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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-ninth session

Bonn, Germany
28 June - 8 July 2015

Decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015)

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2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Decision: 39 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,

2. Authorizes the participation in the 39th session as observers of those representatives of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), non- governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the *Convention*, who have requested observer participation at the session and as listed in Section A of document WHC-15/39.COM/2.Rev;

3. Further confirms the participation in the 39th session as observers of all those invited by the Director- General of UNESCO in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and as listed in Section B of document WHC-15/39.COM/2.Rev.

3A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 39th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (BONN, 2015)

Decision: 39 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/3A,

2. Adopts the Agenda included in the above-mentioned document.

3B. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF THE 39th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (BONN, 2015)

Decision: 39 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/3B.Rev,

2. Adopts the Timetable included in the above-mentioned document.

4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 38th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (DOHA, 2014)

Decision: 39 COM 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014).

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

Decision: 39 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 5A** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of the expected result, to ensure that "tangible heritage is identified, protected, monitored and sustainably managed by Member States, in particular through the effective implementation of the 1972 *Convention*", and the five strategic objectives as presented in Document WHC-15/39.COM/5A;

4. Invites the States Parties to support the activities carried out by the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the *Convention*;

5. Appeals to the Governing Bodies of UNESCO to rebalance the mismatch between workload and budget of the World Heritage Centre by providing more resources in the budget 2016/2017 (38C/5);

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at its 40th session, a report on its activities.

5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

Decision: 39 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 5B** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities;

4. Welcomes the harmonization of the reports by the Advisory Bodies and the comments on the progress made and gaps identified for the implementation of the *Convention*.

5C. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S INITIATIVE ON "THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION: THINKING AHEAD"

Decision: 39 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5C,

2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 5A**, **34 COM 5C**, **35 COM 5D**, **36 COM 12B**, **37 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5C** adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively;

3. Thanks the Director-General for convening the follow-up meeting on "*The World Heritage Convention*: Thinking Ahead" (UNESCO Headquarters, 21 January 2015);

4. Acknowledges the positive impact of actions already taken, as well as plans for further actions;

5. Encourages all stakeholders to continue to pursue efforts to enhance and facilitate dialogue, communication and transparency in all processes of the *Convention* and in the framework of the Director-General's initiative, "*The World Heritage Convention*: Thinking Ahead", as well as to address funding implications, within their respective mandates and competence, as appropriate.

5D. WORLD HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision: 39 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5D**,**

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C** and **38 COM 5D**, adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions,

3. Thanks the Technical University of Brandenburg, the Government of Germany and the Government of Viet Nam for having supported the development of the policy for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World*

Heritage Convention through the organization of two workshops in Cottbus (Germany) and Ninh Binh (Viet Nam), respectively in October 2014 and January 2015;

4. Welcomes the work accomplished by the group of experts on a voluntary basis, under the coordination of the World Heritage Centre and in close consultation with the Advisory Bodies, despite the lack of resources;

5. Endorses the "Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *World Heritage Convention*" as described in Annex to Document WHC-15/39.COM/5D;

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to disseminate the draft Policy Document to all States Parties and collate their comments;

7. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to revise the Policy Document by incorporating views expressed at the 39th session and other comments received from States Parties, as well as by taking into account the final outcome of the negotiations for the establishment of the UN Post-2015 development agenda and other relevant processes;

8. Decides to transmit the revised Policy Document for discussion and adoption at the 20th General Assembly of States Parties in 2015;

9. Further requests the World Heritage Centre, along with the Advisory Bodies, to ensure - once the Policy Document is adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties that the Policy Document will be taken into account in the preparation of the overall Policy Guidelines as one of the essential elements to be inserted in the text;

10. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre along with the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate – once the overall Policy Document is adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties – proposals for specific changes to the *Operational Guidelines* that would be required to translate the principles of the Policy Document into actual operational procedures;

11. Calls on States Parties to contribute financially to this end and after adoption by the General Assembly in 2015, to strengthen the Policy by promoting a wider participation of the government, private sector and communities;

12. Encourages the World Heritage Centre to sensitize States Parties, as appropriate, to the adoption of the policy as well as to its implications, notably in terms of the need to establish the appropriate governance mechanisms to achieve the appropriate balance and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives;

13. Also encourages UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to disseminate widely the Policy Document as adopted by the General Assembly, and other related publications through appropriate means to the World Heritage community and the broader public, and promote its application and a wider fostering in multilateral scenarios, especially in those related to sustainable development;

14. Recommends to the Category 2 Centres and UNESCO Chairs related to World Heritage and to the wider network of the UNESCO Forum – Universities and Heritage, to prioritize issues related to the implementation of the policy within their capacity-building and research initiatives as well as involving in their activities other actors and sectors related to sustainable development;

15. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to present to the Committee, at its 40th session in 2016, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above provisions.

5E. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY - FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 38 COM 9C

Decision: 39 COM 5E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5E,

2. Recalling Resolution **17 GA 9** and Resolution **18 GA 8** adopted by the General Assembly at its 17th (2009) and 19th (2011) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling Decision **36 COM 9A**, Decision **37 COM 11** and Decision **38 COM 9C** adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and its 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

4. Decides to amend Article 22.7 of the Rules of Procedure as follows:

   "22.7 Representatives of a State Party, whether or not a member of the Committee, may be invited by the Chairperson to present their views once the Advisory Bodies have presented their evaluation of the site proposed by the State for inscription. The presentation shall be limited to a clarification or an update on the proposed site. After this permitted time, the State Party may be allowed to take the floor again, but only in order to answer questions, within a limited time, that have been asked. This provision also applies to other observers mentioned in Rule 8."

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

Decision: 39 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/6,

2. Recalling decisions **36 COM 6**, **36 COM 9B, 37 COM 5E**, **37 COM 6** and **38 COM 6** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme, and the capacity-building activities carried out in 2014 and in the beginning of 2015;

4. Notes with appreciation the continued support of the Government of Switzerland in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme;

5. Acknowledges the acute need, however, for significant additional contributions and support in order for the programme to be able to reach its goal, and calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme and associated activities at the international and regional levels;

6. Takes note of the development of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives as a follow up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in all regions, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;

7. Encourages the ongoing efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to establish a biennial recognition of best practices, notably through identifying extrabudgetary financial support towards the implementation of this activity;

8. Welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities and calls on interested stakeholders to support the activities of these centres;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 39 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), and the Bonn Declaration on World Heritage adopted on 29 June 2015,

Conflict situation in the Arab States Region

3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, the loss of human life as well as the degradation of humanitarian conditions and expresses its utmost concern at the damage sustained and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;

4. Urges all parties associated with conflicts to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;

5. Also urges the States Parties to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;

6. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in combatting the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage, in particular coming from Syria and Iraq as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015;

