buffer zone near the eastern boundary of the Shalamar Gardens,.

Although the corrective measures which were identified by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) have been implemented, a number of activities which have been included in the Master Plans are yet to be put into practice. In addition, the report does not provide sufficient information or documentation concerning the work carried out to consolidate and protect the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens. The above mentioned corrective measures are based on the recommendations made by the 2005 mission to the properties and are yet to be fully implemented.

The steps taken to redefine of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens are not clearly described in the report. The 2005 mission stated that the redefinition of the boundaries was imperative and that the authorities should consider including the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Rangjit Singh, which form an integral part of the physical and historical context of the Lahore Fort. Therefore a formal request for the extension of the core and buffer zones should be presented to the World Heritage Committee by 1 February 2008.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.24**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and conservation of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
4. *Requests the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS joint reactive monitoring mission so as to assess the progress made in reaching the below proposed benchmarks and to recommend, on this basis, whether the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger:*

- a) *Approval and implementation of Master Plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
  - b) *Protection and consolidation of the foundations of the water tanks of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens as archaeological relics;*
  - c) *Protection and preservation of external walls of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort;*
  - d) *Redefinition and extension of the boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
  - e) *Adequate control of encroachments and the urban pressure;*
  - f) *Safeguarding programme with corresponding timeframe and financial resources elaborated;*
5. ***Recommends*** that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property;
6. ***Requests*** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** a report with detailed documentation of the works carried out at Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;
7. ***Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **25. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)**

### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995

### Criteria

(iii) (iv) (v)

### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2001

### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) The abandonment of the terraces due to neglected irrigation system and people leaving the area;
- b) Unregulated development threatening the heritage area;
- c) Tourism needs are not addressed;
- d) Lack of an effective management system.

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger

Quantitative benchmarks for the removal of the property from the World Heritage List in Danger have not yet been established by the Committee and the State Party.



### Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Establish a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels;
- b) Put in place zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems;
- c) Provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments to encourage community based tourism which benefits the Rice Terraces and the local communities;
- d) Develop a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels and put in place a five year plan, according to the management objectives determined in the Conservation and Management Plan, with top priority given to the regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems so as to reverse their deterioration;
- e) Establish appropriate development control procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera, including by designating the World Heritage cluster sites of the Rice Terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as "environmental critical areas", where an environment impact assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. Cultural heritage conservation expertise should be also included in the EIA review committee;
- f) Strengthen the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal watersheds of the rice terraces.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In its Decision **30 COM 7A.28**, the Committee requested that the above corrective measures be implemented by 2007. A revised timeframe is proposed in the Draft Decision below.

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.27; 29 COM 7A.26; 30 COM 7A.28**

### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 153,200 for Preparatory assistance, Training and Emergency assistance.

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission September 2001; UNESCO expert mission June 2005; World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission April 2006.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of an effective site management authority and adequate legislation;
- b) Absence of a finalized strategic site management plan;
- c) Development of inappropriate river control structures and irregular construction in the rice terraces;

- d) Diminishing interest of the Ifugao people in their culture and in maintaining the Rice Terraces;
- e) Lack of human and financial resources.

Current conservation issues:

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the World Heritage property took place in 2006 as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005). The objective of the mission was to assess the steps taken by the State Party to implement the recommendations of earlier missions, in 2001 and 2005, and the feasibility of the Conservation and Management Plan. The mission defined corrective measures to address the threats to the property with a view to possible removal of the site from the List of World Heritage in Danger. These were agreed upon by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006).

In its report of March 2007, the State Party refers to various initiatives that were presented to the April 2006 monitoring mission and has initiated some but not all of the corrective measures, as follows:

a) *A resource strategy:*

The aim was to provide a resource strategy for national, provincial, municipal and villages levels to enable the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan and particularly the stabilisation of the rice terraces and sustaining local rice cultivars. Although no progress is reported on an overall strategy, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) released in December 2006 the last instalment of the funds allocated by the State Party to aid in the conservation and preservation of the rice terraces after the property was placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for an amount of USD 102,396. These funds will be used for the following at identified priority sites:

- (i) The rehabilitation of concrete irrigation systems;
- (ii) Watershed management – reforestation;
- (iii) Agricultural management – repair of rice terraces.

b) *Adequate management mechanisms to implement the Management Plan:*

In response to the need for a functioning 'site management authority with qualified staff', the Ifugao Province has recently created the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) and abolished the former site management authority, under the Provincial Ordinance No. 2006-032, including the creation of a post of Cultural Officer. The ICHO will have the following functions:

- (i) To safeguard the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Ifugao people;
- (ii) To ensure the protection, preservation, and conservation of the local cultural and historical heritage of Ifugao people;
- (iii) To ensure the implementation of activities for the promotion, development, protection, transmission and conservation of local culture and arts;
- (iv) To encourage the development of culture and arts down to grassroots level.

The creation of this Office is a positive step forward, but it needs adequate resources. The implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan should be added to its list of functions.

c) *Zoning and land-use plans:*

No progress is reported on their establishment.

d) *Plan for promotion of community based tourism:*

Although no progress is reported on an overall plan for community-based tourism in the World Heritage property, the State Party indicates that on 21 July 2007 a Multi-stakeholder workshop will discuss, amongst other subjects, the Sustainable Tourism Development Programme which is part of the 2003-2012 Master Plan for the Province.

e) *Controls for infrastructural developments:*

In September 2006, the UNESCO National Committee (UNACOM) organized a meeting with the Provincial Government of Ifugao and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). It was agreed that a 10-week workshop be organized to link the Provincial Government with the University of Santo Tomas, Center for Conservation of Cultural Property in the Tropics, on the theme: "Developing Infrastructure Guidelines for the Rice Terraces Heritage Sites of Ifugao". It should take place during the first semester of 2007.

f) *A strengthened reforestation programme*

Reforestation will benefit from the funds released by the State Party (see above).