7. Recommends that the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies develop a post-conflict strategy, including means to extend support for reconstruction of damaged World Heritage properties through technical assistance, capacity-building, and exchange of best practices taking into account the conclusions made by the two seminars recently held by World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on this subject;

Emerging and recurring conservation issues

8. Takes note of the increasing number of State of Conservation reports due to inadequate management systems or plans and urges States Parties to ensure that management systems and plans are in place at the time of inscription;

9. Notes with utmost concern, the continuously increasing pressure associated with and the growing impacts from poaching on the Outstanding Universal Value of many natural World Heritage properties and the increasing involvement of organized crime, and reiterates its call for strong international collaboration and coordination inter alia with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and with the full engagement of transit and destination countries to control the illicit trade in wildlife and its products;

10. Notes with concern the significant threat posed by invasive species to natural World Heritage properties, strongly encourages States Parties to develop adequately resourced strategies to eradicate invasive species in World Heritage properties and prevent their (re-)introduction and/or establishment, and also calls on the international community to support invasive species eradication campaigns in affected properties;

11. Taking note of the benefits to States Parties of systematically utilizing Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in the review of development projects, encourages States Parties to integrate the EIA/HIA processes into legislation, planning mechanisms and management plans, and reiterates its recommendation to States Parties to use these tools in assessing projects, including assessment of cumulative impacts, as early as possible and before any final decision is taken, and, taking into account the need for capacity-building in this regard, requests the States Parties to contribute financially and technically towards the development of further guidance regarding EIA/HIA implementation, by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, based on case studies and field experience;

12. Acknowledging that World Heritage properties are being increasingly affected by Climate Change, also strongly encourages States Parties to participate in the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015, with a view to achieving a universal climate agreement and mobilize global climate action on the ground, and recalls its Decision **31 COM 7.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) in which it adopted a carbon neutral policy, in view of its application for all future sessions, to the extent feasible;

13. Appreciates the constructive dialogue, which has taken place between the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and also requests that this dialogue be extended to the other Advisory Bodies to ensure that cultural aspects are also taken into account in the future;

Knowledge management of the state of conservation reports

14. Urges States Parties to submit to the Committee through the Secretariat, by the statutory deadline set and in one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention* (English or French), their reports on the state of conservation of specific properties (Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*), in order to allow for sufficient time for consultation and informed decision making at the Committee sessions;

15. Adopts the revised format below for the submission of state of conservation reports by the States Parties, decides that this revised format is compulsory and applies with immediate effect, and that it should be included in the *Operational Guidelines*, and reminds States Parties that these reports must be submitted in one of the working languages of the *Convention* (English or French):

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

1. Executive Summary of the report

   [Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

   [Note: State(s) Party(ies) are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

   If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

   Please also provide detailed information on the following:

   a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

      [Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]

      If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

   b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.

   c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

   [Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

   [Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc). Should your State Party request that the full

report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

6. Signature of the Authority

16. Notes with appreciation the high number of States Parties which have authorized the public upload of their state of conservation reports, facilitating their consultation by all stakeholders of the *Convention* and contributing to an improved transparency of the reactive monitoring process, and reiterates its encouragement to all States Parties to continue do so in the future.

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

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.34**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that the report of the State Party does not allow an assessment of the state of conservation of the property, or the implementation of the corrective measures;

4. Notes that, although there is a slight improvement in comparison with the previous year, the security situation in and around the property remains problematic and does not allow for any surveillance activity within the property;

5. Reiterates its grave concern regarding the probable loss of most of the flagship species of the large mammals of the property, due to poaching and impacts from transhumant cattle;

6. Also reiterates its continued concern that the property could lose its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which could lead to its withdrawal from the World Heritage List, in accordance with Paragraph 176 d) of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to organize a workshop to evaluate the feasibility of the restoration of the OUV of the property under the present security conditions and based on these conclusions to prepare an emergency action plan taking into account the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009);

8. Requests the State Party to elaborate through the participatory available means, an emergency action plan taking into account the corrective measures adopted by the Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009), in order to address the current biodiversity loss situation and attempt to restore the OUV of the property;

9. Also requests to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the state of conservation of the property and to evaluate the perspectives for the regeneration of the characteristics of the property to justify its OUV, or whether a removal of the property from the World Heritage List should be envisaged, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Chapter IV.C of the *Operational Guidelines*;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

11. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;

12. **Also decides to retain the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the continued progress achieved by the State Party in addressing anthropogenic threats to the property, and commends the State Party in particular for significantly reducing the number of recorded incidences of agricultural encroachment and illegal grazing, and for the increasing participation of local people in patrols;

4. Also welcomes the State Party's confirmation that no mining licenses were awarded within the boundaries of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) for the two exploration licenses located immediately to the north of the property, which should include an assessment of their potential impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

5. Notes with concern the reported rapid increase of illegal gold mining and the associated risk of poaching, and urges the State Party to provide political support at the national level to ensure adequate provision of human and financial resources and strict law enforcement to address this threat;

6. Requests the State Party to implement the rehabilitation plan as a matter of priority, to ensure the effective implementation of other management activities;

7. Also notes that the results of the aerial survey will enable further definition of the biological indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and also requests the State Party, in consultation with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to define the biological indicators and the timeframe to achieve them as soon as further data are available on chimpanzee and elephant populations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. Further requests the State Party to implement a robust and consistent biological monitoring methodology to ensure regular monitoring of the recovery of wildlife populations throughout the property, which should facilitate the future review of progress achieved toward the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission on the property to examine the state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved on the above-mentioned items;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

11. **Decides to retain Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.38,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes that the impacts of the Ebola crisis have seriously affected the implementation of the corrective measures in the Guinean part of the property and have suspended the implementation of important transboundary activities, and expresses its concern that the impacts of the crisis could present important additional challenges for the management authority, CEGENS, in Guinea, which has limited capacity and needs technical and financial support;

4. Welcomes the important efforts, which have been undertaken since the end of the conflict by the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire, in particular the management authority, OIPR, to re-assert its authority over the property and re-build its management capacity as well as the on-going work to restore the integrity of the property, develop community forests to act as a buffer zone and intensify the cooperation with the local communities;

5. Urges the States Parties to continue their efforts to implement the corrective measures approved by the Committee in its Decision **37 COM 7A.3**;

6. Requests the States Parties to work with UNDP and the Global Environmental Facility to develop a second phase of the Nimba project, covering the components in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, and possibly part of the Nimba mountains in Liberia, to assist with the implementation of the corrective measures in order to safeguard the integrity of the property;

7. Expresses its utmost concern that the preliminary review of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), which was completed for the exploration concession granted to West Africa Exploration, indicates that the ESIA seems not to have been carried out in accordance with international standards, as was requested by the Committee in Decision **37 COM 7A.3**;

8. Reiterates its request for a thorough Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in accordance with international standards, which must qualify and quantify all potential impacts of the different planned mining projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2013 monitoring mission to the property and the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessments, and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to any decision on these projects, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to revise the boundaries of the exploration permit granted to SAMA resources in order to ensure that they do not overlap with the property;

10. Also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated joint report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

11. **Decides to retain the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.37** and **38 COM 7A.42**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts deployed by the park staff to continue to ensure the conservation of the property despite life threatening conditions, and expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of the guards killed in operations for the protection of the property;

4. Welcomes the improvement of the security situation and the fact that park surveillance coverage has increased to 75% and that all critical areas for large mammals are under control of the park management;

5. Reiterates its significant concern about the fact that the State Party has not cancelled the petroleum licenses in the Park, as requested in its previous decisions, and strongly urges the State Party to cancel all the oil exploitation permits granted within the property without further delay and to make a clear commitment not to authorize further oil exploration or oil exploitation within the established boundaries of the property as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1979;

6. Also reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration or exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;

7. Notes with concern that the Prime Minister in its letter dated 26 January 2015, while affirming that the Government so far has not approved oil exploitation in Virunga National Park, acknowledges that the State Party might seek a minor boundary modification to enable exploitation to go ahead;

8. Further reiterates its position that oil exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders such as Shell and Total not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties and underlines that modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties that are related to extractive industry should be dealt with through the procedure for significant modifications of boundaries, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines* given the potential impact of such projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

9. Recalls that the Statement of OUV of the property refers on several occasions to the importance of Lake Edward and its floodplains for its OUV and therefore, considers that removing this area from the property would have a significant negative impact on its OUV;

10. Expresses its continued concern about the serious threats to the OUV of the property, in particular the encroachment of close to 10% of its surface by illegal settlements and uncontrolled agriculture and the limited support park staff is receiving from the Government to address these threats, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the commitments made by the Congolese Government in the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011;

11. Encourages the work of the Virunga Alliance, which aims to support sustainable economic development around the park, and also encourages private, bilateral and multilateral donors to support this initiative;

12. Also urges the State Party to expedite implementation of the corrective measures, as updated by the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

14. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;

15. **Also decides to retain the 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)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.38**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Warmly welcomes the efforts of the State Party in securing the property, strengthening surveillance and closing down the artisanal mining quarries, in accordance with the Kinshasa Declaration of January 2011, and encourages the State Party to ensure the continuity of its efforts;

4. Notes that the restoration of security is the pre-condition for the implementation of the corrective measures and the restoration of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Notes with concern the lack of progress in the evacuation of the ecological corridor, crucial to ensure the ecological continuity between the highland and lowland sectors, and reiterates its request to the State Party to cancel the land permits illegally granted within the property, to evacuate the farms installed illegally and to restore the plant species and the connectivity;

6. Takes note of the studies in progress on the zoning of the property and the convening of the "National Forum on Governance and Enhancement of the Property", and requests the State Party to ensure that the recommendations issued and the options identified concerning the evacuation of the corridor and the zoning of the property guarantee the conservation of the OUV of the property;

7. Welcomes the commencement of the inventory of large mammals throughout the property, permitting an assessment of the state of conservation of its OUV, but expresses its utmost concern concerning the quasi absence of the gorillas in the western Nzovu sector and the extremely low level of viewing of elephants that indicates that the impact of the presence of armed groups in the lowland sector has caused an important erosion of the OUV;

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the results of the inventory are available, to assess its state of conservation, update the corrective measures, and establish a timeframe for the implementation and the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;

11. **Also decides to retain the 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)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.39** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Expresses its utmost concern about the renewed poaching crisis which erupted in April 2014 and which led to the poaching of at least 164 elephants and three Congo giraffes and expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of the guard killed in operations for the protection of the property;

4. Notes with great concern that the probable extinction of the Northern White Rhino in the property and the continued erosion of the populations of other wildlife species, in particular the loss of more than 90% of the elephant population and the continued decline of the relict population of Congolese giraffe, if not halted soon, could lead to an irreversible loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Requests the State Party to cooperate with other States Parties and international technical organizations, such as IUCN, to outline a population recovery plan and call for support of the international community in addressing the loss of endangered species;

6. Commends the State Party, in particular the Congolese Nature Conservation Institute (ICCN) and the African Parks Foundation, for their efforts to strengthen anti-poaching efforts to address this crisis, by reorganizing anti-poaching operations, bringing in additional field equipment and a helicopter to enable better aerial support for anti-poaching activities and urges the State Party to give the utmost priority to halting the poaching crisis;

7. Welcomes the increased cooperation with the Congolese Army (FARDC), United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) to restore security in the region, control the armed groups, stop cross-border incursions and address the poaching crisis;

8. Also expresses its utmost concern about continued reports of the use of helicopters and the alleged involvement of elements of the army in elephant poaching in the property;

9. Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to call on the State Party as well as neighbouring States, in particular Uganda and South Sudan, to ensure that military operations in the region do not impact on the OUV of the property and to organize in

cooperation with MONUSCO a high-level meeting between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan and other potential stakeholders on how to improve security in the region and address the poaching issue;

10. Further expresses its concern about the increased pressure on the hunting areas adjacent to the property, in particular from artisanal mining, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a conservation strategy for the hunting areas so that they can act as buffer zones, given their importance for the conservation of the OUV of the property, including the conditions of integrity;

11. Also urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the corrective measures to rehabilitate the OUV of the property;

12. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to re-asses its state of conservation, to update the corrective measures and establish a new timeframe for their implementation and to finalize the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

14. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;

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

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.40,** adopted during its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the fact that “Operation Bonobo” seems to be gradually bringing tangible results in terms of securing the property, restoring the authority of the park management and curbing the widespread poaching by armed gangs and uncontrolled military;

4. Welcomes the significant efforts of the State Party, in cooperation with its financial and technical partners, to put in place basic park management operations and implement the corrective measures, taking into account the significant challenges related to the size of the property, its remoteness and its poorly developed infrastructure;

5. Calls on the donor community to ensure a long-term engagement, in order to build up management capacity and infrastructure of the property and support its ecological restoration, and urges the State Party to take more financial responsibility to cover recurrent costs and speed up the efforts to set up a sustainable financing mechanism;

6. Requests the State Party to continue to implement the corrective measures, as updated by the 2012 reactive monitoring mission, to rehabilitate the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake inventories of flagship species to quantify the state of the OUV of the property and the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as to establish a realistic timeframe for its achievement;

8. Notes the lack of progress in securing a biological corridor between the two components of the property, and also requests the State Party to increase its efforts to ensure the ecological continuum between the two components of the property in order to sustain its long term integrity;

9. Expresses its utmost concern that the State Party, despite repeated requests at its 36th, 37th and 38th sessions, has not provided detailed information regarding the oil exploration and exploitation projects in the central basin that risk encroaching onto the property, and urges the State Party to provide this information immediately and to annul any concessions, which would overlap with the property;

10. Reiterates its position that oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;

11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism;