It is essential that the Conservation and Management Plan becomes the main tool for sustainable development at the property. Currently although progress has been made in a number of areas, these do not seem to be coordinated or strongly focused on the specific needs of the property. The resources allocated by the national authorities and Ifugao Provincial Government are still inadequate to address the conservation challenges identified in the Conservation and Management Plan prepared with Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund.

In reviewing the progress made by the State Party against the measures identified by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that a revised and more realistic timeframe should be established to reflect the challenges to be addressed and the reality on the ground, alongside the definition of appropriate benchmarks. It is further suggested that the State Party should consult with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS over the next year to develop the above mentioned benchmarks and timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for consideration by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.25**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Notes the setting up of the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office (ICHO) with the objective of safeguarding the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Ifugao people;*
4. *Also notes the initiative to run a Workshop at the University of Santo Tomas, Center for Conservation of Cultural Property in the Tropics, in Spring 2007, in order to develop infrastructure guidelines for the property;*
5. *Regrets that no substantial progress has been made towards addressing the corrective measures identified by the Committee, notably as regards the development of a resource strategy, of zoning and land-use plans and of a specific plan for the promotion of community based tourism at the World Heritage property ;*

6. Requests the State Party to support the ICHO with necessary funds to allow it to begin implementing the Conservation and Management Plan which should become the key document for the management of the property;
7. Also requests the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS over the next year to develop appropriate benchmarks and a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for consideration by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.
8. Further requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and on progress in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.
9. Decides to retain the **Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines)** on the **List of World Heritage in Danger**.

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 26. The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Meidan Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000

#### Criteria

(iv)

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2003

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the illegal demolition of historic buildings and uncontrolled construction and reconstruction within the Walled City;
- b) Lack of any management system and insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Operational institutional framework for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- b) Clearly defined and approved framework for the active engagement of all stakeholders;
- c) "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" implemented.

#### Corrective measures identified

- a) Administrative structure and related programmes within the Cabinet of Ministers defined and supported with adequate resources and fully operational;
- b) Completion of an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating their physical condition as well as expected rehabilitation methodologies;
- c) Completion of a comprehensive management plan to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

1 February 2009

#### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15A.29; 29 COM 7A.28; 30 COM 7A.29**

#### International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 for Preparatory Assistance (1998); USD 14,800 for Technical Assistance (2004).

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 (American Funds Special Account 2005/06); USD 22,000 (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, 2005/06)

### Previous monitoring missions

UNESCO mission, 23 February-1 March 2002; UNESCO-ICOMOS mission, 18-22 October 2002; UNESCO mission (Assistant Director-General for Culture), 21-25 January 2003; UNESCO mission, 22-23 April 2003; ICCROM mission, 10-14 November 2003; UNESCO mission to participate in the Round Table, 6-8 October 2004; UNESCO mission, 3-8 September 2005 (with the University of Minnesota, USA); World Heritage Centre – ICOMOS mission 4 -10 March 2007.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the demolition of buildings and uncontrolled construction within the Walled City;
- b) Overall lack of any management system and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre – ICOMOS mission visited the property from 4 to 10 March 2007 to review the implementation of follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property, as well as the measures which the State Party plans to take to protect the outstanding universal value of the property. The mission was also to elaborate an updated Action Plan in collaboration with the State Party, and progress was noted in the following areas:

#### a) Management structure:

The Department of the Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher (SDHARIS), established in 2005 by Presidential decree has full management responsibility for the World Heritage property, replacing the former authorities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the Executive Power of the City of Baku. Its Director was appointed on 29 December 2006. The mission considered that he should pay particular attention to hiring an architect qualified in urban conservation management. The new Department needs to be made fully operational and financially sustainable as soon as possible.

The mission noted the absence of any current coordination between the Direction of SDHARIS and national institutions and local authorities working on the Walled City and its buffer zone. It is understood that the structure for this collaboration will develop from the Management Plan.

#### b) Demolition of buildings:

The new Director has exercised his powers to stop all demolition and construction activities in the Walled City area in conformity with the Presidential Decrees of 2003 to 2006. He has also begun assessing the state of conservation of the buildings, verifying the leasing conditions of buildings under the state protection, initiating the improvement of infrastructures in the Walled City, establishing an electronic control for the entry and exit of motor vehicles, as well as improving visitor information.

#### c) Inventory:

Following the signing of an agreement between the University of Minnesota (USA) and the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction (within the framework of an activity-

financing contract between UNESCO and the University of Minnesota), a joint team has prepared a digital database inventory of all historic buildings in the Walled City area. The inventory needs to be further elaborated and maintained as a digitized information database for management and planning purposes.

d) *Management Plan:*

An international team appointed by the World Bank has prepared, in close co-ordination with SDHARIS, an "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. The plan will be finalized in April 2007 and will be communicated officially to the World Heritage Centre after its approval. It is hoped that the Plan will address the need for guidelines for rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as design guidelines for new constructions and the street furniture.

It was understood by the mission that the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" foresees a proposed structure for the new SDHARIS, which included the establishment of a Scientific Council of institutional stakeholders and experts, as well as a Council of Elders, involving representatives of the local community. How this collaborative structure will function still needs to be clarified.