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

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.41** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the significant efforts of the State Party to ensure security of the property and expand surveillance coverage, and the measures taken to punish the soldiers

involved in poaching, but notes that major parts of the property remain outside the control of the managing authority;

4. Also notes that restoring security is the precondition for the implementation of corrective measures and restoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Urges the State Party to prioritize efforts to further expand the monitoring coverage and regain control of the site to halt poaching and the erosion of the OUV of the property;

6. Welcomes the steps taken by the Managing Authority with the support of the Governor of the Province to close the mining quarries within the property and to evacuate the illegal occupants, and the steps taken to cancel mining permits encroaching the property, and requests the State Party to close all quarries and cancel all permits rapidly;

7. Further notes the difficulties reported by property managers to implement corrective actions, due to lack of technical and financial resources, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session, to rehabilitate the OUV of the property, and also requests the State Party to make available to the property the necessary means to ensure their implementation;

8. Calls upon donors to provide necessary financial and technical support to the site's managers to implement corrective actions and to resume operations suspended due to lack of security;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;

11. **Also decides to retain the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

9. General Decision on the properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.42,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014) and reaffirming the need to implement the Kinshasa Declaration adopted in 2011,

3. Welcomes the statement by the Vice Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reiterating the commitment of the State Party to implement the Kinshasa Declaration, as well as the decision by the National Superior Defence Council to instruct the army to strengthen security in the properties;

4. Notes with appreciation the efforts to ensure that the mining cadastre uses accurate mapping information of the properties to avoid that mining concessions attributed overlap with the properties, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to cancel all existing permits, which overlap with any of the five properties;

5. Considers that widespread poaching is the single most significant threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of all five properties, also welcomes the intention to create a special anti-poaching brigade, but notes that additional efforts will be needed, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to identify and take legal action against the criminal networks involved in the illegal traffic of species of fauna and their products, in particular ivory;

6. Calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in ivory and other illegal wildlife products, in particular through the implementation of the CITES;

7. Reiterates its utmost concern about the Hydrocarbons Code that would make oil exploitation activities in protected areas possible, and about the statement by the Prime Minster of DRC that the State Party might seek a boundary modification of Virunga National Park to allow for oil exploration activities to proceed;

8. Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to ensure that the protection status of the World Heritage properties be maintained and to annul all oil exploration concessions overlapping with any of the five properties, and reiterates its position that mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;

9. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the commitments made in the Kinshasa Declaration and to ensure the execution of the Strategic Plan of Action, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to approve the decree to formalize the creation of an inter-ministerial committee and allocate the necessary technical and financial means to ensure adequate monitoring in the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration;

10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a detailed report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the situation regarding mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation titles that overlap with World Heritage properties, and the Hydrocarbons Code, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.43**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to re-demarcate and re-gazette the boundaries of the park, revise the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy and make further progress in strengthening the management effectiveness of the property and encourages the State Party to seek supplementary international support to help provide alternative livelihoods and implement the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy upon its finalization;

4. Appreciates the State Party's continued efforts to complete the negotiated relocation of the Gich settlement from the property and requests the State Party to continue its engagement to ensure consent and appropriate compensation of the affected local communities;

5. Notes with appreciation the support already provided by different donors to assist the State Party with the implementation of the corrective measures and reiterates its call to the international community to increase the financial support to the property for the implementation of the remaining corrective measures;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide an update on the development of road realignment outside of the property to reduce the pressure on the existing road through the property;

7. Further requests the State Party to commission an independent scientific study in order to assess the status, composition and distribution of important wildlife species such as Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including an evaluation of the implementation of the corrective measures and information on progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. **Decides to retain the Simien National Park (Ethiopia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

11. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) (N 1257)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.44**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the restated political commitment of the State Party, which was also reiterated by the President of Madagascar at the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress to address the illegal trafficking of natural resources, in particular rosewood and other precious timber species;

4. Acknowledges the progress made in implementing the CITES Action plan, in particular the preparatory studies, which were carried out in order to achieve the liquidation of all remaining rosewood stockpiles in the country and develop a forestry sector which is transparent and respectful of the law and regulations;

5. Requests the State Party to fully implement the CITES Action Plan and recommendations and to ensure that all stockpiles be confiscated as soon as possible as a conservatory measure, their legality established, and that holders of illegal stockpiles be prosecuted;

6. Takes note of the recommendations of the "Utilization Plan for precious timber stockpiles", which was submitted to CITES in December 2014 and which proposes to sell most of the stockpiles through international auctions, and urges the State Party to strictly adhere to the recommendations which will be issued by the CITES Standing Committee after its review, to guarantee the transparency and international oversight over any possible sale and to ensure that a substantial part of any revenue generated from possible sales is made available for the conservation of the property;

7. Expresses its concern that, while illegal rosewood logging in the property has diminished slightly in 2014 compared to 2013, it is continuing to affect the property and in particular Masoala National Park, and also urges the State Party to intensify efforts to immediately crack down on the remaining centers of illegal logging and trafficking;

8. Further takes note of the progress towards achieving the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), but considers the announced policy by the Government of zero stocks, a zero tolerance toward illegal trafficking and the elimination of illegal logging of rosewood needs to be effectively implemented to guarantee the integrity of the property and achieve the DSOCR;

9. Notes that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested at the 38th session in 2014 was postponed at the request of the State Party and in agreement with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to provide more time for addressing the stockpile issue in accordance with the CITES recommendations, and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess progress achieved in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and to update, if necessary, the corrective measures and the timetable for their implementation;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including an evaluation of the implementation of the corrective measures, and information on progress made towards achieving the DSOCR, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

11. **Decides to retain Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the establishment of a Management Unit at Iférouane, in the periphery of the property, but notes with concern the comments of the Reactive Monitoring mission of February 2015 that there is a lack of human and logistical means to ensure the sovereign functioning of this Management Unit, surveillance and ecological monitoring of the property;

4. Expresses its deep concern that the inventory of large wildlife and its habitat conducted in June 2014 makes no mention of Addax, red-necked ostrich and Saharan cheetah and that the Dama gazelle appears to be reduced to a relict population;

5. Notes the conclusion of the Reactive Monitoring mission of February 2015, according to which, excepting soil stabilization actions, the corrective measures proposed by the 2005 mission have barely been implemented and adopts the updated corrective measures, as follows:

   a) Establish functional management bodies such as surveillance, ecological monitoring, planning and social mobilization and community support services, together with technical and financial means and sufficient staff, including a conservator exclusively responsible for the management and conservation of the property, and better control the exploitation of natural resources in the perimeter of the property,

   b) Reinvigorate, in cooperation with local leaders, the land commissions in the four municipalities and clarify the respective rights of land use and access to resources of the local populations,

   c) Develop and implement an emergency surveillance plan to significantly improve the surveillance of the property and combat poaching and the illegal exploitation of natural resources for commercial ends, in particular focusing on the areas that shelter the last surviving populations of flagship species,

   d) Immediate halt of timber harvesting from the property for commercial purposes, through reinforced cooperation with the forestry service in the control and collection of data on the volume and types of timber from the property, the road networks used to transport the timber to the big cities and the gold mining sites outside the property;

6. Requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations of the 2015 mission and to implement the action plan prepared by the mission in consultation with the State Party;

7. Urges the State Party to conduct the requisite studies to respond to the lack of data on the numbers of wildlife in the property as well as on the level of demographic pressure, to enable the preparation of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. **Decides to retain the Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

13. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.46**, adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the efforts of the State Party in implementing the corrective measures, especially those concerning the strengthening of surveillance staff and the implementation of a strategy to combat the encroachment of the ponds;

4. Notes with satisfaction that data indicates an increase in wildlife, however, reiterates its concern as regards the low density of large wildlife in the property and requests the State Party to implement the corrective measures as updated by the 2015 mission, as follows:

    a) Establishment and strengthening the anti-poaching mechanism based on combined aerial (according to the means available) and land measures,

    b) Capacity building of staff at the property by providing training and equipment adapted to the new technologies, including the application of the SMART tool (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool),

    c) Reinforced implementation of the emergency programme for the restoration of the ponds in the perimeter of the property and implementation of alternative measures for the ponds as water points in the property,

    d) Rehabilitation of the impassable trails in the property, concentrating on the southern part of the Park,

    e) Updating of the ecological monitoring programme of the Park, based on indicators that are simple, reliable and inexpensive to measure, and on statistics drawn from reliable inventories of threatened populations of key species for the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (lion, Derby eland, elephant, chimpanzee and wild dog) and integrated into the management plan of the property, which must be updated and implemented urgently,

    f) Improvement of grazing areas and water points in the village territories around the property to minimise the encroachment of domestic cattle inside the property,

    g) Improved marking of the boundaries of the property, including the removal of obsolete markers, and the introduction of better communication means through

signage adapted to the specificities of each of the local communities of the property,

h) Implementation of speed control measures for traffic on the part of Route Nationale 7 within the property (for example, video-surveillance, increase of speed bumps, radars) and reinforcement of controls at strategic points,

i) Prohibition of any extractive activity (traditional or industrial) within the property, as well as outside of the property insofar as such an activity could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (OUV), including conditions of integrity;

5. Adopts the indictors of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as updated by the mission and considers that these indicators should be achieved by end-2018;

6. Expresses its deep concern regarding the granting of a gold prospection license in the immediate vicinity of the property and considers that if this license is converted into an exploitation license there could be a negative impact on the OUV of the property, in particular on the habitats of threatened species such as the chimpanzee, lion, elephant and Derby eland;

7. Requests the State Party to ensure that the development does not affect the OUV of the property and that a high quality Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be established according to international best practices, if the exploration permit were to be converted into an exploitation licence;

8. Reiterates its position regarding the fact that mining exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, policy supported by the declaration of the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties;

9. Also requests the State Party to ensure the permanent closure of the basalt quarry at Mansadala by 2018, and implement measures to ensure the complete rehabilitation of the site;

10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a specific assessment on the impacts of the dam project at Sambangalou on the OUV of the property before any decision on its construction, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the IUCN World Heritage Advisory Note on environmental assessment;

11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

12. **Decides to retain the Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

14. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 199bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the clear commitment of the State Party to refrain from any form of mining within the property, and not to undertake any activities that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its surrounding areas without prior approval of the World Heritage Committee;

4. Notes with appreciation the on-going efforts by the State Party to address the poaching crisis in the property, and the various forms of support granted to Tanzania on the part of bi-lateral cooperation in particular Germany, the U.S., NGOs and the private sector;

5. Reiterates its concern about the continued pressure from poaching in the property and its impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges the State Party to strengthen law enforcement, and to implement a site specific anti-poaching strategy and a comprehensive emergency action plan with the objective of halting poaching within the "Larger Selous Ecosystem" in 12 months, as originally recommended by the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and Decision **38 COM 7B.95**;

6. Requests the State Party to continue to take decisive actions at national level to address criminal networks involved in ivory trafficking and to improve controls in the ports used by the traffickers, and calls upon the States Parties which are transit and destination countries for ivory and rhino horn, to support the State Party to halt the illegal trade in ivory and other illegal wildlife products, in particular through the implementation of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);

7. Regrets the slow progress by the State Party in the establishment of a buffer zone and potentially strategic additions to the property, although this was a key commitment made by the State Party at the time of the approval of the boundary modification;

8. Notes that the Mkuju River mining project has not yet started production, however also urges the State Party to ensure disaster preparedness and independent water monitoring prior to active mining, to provide a detailed description on the planned mining project, including details on the mining design, the extraction and processing methods and the measures foreseen to minimize contamination risks as well as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the case of consideration of in-situ Leaching (ISL);

9. Reiterates its request to clarify the status of planning and decision-making of the Stiegler's Gorge Dam project as was requested in Decision **38 COM 7B.95**;

10. Also notes that the submitted Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Kidunda dam project does not address the comments provided in neither the report of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission nor the relevant Committee decisions, and does not elaborate on the impacts on the property's OUV, therefore also reiterates its

request to complete the ESIA including a chapter on the impact of the proposed activity on the OUV of the property in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

11. Further urges the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

13. **Decides to retain the Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

15. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that no mining concessions or exploration permits exist within the property, and that geothermal energy will not be developed within the property, and requests the State Party to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the license for the development of geothermal energy adjacent to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, which should include an assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

4. Notes with appreciation that the closure of illegal small-scale gold mines has been initiated, and also requests the State Party to ensure the full closure of all illegal gold mines within the property, and the rehabilitation of affected areas;

5. Also notes with appreciation that no new road development has occurred within the property, and noting the continued pressure for the development of roads for evacuation and improving connectivity in the areas surrounding the property, urges the State Party to expedite the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the Committee (Decision **36 COM 7A.13**) and to submit the completed SEA to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2017**, for review by IUCN;

6. Further requests the State Party to make a clear and unequivocal commitment to ensure that the Aceh Spatial Plan will not have any negative impacts on the property and on key areas within the Leuser Ecosystem that are critical to the integrity of the property;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information on the actions taken to improve law enforcement, and to provide statistics on trends of illegal activities, including poaching and encroachment;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including clear scientific data to demonstrate progress in meeting the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in particular in relation to law enforcement, forest cover, and population trends of key species, including tiger, elephant, rhino and orangutan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. **Decides to retain the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

16. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee in Decision **38 COM 7A.29**;

4. Notes that the World Heritage Centre has the resources to assist with the development of a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and encourages the State Party to invite an Advisory mission in the autumn of 2015 to perform this task;