Once the Plan has been approved at all levels, the challenge will be to ensure that it is properly implemented as a strategic guideline for conservation management of the Walled City and its buffer zone. The World Bank consultant team has expressed the wish that the Management Plan be officially recognized as a planning tool by the Azerbaijan Government and the Municipality of Baku.

e) *Urban Conservation Plan:*

Considering the urgent needs of the Historic Town of Baku, its Walled City with its buffer zone, the Director of SDHARIS requested the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to provide a list of potential experts for the preparation of an Urban Conservation Plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. This Plan could later be integrated in the overall City Master Plan, which was valid until 2005, and should now be reviewed.

f) *Buffer Zone:*

The buffer zone, as adopted at the time of inscription, surrounds the core zone on all sides, extending some 100m to the north-west and south-west, and about 200m to the north-east. It also covers the seafront area to the south-east. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has taken initiatives to provide protection for the entire area that developed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, which is much larger than the buffer zone. The area has maintained much of its historic integrity and it also contains significant public buildings. The integrity of the area is however at risk, from the current oil boom and the rapid development trends in the town of Baku. There are already several high-rise buildings built or under construction which will cause a negative impact on the integrity of the area.

Considering that the current buffer zone covers a relatively narrow area around the World Heritage core zone, the possibility of extending the buffer zone should be given careful thought, in order to integrate the 19th and early 20th centuries urban development areas.

The presidential decree mentioned above does not clarify the management responsibility for the buffer zone. Therefore, at the moment, it stays within the municipal authority. The Director of SDHARIS has however confirmed that he will take steps to clarify the management authority in the buffer zone, and propose collaboration with the City of Baku and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

g) *Capacity building:*

The mission observed the urgent need to prepare a comprehensive strategy for training and education involving those responsible for rehabilitation, restoration and eventual reconstruction activities in the Walled City.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.26**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),
3. Notes the significant progress made with setting up management systems, the development of an "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" and welcomes the implementation of the Presidential Decree by the Director of the Historical-Architectural Reserve Icheri Sheher (SDHARIS), aiming at halting demolition and building construction in the Walled City area;
4. Requests the State Party to submit the completed "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" to ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre for review, to adopt it and integrate it into the urban planning system of the City of Baky;
5. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the new management structure is made fully operational and adequately resourced as soon as possible;
6. Recommends that the building inventory be further elaborated and maintained as a digitized information database for management and planning purposes;
7. Encourages the State Party to elaborate guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as the design of new constructions and street furniture, preferably as part of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan"; and that a training strategy as well as a risk preparedness plan be prepared for heritage conservation in the Walled City area;
8. Decides to evaluate the possibilities for removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger when the corrective measures have been carried out and all benchmarks have been reached;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2008**, on the state of conservation of the property, and progress with the implementation of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" and the new management structure, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.
10. Decides to retain the **Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**27. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v) CL



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

2006

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Four-lane bridge construction project in the core zone of the World Heritage property

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Halting of the bridge project

Corrective measures identified

- a) Discussions with all stakeholders to find alternative solutions so as to ensure the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the property;
- b) Review without delay the projects in the core zone taking into account the results of the visual impact study.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Discussion with stakeholders from July 2006 to February 2007;
- b) Review of projects in the core zone: ongoing until a solution is found.

Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 14B.40; 30 COM 7B.77; 30 COM 8B.1**

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

No specific monitoring mission to the property, but to the Cultural Committee of the German Parliament (World Heritage Centre, September 2006) and to the Court in Dresden (World Heritage Centre, November 2006)

Main threats identified in previous reports

Four-lane bridge construction project in the core zone of the World Heritage property

Current conservation issues

As a follow-up to the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger a number of actions were taken to redress the situation:

- a) The City Council of Dresden halted the construction procedures. The Land Sachsen however requested that the procedure be continued in accordance with the public vote. The city therefore went to court (Oberverwaltungsgericht) about this matter and the case is currently pending. Both the German Delegate to the World Heritage Committee and the representative of the World Heritage Centre were asked to attend a hearing of the court in Bautzen (not open to the public) on 8 November 2006 which proposed a mediation process including a moderated procedure to find alternative solutions in accordance with the Decision of the Committee (**30 COM 7B.11** Paragraph 7);

- b) Furthermore, the Cultural Committee of the German Parliament reviewed the overall situation with regard to the Dresden bridge project and called for a hearing on 28 September 2006. The German Delegate to the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the German Foreign Office and a representative of the World Heritage Centre were invited to participate to reply to questions on substance and procedure of the case;
- c) The City in its letter dated 30 January 2007 to the World Heritage Centre confirmed that it is interested to continue the mediation process to find a solution which would protect the World Heritage values;
- d) Following the hearing at the court in Bautzen, an expert workshop was organized chaired by the German Delegate to the World Heritage Committee with international experts including experts nominated by ICOMOS and UNESCO. The workshop on 24 January 2007 concluded again that the current bridge proposal (Waldschlösschen) could not be maintained as already pointed out in the visual impact study, written by the Institute of Urban Design and Regional Planning of the Technical University of Aachen and submitted in April 2006. Even a design change at this location could not be accommodated in maintaining the values for which the site was inscribed in the World Heritage List. The Ambassador Permanent Delegate of Germany to UNESCO informed the World Heritage Centre on 14 February 2007 "that all interested parties ought to work in the framework of a moderated workshop on new perspectives to find a solution on the issue of the "Waldschlösschenbrücke". Such a workshop should establish the foundations and a framework for a new planning process with regard to the issue." Such a workshop would need to address location, design and future traffic volume.