5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:

   a) Undertake rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for any plans for bauxite mining on West Rennell to demonstrate that they will not have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to defer consideration of bauxite mining license applications until the new management plan has been approved and is being implemented;

   b) Put in place interim measures to mitigate the impact of existing logging operations and halt new logging operations until the new management plan has been approved and is being implemented;

c) Undertake urgent action to halt the further spread of rats on Rennell Island and prevent them from entering the property, to put in place the biosecurity controls necessary to prevent further introductions of invasive species to the island, and apply for International Assistance to support this work;

6. Urges the State Party to expedite the completion and implementation of the revised management plan for the property and requests the State Party to submit an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

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

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7A.30** and **37 COM 7A.15**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued and substantial effort of the State Party to provide detailed and clear measurements of the trends and conditions for the indicators developed for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to connect them to the corrective measures, allowing a comprehensive report on progress;

4. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the State Party on the implementation of the corrective measures, and requests the State Party to continue its effort towards the completion of those restoration projects that are most crucial to increasing waterflow into the property and meeting the water quality targets, and that can lead to an improvement of the ecological indicators for the integrity of the property over time;

5. Notes with concern that the finalization of the General Management Plan, initially mentioned in Decision **35 COM 7A.14**, is further delayed, and urges the State Party to ensure implementation of the plan commences in 2016;

6. Also notes with concern the increased abundance of invasive species in the property, including top marine predators such as Lionfish and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that the necessary resources are provided to contain their spreading

and to research how and to what degree these species are affecting the property's Outstanding Universal Value;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017;

8. **Decides to retain the Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

18. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the activities reported by the State Party towards the implementation of the corrective measures, but notes with concern that key legal instruments, including the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan, the Living Aquatic Resources Bill and the Mangrove Regulations, have not yet been finalized and approved;

4. Also welcomes the information provided by the State Party that no oil concession is currently overlapping the property, as well as its commitment to develop a suitable legal arrangement that would address the Committee requests regarding the elimination of all oil concession in and around the property, and urges the State Party to develop such a legal arrangement as a matter of priority;

5. Notes that a land tenure inventory is currently ongoing, including within the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to establish, as a matter of priority, a legal instrument that would guarantee permanent cessation of the sale and lease of lands throughout the property and a clear definition and strict control of development rights on existing private and leased lands;

6. Further welcomes the constructive cooperation between the State Party and stakeholders and adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) they proposed (see Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add, Table 1), as well as its indicators, methods of verification and timeframe, and also urges the State Party to work closely together with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for their succesful implementation;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation

of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. **Decides to retain the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

19. Los Katios National Park (Colombia) (N 711)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.32,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Highly commends the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures and considers that the State Party has achieved compliance with the indicators set for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

4. **Decides to remove Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) from the List of World Heritage in Danger**;

5. Endorses the recommendations expressed by the Reactive Monitoring mission;

6. Welcomes important support and cooperation by other States Parties and multilateral organizations and encourages additional support and cooperation;

7. Notes, however, that the property continues to be vulnerable, and urges the State Party to:

   a) Further consolidate efforts to improve the security situation and ensure law enforcement across the property,

   b) Consolidate communication and cooperation with resource-dependent communities in and around the property and consider additional specialized staff to this effect,

   c) Consolidate the participatory monitoring and management of the fisheries and other freshwater biodiversity resources within and beyond the property building upon existing partnerships,

   d) Further consolidate the integration of the property into broader landscape management and land use planning, including the analysis of various conceivable scenarios to formalize or otherwise strengthen buffer zones,

   e) Make a clear commitment to the long-term securing of adequate funding, management and staffing levels in order to ensure adequate follow-up to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. Takes note of the progress on coordination with Community Councils in the areas surrounding the property and invites the State Party to finalize the definition of the

property's buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as a minor boundary modification according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

9. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor include a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

10. Also encourages the State Party to:

    a) Remove the artificial connection between the Leon and Atrato Rivers through the freshwater lagoon system in the property,

    b) Consider the feasibility of extending the property so as to include the Serrania del Darien National Protection Forest Reserve and possibly other areas,

    c) Further consolidate coordination and cooperation with the neighboring State Party of Panama with the eventual vision to consider the possible formalization of a transboundary World Heritage property,

    d) Document and share the experience of the indigenous community within the property as a valuable case study;

11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

20. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party and external supporters for the progress made in consolidating an integrated monitoring mechanism and the further clarification of access to land and natural resources, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;

4. Adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) developed by the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as presented under Item 20 of Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add, and considers that this DSOCR should be revised and, if necessary, further complemented with additional indicators following the clarification of the property's boundaries;

5. Notes the approval of the International Assistance Request to conclude the clarification of the boundaries of the property and urges the State Party to submit, as required, a boundary modification for consideration by the Committee, in conformity with the appropriate procedures laid out in the *Operational Guidelines*;

6. Recalls the State Party's intention to minimize the environmental and social impacts of the construction of dams in the Patuca watershed, and requests the State Party to report on the possible impacts of the Patuca III project once the boundaries of the property will be clarified;

7. Reiterates its concern that no apparent progress has been made in terms of human, financial and logistical resources, and notes with concern that the security situation appears to impact on the State Party's ability to operate in the property;

8. Also reiterates its concern that illegal activities continue to impact on the property, and strongly urges the State Party to prevent new illegal settlements so as to avoid further evictions in the future;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. **Decides to retain the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

21. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.24**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes with satisfaction the continuing progress being made in restoring and reconstructing the damaged mosques and destroyed mausoleums, building awareness and support for the built heritage of Timbuktu, and ensuring the technical capacity to care for this heritage;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the following countries and institutions for their contribution to UNESCO-Mali Action Plan, and for their gesture of support to the reconstruction of mausoleums, which their representatives showed on 8 April 2015 in Timbuktu: South Africa, Morocco, Switzerland, Norway, France, Germany, The

Netherlands, Croatia, Mauritius, Bahrain, Andorra, European Union, USAID, and the World Bank;

5. Encourages the State Party to complete the documentation work begun in June 2013, as well as the remaining studies and diagnostics that are still required to define the different technical restoration solutions of mosques, and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Requests the State Party, once the situation in the northern region of Mali is stable, to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the restoration of the mosques and the reconstruction of the mausoleums, and to prepare all the corrective measures as well as a Desired State of Conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;

9. **Also decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Tomb of the Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes the continuing progress being made in sustaining the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property;

4. Reiterates the continuing need to prepare detailed, in-depth architectural diagnostic analyses, in order to guide essential repair and conservation work, and encourages the State Party to undertake these analyses on a priority basis;

5. Also reiterates its request that the 2002-2007 Management Plan be updated, in close consultation with the Management Committee of the property, as a priority among the urgent actions for the property;

6. Requests the State Party, once the situation on the northern region of Mali is stable, to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and the progress achieved in its rehabilitation, and to develop all the corrective measures, as well as a Desired state of

conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism of the property;

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

23. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) (C 1022)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes the progress made on the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and congratulates the State Party for its continued committment to this work;

4. Expresses its concern that the timelines provided in the state of conservation report for the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga are overly optimistic, and in order to better reflect the need for careful work to be carried out on the thatching, and on the redesign and installation of a fire protection system, requests that the State Party provide a revised, realistic reconstruction project timeline, with clearly defined benchmarks;

5. Also expresses its great concern that ad-hoc developments within the property could adversely impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Also requests the State Party to:

   a) halt further work on the provision of a reservoir and a fire-fighting system, alterations to the entrance, implementation of a visitor route or development of tourism facilities such as restaurants, until an Integrated Master Plan has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as requested by the Committee since 2012,

   b) prepare, in order to inform the Master Plan, a comprehensive site plan showing all structures on the property, indicating their date of construction as far as is ascertainable, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Further expresses its concern that the plans to widen Masiro Road may encroach on one edge of the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that this

proposal is realigned in such a way as to avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property, and to submit revised plans to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to revise the management plan for the property to take into account the new management structure for the property, and in particular, to ensure that the safeguarding of the OUV of the property is the overarching principle for management decisions, and to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Requests moreover that a comprehensive disaster risk management plan and a tourism plan be developed and integrated into the management plan;

10. Requests in addition the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

11. **Decides to retain the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

24. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.1,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts in the implementation of measures at the property and encourages it to sustain these efforts to protect and conserve the property and its buffer zone;

4. Urges the State Party to continue with the implementation of the corrective measures, with particular attention to the following:

   a) Undertake detailed condition surveys to identify priority interventions to ensure stabilization of archaeological remains,

   b) Continue to monitor the groundwater and to implement the groundwater project,

   c) Develop a conservation plan defining short, medium and long term objectives and technical parameters,

   d) The Board of Trustees to commence discussions with the communities to develop a programme for the removal of inadequate new constructions and the creation of facilities to allow for religious uses in areas outside the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;

5. Requests the State Party to develop the management plan, to establish a clear policy framework, identify strategies and actions (with precise timeframes, costs and responsibilities for implementation) on the main issues for the property such as research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders, staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access. The Plan should be submitted as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible the modifications to the property and buffer zone boundaries, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of all on-going or planned restoration interventions at the property, particularly those at the Great Basilica and the reburial strategy, for review prior to implementation including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.2** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property inspite of the difficult prevailing situation;

4. Expresses its great concern about the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;

5. Also requests the State Party, as soon as the security conditions allow the responsible authorities to visit the site, to carry out a rapid assessment of the state of conservation of the property and submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre prior to any action on the ground;

6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

7. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property in spite of the difficult prevailing situation and requests it to reinforce this protection by ensuring that no ostentatious religious signs are displayed at the property;

4. Also requests the State Party to implement, as soon as possible, the measures recommended in the technical note elaborated in view of addressing the graffiti issue;

5. Further Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

6. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* of 1972, the Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,

3. Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem,

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4. Deeply concerned by the persistence of the Israeli illegal excavations and works conducted by the Israeli Occupation authorities and the extreme settler groups in the Old City of Jerusalem and on both sides of its Walls and the failure of Israel to cease such harmful interventions, requests Israel to timely stop all such violations, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations,

5. Regrets the damage caused by the Israeli security forces on 30th October 2014 to the historic Gates and windows of the Qibli Mosque inside Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which is a Muslim holy site of worship and an integral part of a World Heritage Site;

6. Expresses its deep concern over the Israeli closure and ban of the renovation of Al-Rahma Gate building, one of Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif Gates, and urges Israel to stop obstruction of the necessary restoration works, in order to fix the damage caused by the weather conditions, especially the water leakage into the rooms of the building;

7. Deplores the damaging effect of the Jerusalem Light rail (tram line) at few meters from the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem which severely affects the visual integrity and the authentic character of the site and requests Israel, the Occupying Power, to restore the original character of the site in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations;

8. Calls on Israel, the Occupying Power, to stop the obstruction of the immediate execution of all the 19 Hashemite restoration projects in and around Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif;

9. Also deplores the Israeli decision to approve: the plan to build a two-line cable car system in East Jerusalem, the plan to construct of the so called “Liba House” project in the Old City of Jerusalem, the demolition and new construction of the so-called Strauss Building, and the project of the elevator in the Buraq Plaza (Western Wall), the digging of a Mamluk structure beneath the Buraq Plaza (Western Wall), the excavations and construction of new levels underneath the Buraq Plaza, and urges Israel, the Occupying Power, to renounce the above mentioned projects in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of related UNESCO Conventions and recommendations particularly the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its related protocols, as well as UNESCO Decisions particularly the World Heritage Committee decisions **37COM7A.26** and **38COM7A.4**;

10. Expresses its deep concern regarding the plan for building of the so called “Kedem Center” a visitors centre near the southern wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, which severely affects the visual integrity and the authentic character of the site, in addition, its placement at the northern entrance to Silwan village will cut off the Palestinian residents’ direct connection to Old City and the Palestinian neighbourhoods to the north and east of the village, furthermore, most of the remains resulted from the excavation therein have been completely removed without documentation;

11. Expresses its concern regarding the restricting obstacles imposed by Israel, the Occupying Power, on the freedom of access that shall be provided to the competent national authorities including the Jordanian Waqf experts to safeguard the Old City of Jerusalem and both sides of its Walls;

12. Welcomes the relative improvement of Muslim worshippers' access into A.l-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif over the past seven months, regrets the Israeli extremist groups' continuous storming of Al-.Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and urges Israel, the Occupying Power, to take necessary measures to prevent such provocative abuses that violate the sanctity and integrity of the Al Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif and inflame tension on the ground;

13. Further regrets the damage by Israel, the Occupying Power, of the historic ceramics atop of the main gates of the Dome of the Rock and the damage of the historic gates and windows of the Qibli Mosque inside Al Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif and reaffirms, in this regard, the necessity to respect and safeguard the integrity, authenticity and cultural heritage of Al-Aqsa Mosque /Al-Haram Al-Sharif, as reflected in the Status Quo, as a Muslim Holy Site of worship and as an integral part of a World Cultural Heritage site;

14. Calls upon Israel to return the remains and to provide the World Heritage Centre with the relevant documentation in particular concerning the removed and found historic remains, as well as to restore the original character of the sites of all the above mentioned projects;

15. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue applying the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, and also requests it to report every four months on this matter;

16. Thanks the Director-General of UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre for their efforts aimed at the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its walls and invites them to report on this matter at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016;

II

17. Recalling 176 EX/Special Plenary Meeting Decision, and all UNESCO Executive Board Decisions relating to the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem,

18. Affirms that the Mughrabi Ascent is an integral and inseparable part of Al Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif,

19. Takes into consideration all the previous Reinforced Monitoring Reports and their addenda prepared by the World Heritage Centre as well as the State of Conservation report submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine,