No further information was received at the time of the preparation of this document.

However on 13 March 2007, the Centre received the decision of the court case in Bautzen (Sächsisches Oberverwaltungsgericht) between the city of Dresden and the Land Sachsen. The court concluded that the public vote for the construction of the bridge has to be implemented. The full documentation of the court case is currently being reviewed by the Centre and ICOMOS.

**Draft Decision:        31 COM 7A.27**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), and in particular that the construction project of the Waldschlösschen Bridge would irreversibly damage the values and integrity of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the Operational Guidelines,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction that extensive consultation took place in 2006 and 2007 between different stakeholders, including the State Party authorities, the Land Sachsen, the city of Dresden as well as international experts, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre;*
4. *Also notes the decision of the City Council of Dresden to immediately halt the bridge project after the receipt of Decision **30 COM 7B.77** as well as the court case between the City of Dresden and the Land Sachsen about this matter;*

5. *Taking into account the decision of the court, deeply regrets that the State Party was not able to continue to find an appropriate solution to protect the outstanding universal value and integrity of the World Heritage property;*
6. ***Decides to retain the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
7. ***Further decides to delete the property from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraphs 192-198 of the Operational Guidelines, and taking into account Decision 30 COM 7B.77 Paragraph 8 with immediate effect, the day the construction of the bridge starts.***

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

### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004, extension 2006

### Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2006

### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Lack of legal status of the property;
- b) Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- c) Lack of implementation of the management plan and of active management;
- d) Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Stabilisation Force/United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR/UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- e) Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;
- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the properties;
- c) Implementation of the management plans, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

### Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;

- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed, etc);
- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2** .

Long-term corrective measures:

- d) Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- e) Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
- f) Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
- g) Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
- h) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Management plan.

*Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures*

- a) Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo by the end of 2006;
- b) Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo no specific timeframe can be given at this stage due to the political situation.

*Previous Committee Decisions*

**28 COM 14B.47; 30 COM 8B.53; 30 COM 8B.54**

*International Assistance*

N/A

*UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount provided to the property: USD 497,000 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005

*Previous monitoring missions*

UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo (16-19 January 2007)

*Main threats identified in previous reports*

See above

*Current conservation issues*

The State Party provided the World Heritage Centre on 1 November 2006 with a project document for the restoration of the Patriarchate of Peć Monastery. The project was transmitted to ICOMOS for review and evaluation. The report includes background, description of the state of conservation, justification of the project, literature and reports used, graphic attachments and description of the works.

A UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo (16-19 January 2007) which included a cultural heritage staff from the UNESCO Venice Office, visited two of the four monuments of the World Heritage property, the Dečani Monastery and the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša, as special concerns were expressed for these two monuments.

The mission noted that :

- a) The Dečani Monastery and the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša are presently under the control of KFOR Troops while protective measures are expected to be implemented (by high fencing and barbed wire). KFOR Troops in cooperation with local police forces are patrolling the site occasionally;
- b) A medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings and conservation and rehabilitation of the properties is being prepared within the overall programme of UNESCO activities related to the safeguarding of cultural heritage in Kosovo;
- c) In the particular case of Dečani, the Executive Decision No 2005/5 of the SRSG of UNMIK on the Special Zoning Area does not allow for any construction, reconstruction, industrial or commercial activity, including exploitation of forest, water and mineral resources, without a duly issued authorization approved by UNMIK;
- d) The required works on the roof of Ljeviša are completed.

The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre by a letter dated 27 January 2007 that unplanned construction of secular facilities has started, within the protection zone around the Dečani Monastery complex.

The State Party by a letter of 2 March 2007 sent to the World Heritage Centre the report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property, and mentioned difficulties to access the site. It indicated that the Serbian law for the protection of the cultural heritage is not applied. Concerning the specific situation of the property it stated:

- a) *Dečani Monastery*: The protection zone of the monastery is threatened by illegal constructions. There were improvements for different parts of the monastery as was foreseen in the nomination dossier, including the plan for the restoration of the walls and the installation of a fire-protection system; long-term works are going on, for the entrance and the sculpture decoration, for the examination of the state of conservation of the frescos, the plan of reconstruction of the tower in the entrance of the monastery, etc;
- b) *Patriarchate of Peć Monastery*: Conservation works in the façade and wall paintings of the façade as well of the church of the Virgin are being undertaken. On-going works of the second part of the plan of protection and presentation of the churches of Peć, with the construction of the surrounding wall and conservation of wall-paintings of Daniil's Narthex; a list of works to be started is also mentioned, e.g. the conservation works of the wall-paintings of the Churches of Saint Dimitri and Holy - Apostoles;
- c) *Gračanica Monastery*: The consolidation of the imperial doors and the iconostasis was completed. On-going works for the preparation of plan of the Episcopal court, arrangements of the place of nun quarters and of the plan of fire protection are being carried out; A list of works to start is indicated, such as conservation works of frescoes, works in the entrance and the surrounding zone of the church, preparation of the static plan of the church, etc;
- d) *Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša*: illegal construction developed within the protection zone and very close to the Church. The Director of the Institute for the Protection of Monuments requested to stop this illegal construction; A list of works were carried out, such as removal of the damaged parts and lead covering on the roof, cleaning and conservation of fixings of the walls of the bell-tower, positioning of the lead cover on the cupola of the bell-tower, repair of the cross on the bell-tower, rebuilding of the ceiling of the bell-tower, rough-casting of the walls of the vault of the bell-tower with withdrawal of

the damaged rough coat, cleansing of the floor of the bell-tower, positioning of the windows, manufacture of timber construction of the gallery and the staircase, rough-casting of the interior parts of the walls of the church with withdrawal of the damaged rough coat.

The Cultural Heritage Law of 9 October 2006 of the Assembly of Kosovo and the Regulation No 2006/52 is also noted. As this law mentions in point 6.4 that "Architectural monuments under temporary or permanent protection shall have a Protective Zone which is 50 metres from the perimeter of the monument" and at point 7.15 "The radius of a Protective Zone shall be 100 metres from the perimeter of the protected archaeological heritage site". The World Heritage Centre considers that this protection zone is not sufficient for the protection of the World Heritage property and its different parts. Taking note of the Executive Decision of UNMIK No 2005/5 of 25 April 2005 on a Special Zoning Area – Dečani it is highly recommended that special care should be taken for the other three sites of the World Heritage property with provision of an appropriate protection zone and putting in place strong protective regimes for buffer zones.

The World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party dated 4 April 2007 concerning the grenade attack to the property which took place on 31 March 2007. The authorities state that this was the fourth time that Dečani Monastery was the object of terrorist attacks. The Director-General of UNESCO condemned the act in a press statement and the UNESCO Office in Venice is planning a mission to the property in May 2007 to evaluate any damages to the property.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.28**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.53**, and **30 COM 8B.54**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Acknowledges the difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation and notes the assessment by the intersectoral mission carried out in January 2007 to some parts of the property, and in particular that:*
  - a) *The KFOR troops are patrolling at the property;*
  - b) *The medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings and conservation and rehabilitation of the property is being prepared;*
  - c) *The Executive Decision No 2005/5 of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) of United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) on the Special Zoning Area was issued for Dečani Monastery;*
  - d) *The required works on the roof of Ljeviša are completed.*
4. *Recalls its request for a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the Operational Guidelines and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;*
5. *Urges the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements to continue to take the following long-term corrective measures:*

- a) *Ensure the adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the Operational Guidelines, including strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;*
  - b) *Adequately delineate boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings) and submit revised boundaries in accordance with the provisions of the Operational Guidelines;*
  - c) *Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the Management Plan.*
6. *Requests the State Party to continue its efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the benchmarks defined;*
  7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2008** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
  8. *Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### 29. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

#### Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2005

#### Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

#### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2005

#### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings;
- b) Lack of maintenance for 40 years;
- c) Vandalism due to looting of re-usable materials;
- d) Damage caused by the wind.

#### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Management Plan carefully implemented by the responsible institutions through:

- a) An operational management team devoted exclusively to this exercise;
- b) Completed "Programme of High Priority Interventions" for structural consolidation of the urban and industrial buildings;
- c) Full security for the visitors.

#### Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of the management team with adequate human and financial resources;
- b) Structural consolidation and rehabilitation works for several emblematic buildings, such as the "public buildings", housing sector and the industrial zone edifices, using available materials within the property;
- c) Security measures for the visitors in some buildings, such as those located in the industrial zone.

#### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The first phase work plan includes security measures for visitors, cleaning and selection of materials, and low cost corrective measures. The second phase foresees the urgent structural consolidation of all the identified buildings which should be done by 2008.
- b) The implementation of the work plan is dependant on the availability of funds. Unfortunately at this point in time there is no clear funding source.

#### Previous Committee Decisions

**29 COM 8B.51; 29 COM 8B.52; 30 COM7A.31**



### International Assistance

N/A

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

October 2004

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extremely fragile nature of the buildings that were constructed using local materials such as timber for frames, corrugated iron sheets for roofs and some walls, and stucco and lightweight construction that functioned with regular maintenance;
- b) Lack of maintenance over the past 40 years as well as vandalism at the property;
- c) Metal cladding corroded and some of the structural elements dismantled. A few buildings, such as the Leaching house, are liable to structural collapse if no support is given;
- d) Very little conservation work carried out;
- e) Damage caused by the wind.

### Current conservation issues

The report submitted by the *Comisión de Monumentos Nacionales* (National Monuments Commission - CNM) of Chile, the national authority responsible for the state of conservation of the property, responds to the general situation of the property, analysed by the World Heritage Committee in July 2006, and the following aspects stand out:

- a) The State Party is committed to find the necessary resources to carry out the consolidation work for the 30 identified main projects in the Programme of High Priority Interventions for structural consolidation work, particularly on the industrial buildings, at an estimated overall cost of USD 700,000. The approved 2007 budget will allow to start the work, tentatively in April 2007, with a budget of USD 93,000. It was however stated that the timescale for completion might have to be extended to 2009.
- b) Counting of visitors has been carried out and maintained on the basis of figures from the previous years: in 2005, 49,253 visitors and in 2006, 49,948 visited the property.
- c) The struggle against the dismantling and theft of materials is continuing. People found guilty of stealing materials have been sentenced to prison terms, within the framework of a new legal system implemented throughout the country from 2005, and conforming to provisions introduced within the legislation concerning national monuments during the same year. The application of these measures has intensified and made the sanctions related to offences against cultural heritage more effective (Law N° 20.021, 14 July 2005).
- d) Information was given relating to the restoration of urban buildings such as the hotel, the school and the town theatre. The formulation of restoration projects for both buildings is in an advanced phase, and both rely on funding from private sources.
- e) Concerning the implementation of the Management Plan, the improvement of the legal framework, administrative procedures and the core principles of the plans have started. An architect and an industrial civil engineer were appointed. Following discussions by the stakeholders, it was decided to convene a meeting in April 2007 to revise the Management Plan, in order to incorporate, by consensus, the vision and the

experience of the administrators of the site during their term of office, from 2004 to the present day.

- f) The State Party stated that the celebration of “Saltpeter Week” in November every year brings together numerous ‘pampinos’ – inhabitants of the zone with a distinct bond with the property. It has great significance and strengthens the understanding of the property as a living heritage. However, this major gathering exerts a great pressure on the site. In this regard, the experience of the Saltpeter Week 2006 has progressively improved, and it is an essential issue to be addressed during the April 2007 meeting.
- g) Cleaning of the site has continued, as has research and the study of the industrial material stocked away as waste, which has been carried out with great care. This has allowed a better understanding of the industrial process of the extraction of saltpeter providing information that will benefit the museum of the property. A positive and enriching intervention was the installation of original rolling stock on the railways that used to transport nitrate.
- h) Concerning urban regulations, the Regulatory Plan of the town of Pozo Almonte, where the Humberstone and Santa Laura saltpeter offices are located, has recently been modified and the amendment has officially stipulated the obligation to come up with a specific regulation instrument for the buffer zone.

The report did not contain official information concerning finding an alternate route for the proposed road A-16 that goes through the protected area. The World Heritage Centre has not received either detailed information concerning restoration works carried out during 2006 with the collaboration of private donors.

Members of the World Heritage Centre visited the site with the representatives of the Saltpeter Museum Corporation, representatives of the National Monuments Council and of the Public Work Ministry on 19 and 20 March 2007. As a result of the visit and in collaboration with the national experts, the following recommendations were formulated:

- a) The staff responsible for the site is not multidisciplinary enough in their approach to be able to implement the next stages of the Management Plan until 2009;
- b) No significant progress has been made in the prioritised intervention plan for the urgent consolidation of the industrial buildings;
- c) Regarding the industrial buildings, a more comprehensive study of potential structural risks is highly recommended. This should be accompanied with a study on the typology of structures and the use of local construction materials such as *stucco pampino* and the development of some applied research on the deterioration of materials such as wood, stucco, metal cladding and timber. The results of these studies should serve as a baseline to complete the conservation plan for the industrial and urban buildings.
- d) According to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and because of the extremely fragile nature of the buildings and their singularity, the foreseen interventions within the High Priority Structural Consolidation Programme should be examined by ICOMOS.
- e) A mechanism for improving co-operation through the exchange of information between local/regional and national authorities and technical decision making processes for the implementation of the Management Plan is urgently needed.
- f) In spite of the overall confidence in the capacity for tourist development to help sustain the property, stronger co-operation with universities, applied research centres, industrial companies, and national corporations such as FOCI (Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión social), FONDART (Fondo del Desarrollo de las Artes), CONICIT (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología), CORFU (Corporación de Fomento) and the Regional Government of Tarapacá, is needed.

- g) On the occasion of the meeting that will take place in April 2007, it is highly recommended that a wider group of partners should be involved in the implementation of the Management Plan to discuss more proactive social participation by the local and regional population and to take advantage of this workshop to plan any future transversal local alliances and to contribute to the protection of the property.
- h) Archaeological survey and, where necessary, scientific excavation should be undertaken in some areas when the process of ordering and cleaning deposits of industrial materials is not superficial.

**Draft Decision:      31 COM 7A.29**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
3. *Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the Management Plan;*
4. *Invites the State Party to provide by **30 November 2007** details of a project for structural consolidation of the 30 main projects identified in the Programme of High Priority Interventions for industrial and urban buildings, and the timeframe envisaged for its implementation and the establishment of technical teams, according to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines to be examined by ICOMOS;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Committee with the information concerning the specific regulations of the buffer zone;*
6. *Also requests information on the identification of an alternate route for the road A-16 and the achievements concerning the measures taken to control access of vehicles to the Humberston Office;*
7. *Encourages the State Party to take advantage of the Workshop to improve the participatory process for the implementation of the Management Plan and to include a public use plan to be developed on the basis of the experience of the Saltpeter Week;*
8. *Urges the State Party to carry out a more comprehensive study of potential structural risks and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as soon as possible;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a progress report on the implementation of the Management Plan, to be examined by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
10. ***Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

### **30. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

1986

Criteria:

(i) (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

1986

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- a) Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomena) and other environmental factors;
- b) Inadequate management system in place;
- c) Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures;
- d) Increase in phreatic water table levels.

Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Adequate and efficient management system in place;
- b) Functioning institutional arrangements and collaboration with involved stakeholders in the implementation of the management plan;
- c) Secure and sustainable funding for implementation of priority conservation and management activities;
- d) Macro natural decay factors controlled/mitigated: risk preparedness for El Niño phenomena and monitor and control of phreatic water levels;
- e) Control and regulation of activities and development in the buffer zone;
- f) Full protection from illegal invasions and other illegal or non regulated activities;
- g) Full implementation of protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the national government).

Corrective measures identified

- a) Full and systematic implementation of the management plan: secure sustainable funding, abide by prescribed courses of action and policies, adhere to prescribed institutional arrangements;
- b) Enforce legislative and regulatory frameworks already passed by the State Party to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the property. Collaborate with pertinent authorities for the relocation of invaders;
- c) Broad dissemination of the management plan amongst interest groups to strengthen public and private support in its implementation;
- d) Collaboration with allied entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage Property. Precise plans of the property and its zoning need to be circulated amongst stakeholders;
- e) Physical delimitation of the World Heritage property: vegetation barriers, perimeter walls, etc.;

- f) Priority conservation measures: control and mitigation of water table levels, conservation of perimeter walls, reburial / backfilling of fragile areas with decorated surfaces;
- g) Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan;
- h) Continued implementation of course of action prescribed in the management plan for the conservation, presentation and revalorization of the World Heritage Property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Secured funding for the implementation of the management plan in 2008;
- b) Functioning institutional arrangements in 2008 (as per management plan);
- c) Illegal occupations addressed and activities at the site regulated in 2009 and beyond;
- d) Emergency and risk preparedness plan in 2008;
- e) Drainage works completed end of 2007;
- f) Priority conservation works in 2009;
- g) Other conservation and maintenance works 2008 and beyond;
- h) Management and coordination of works carried out by other sectors in the buffer zone in 2008 and beyond.

Previous Committee Decisions:

**28 COM 15A.30; 29 COM 7A.30; 30 COM 7A.32**

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 48,650 for training and technical cooperation. In addition, USD 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund decentralized to the UNESCO Lima Office, in 2005, for the opening of a drain in the Huachaque Grande (Drain 13) to lower the water table level within the Archaeological Zone.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions:

ICOMOS mission in 1997; World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission in February 2007.

Main threats identified in previous reports:

- a) Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices;
- b) Illegal occupations of the World Heritage property;
- c) Unregulated farming activities;
- d) Rising water table levels;
- e) Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National authorities).

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received the annual conservation report from the State Party in January 2007, which details actions carried out and progress made on the recommendations

of the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius,2006). These range from the continuous work to control the rising water table levels at the property to the clearing of vegetation that has grown as a result of increased humidity. It describes excavations, conservation and restoration interventions to open new areas for the public at the Velarde Palace, and actions for the management of the site, including the creation of a new implementation unit and addressing security concerns and illegal occupations.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission, carried out in February 2007, observed a variety of decay phenomena and processes caused by both from natural and cultural factors that could threaten the outstanding universal value, authenticity and integrity of the property. As was noted at the time of inscription, the earthen architecture of the site is extremely fragile and systematic and continuous maintenance is needed to comprehensively address these conditions.

The state of conservation varies in the different sectors; there is more impact in areas adjacent to communities, leading to garbage dumps, destruction of remains for illegal activities, etc. This is also because the prehispanic remains are not palaces or ceremonial complexes, but rather what has been called intermediate architecture. In the nuclear area, decay phenomena are the result of climatic conditions but also of the lack of continuity in conservation and maintenance interventions. Priorities should be set up and criteria for interventions need to be adhered to, as prescribed, in accordance to the significance of the site and respectful of international principles.

Archaeological excavations should be further limited to respond firstly to conservation concerns, and subsequently to the prioritized course of action prescribed in the management plan, where a holistic approach has been defined for the excavation, conservation and presentation of sectors according to the availability of resources, both technical and financial.

Although significant work has been carried out to mitigate the rise of water table levels, research is still needed to understand the hydrology in the site and systems associated with its behaviour, so that a more proactive, rather than reactive, approach is implemented in the future. Farmers are using fields that are land extensions, a practice that brings a variety of problems to the stability of the archaeological remains. Among them, the constant moisture generated by irrigation that affects all archaeological remains that are under and above the surface. Irrigation also brings the need for channels and ducts, and the majority of those are simply cut through the prehistoric adobe walls, destroying other archaeological remains.

Paradoxically, water from a recent irrigation project (Chavi Mochic) created for the benefit of areas of Chan Chan, is promoting the use of the protected area by local people with adverse effects for site conservation. The rise of the water table is suspected to be a result of the Chavi Mochic water project, although technicians from that agency argue different causes and have offered to carry out a technical study on the water behaviour to determine the real source of phreatic level variations. Dumping large amounts of garbage inside the protected area is a common practice by local people; In summary, it is evident that the problematic of destruction of this Protection Area, clearly pointed out in the Master Plan (2000) has not significantly changed and the recent Chavi Mochic water project has had an adverse impact on the site. A control system is urgent, as well as coordinated actions for regional development initiatives.

An important threat to the site continues to be major development projects, or proposals, including the construction of a new site museum. Urban expansion continues towards the property and new constructions are located very close to its boundaries. New infrastructure such as an animal food plant, which impacts the integrity of the landscape and generates pollution, might affect the site. New construction permits and other uses in the buffer zone are to be urgently regulated and collaboration with the concerned municipalities should be a priority for the new management unit created.

The mission also stressed the problems caused by the variety of roads surrounding the site. There are at least ten ways to connect areas of the site, the principal being the Trujillo-

Huanchaco highway that cuts the site in two. This situation encourages local people to settle along those roads. It would be important to select a minimal number of roads, and restrict the use of the others for public visits to the site (using them as visit routes). The construction of a highway bypass could solve the problem and help the property to recover its integrity.

A critical course of action is to strengthen institutional capacity for implementing the management plan. To date, there is no formal decision-making, professional team working full time at the site, there is lack of prioritization in implementing actions and some of these continue to be politically driven. Training and capacity development is critical for sustainable long-term implementation of the management plan, but also to disseminate the value of the invested efforts.

Although significant progress has been made, there are still many activities that need to be implemented in order to progressively contribute to mitigating decay problems, to raising awareness on the needs of the site and to enhance public and private collaboration in the conservation endeavours at the World Heritage property.

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 7A.30**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

11. *Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM/7A,*
12. *Recalling Decision **30 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006),*
13. *Notes the efforts made to date to mitigate the rate of decay of earthen structures, particularly in respect to lowering the phreatic levels at the property and the conservation interventions in different sectors;*
14. *Commends the State Party for the strengthening of protective legislative frameworks and regulatory measures, specially in regards to the creation and funding of institutional arrangements for the implementation of the management plan;*
15. *Endorses the recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of February 2007 and recommends their implementation by the State Party following the prioritized corrective measures identified to meet established benchmarks and timelines for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
16. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2008**, a report on the progress made on the above points for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008;*
7. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

**31. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

### Criteria

(iv) (v)

### Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

2005

### Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Considerable decay of materials and structures resulting from lack of comprehensive conservation and maintenance and torrential rains in 2004 and 2005;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban fabric and coherence compromising the integrity and authenticity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate and efficient management, planning and conservation mechanisms and institutional arrangements.

### Benchmarks for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Proposed in the draft Decision.

### Corrective measures identified

Proposed in the draft Decision.

### Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) The Presidential Commission was established in 2005 and the Framework Agreement with the local governments was signed in February 2006. It should become operational by 2008.
- b) Development of conservation plan during 2007, implementation of priority actions in 2008.

### Previous Committee Decisions

**28 COM 15B.106; 29 COM 7B.92; 30 COM 7A.33**

### International Assistance

N/A

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 2,000 Euros for technical mission within the framework of the France UNESCO Convention. This mission was complemented by the presence of a French expert from the General Inspection of Architecture and Heritage, Ministry of Culture.

### Previous monitoring missions

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions in 2002 and 2005; Expert mission in September 2006.

### Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Serious deterioration of materials and structures;
- b) Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property;
- c) Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms.



### Current conservation issues

The previous reactive monitoring missions recommended inscribing the site of Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The four sectoral analyses, entitled "PLINCODE"- (Integral Plan for the Conservation and Development of Coro, La Vela and its areas of influence), was transmitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre in February 2006. It identified eight key threats to the site and its environs and drafted an outline of an action plan.

A technical assistance mission carried out in September 2006, noted that the PLINCODE had been submitted to the authorities in August 2006, but at the time of the mission no official approval had been received. The mission also satisfactorily noted the increased presence and control of the IPC (Cultural Heritage Institute) on the ground, progress in the reinforcement of the Municipal Institutes for Heritage as well as the creation of a Multi-institutional technical council to gather the professional teams at the technical office for the Emergency project. As for implementation of actions, the rehabilitation of some buildings and the repair of drainage networks were partially undertaken, while the adaptation of public spaces was still pending. The PLINCODE was thoroughly analysed and the mission concluded that there were gaps in technical criteria for interventions and that a comprehensive conservation plan was missing. In addition, no prioritised course of action was set up.

It was also noted that awareness amongst the population on the values and significance of the World Heritage property is insufficient and that the local institutions do not identify themselves with the plan or get involved in its implementation.

In addition, the mission detected that interventions at several sites used materials which were not compatible with the original, and in disregard to the defined functions, thus risking to compromise not only the authenticity of the property but also its structural integrity. However, the mission also noted that the local capacity exists, which could implement these projects, and that further training initiatives could be promoted, such as the Escuela de Barro in La Vela and la Escuela Taller in Coro.

On 2 January 2007 the Director-General of the IPC transmitted two volumes on progress made within the implementation of the PLINCODE, submitted to the World Heritage Centre in lieu of a state of conservation report. This document mainly illustrates the implementation of the drainage systems and the rehabilitation of buildings in Coro and La Vela. It also announces the creation of a Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, formulate and revise intervention projects on infrastructure, buildings and public spaces in the property.

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

1. Having examined Document WHC-07/31.COM.7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.92** and **30 COM 7A.33** adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005) and 30th (Vilnius, 2006) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the progress made by the State Party in regards to elaborating the management plan and institutional arrangements;
4. Adopts the following benchmarks for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger to be reached by 2010:

- a) *Presidential signature of the PLINCODE (Integral Plan for the Conservation and Development of Coro, La Vela and its areas of influence), submitted to the authorities on August 2006;*
  - b) *Effective functioning of the management structure and institutional arrangements foreseen in the PLINCODE, with sufficient allocated resources;*
  - c) *Comprehensive drainage systems completed as well as underground networks, public spaces, sidewalks and streets in the historical area rehabilitated;*
  - d) *Prioritised implementation of a comprehensive conservation plan;*
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the following corrective measures:
- a) *Obtain the official approval of the PLINCODE;*
  - b) *Reinforce the Framework Agreement for Emergency Intervention in the area of Coro and La Vela that the IPC signed with the mayors of the municipalities of Miranda and the regional government on 14 February 2006;*
  - c) *Create a Council to assist the Technical Office (OTAE) to plan the investment of resources, formulate and revise intervention projects on infrastructure, buildings and public spaces in the property;*
  - d) *Formulate and prioritise a comprehensive conservation plan to complement the existing PLINCODE, by defining a precise course of action with intervention criteria and monitoring mechanisms to assess its effective and adequate implementation;*
  - e) *Strengthen capacity building for conservation and restoration through the existing available opportunities in workshops with the schools of conservation in La Vela and in Coro;*
  - f) *Create awareness in the local community through exhibitions and community involvement;*
6. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report by **1 February 2008** for review by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008 that should include the time-bound plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002, 2005 and 2006 missions and the progress made in their implementation;
7. Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.