20. Expresses its growing concern regarding the continuous, intrusive demolitions and illegal excavations in and around the Mughrabi Gate Ascent, and the latest excavation works conducted at the beginning of May 2015 at the Buraq Plaza (Western Wall) of Al-Aqsa Mosque/ Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and calls on Israel, the Occupying Power, to end such violations, respect the Status Quo, and enable the Jordanian Awaqf experts as a part of the competent national authorities to maintain and safeguard the site in accordance with the relevant provisions of the UNESCO Conventions and Recommendations in particular the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its related protocols;

21. Commends the Jordanian design for the restoration and preservation of the Mughrabi Ascent, submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 27 May 2011, and thanks Jordan for its cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO Conventions for the Protection of Cultural Heritage;

22. Urges Israel, the Occupying Power, to cooperate with Jordanian Awqaf Department, in conformity with its obligations under the provisions of the UNESCO related Conventions, to facilitate access of Jordanian Awqaf experts with their tools and material to the site in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate;

23. Further expresses its deep concern regarding demolitions of Ummayad, Ottoman and Mamluk remains at the site of the Mughrabi Gate Pathway, and urges Israel, the Occupying Power, to abide by its obligations in this regard;

24. Thanks the Director-General for her attention to the sensitive situation of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate and asks her to take the necessary measures in order to enable the execution of the Jordanian design of the Ascent to the Mughrabi Gate;

III

25. Recalls the Executive Board decisions concerning the reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls particularly decision 196EX/Decision26.4 as well as the World Heritage Committee decisions particularly decision **34 COM 7A.20**;

26. Deeply regrets the continuous Israeli failure to implement the Reactive Monitoring Mission and urges Israel, the Occupying Power, to accept and facilitate the implementation of that Mission;

27. Stresses the need of the urgent implementation of the above-mentioned UNESCO mission and, in case of non-implementation according to the above mentioned Executive Board decision 196EX/Decision26.4, decides to consider, in conformity with the provisions of the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* 1972, adequate measures to have the concerned party implement it;

28. Requests that the report and recommendations of the mission be presented to the concerned parties prior to the next 197 EX Board session;

29. Thanks the Director-General for her continuous efforts to implement the above-mentioned UNESCO mission and all related UNESCO decisions and resolutions, and invites her to report on this matter at the next 40th World Heritage Committee session;

IV

30. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes that considerable progress has been made with the conservation of the roof of the Church of the Nativity;

4. Also notes with concern that no specific conservation strategy was set out to justify precise intervention on the roof timbers, based on analysis and review of all the evidence gathered from surveys and research, before work was undertaken, as envisaged in the corrective measures;

5. Requests the State Party to prepare, retrospectively, documentation on each of the roof timbers, that shows the recent interventions in relation to evidence of age and materials, in order to understand the authenticity of what is now in place, and the chronology of the roof elements;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory bodies, a comprehensive conservation plan for the murals, the facades and the Narthex should any works be foreseen thereon ;

7. Adopts the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and corrective measures, as follow:

   a) Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:

      Completed conservation and repair of the roof structure of the Church of the Holy Nativity

   b) Corrective measures:

      (i) Complete a full investigative survey of the historic timbers and lead work of the roof, identifying the age and historical significance of the various component parts.

      (ii) Develop a Conservation Plan that synthesis the conclusions of the detailed investigative survey into a clear statement of the significances of the various elements of the roof within a comprehensive conservation philosophy for the roof restoration project.

      (iii) Prepare a detailed project specification for the roof repairs that allow a full understanding of which elements of the roof will be maintained, which repaired and which replaced.

      (iv) Undertake the roof repair project, including stabilising the vaults of the Narthex, and document its interventions.

   c) Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

      [to be submitted]

8. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party in the implementation in the above-mentioned corrective measures;

9. Urges the State Party to continue pursuing the implementation of the corrective measures and to submit a timetable for their full implementation by **1 February 2016** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. Welcomes the introduction of Regulatory Bylaws for the Historic Centre of Bethlehem and their proposed development for the wider setting;

11. Further notes the aim to free the Pilgrimage Route from traffic through diversions, car parks and possibly a tunnel under Manger Square, and also urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, concept proposals of the tunnel at the earliest opportunity, and before plans are finalised or approved;

12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

13. **Decides to retain the Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) (C 1492)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.4**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the judgment of the Israeli High Court not to build the "Wall", and notes that any new proposals for a wall or fence would need to re-start the processes of consultation and approval within the Israeli administration;

4. Notes with concern that the decline in traditional social and cultural processes is accelerating, bringing further negative impacts on the functionality and integrity of the landscape;

5. Takes note of the commitment to develop a Management Conservation Plan and urges the State Party to progress this as soon as possible;

6. Adopts the following Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):

   - Dismissal of plans to build a "Wall" along the property, or within its setting,

- Adequate conservation in place of the agricultural terraces and their associated components, including watchtowers and drystone walls throughout the property,
- Adequate restoration in place of the irrigation system and the development of an adequate sewage system to protect water quality in the property,
- Protection in place for the property and its buffer zone,
- Management plan and monitoring systems adopted and sustainable management system in place;

7. Also adopts the following corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation by the State Party:

   a) Corrective measures:

      (i) Agreement to dismiss plans to build a "Wall" along the property, or within its setting,

      (ii) Implementation of projects to retrieve an appropriate state of conservation of the agricultural terraces and their components, including the watchtowers and drystone walls throughout the property,

      (iii) Implementation of a project to restore traditional irrigation systems,

      (iv) Implementation of a project to put in place adequate sewage system to protect water quality in the property,

      (v) Preparation, approval and implementation of a Conservation, and a Management Plan for the property,

      (vi) Development and implementation of an active system of management that involves local communities and stakeholders,

      (vii) Preparation of a set of indicators for monitoring the property and implementation of a monitoring system,

      (viii) Development of protection for the property and its buffer zone,

   b) Timeframe for implementation of the corrective measures:

      [to be submitted]

8. Also urges the State Party to implement the corrective measures and to submit a timetable for their full implementation to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016,** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. **Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. Commends the State Party for taking the necessary risk mitigation measures to protect the property;

5. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

31. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 22)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. Notes with satisfaction that a temporary agreement to freeze combats within the property has been reached and requests that, as a matter of urgency, all efforts be made to ensure that it is maintained, and that heritage professionals be given the right to access and protect the property;

5. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

32. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 23)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. **Decides to retain the Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57** and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. **Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. Commends the State Party for taking the necessary emergency safeguarding measures to protect the property;

5. **Decides to retain the Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic), on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

35. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) (C 1348)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Taking into account Decision **39 COM 7A.36** on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

4. **Decides to retain the Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

36. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

Decision: 39 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.58**, **36 COM 7B.58**, **37 COM 7B.57**, and **38 COM 7A.12,** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Deplores the conflict situation prevailing in the country, the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions;

4. Takes note of the report provided by the State Party regarding the state of conservation of the six Syrian World Heritage properties and the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative

List and the report on intentional destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and expresses its utmost concern at the damage occurred and the threats facing these properties and cultural heritage in general;

5. Urges all parties associated with the situation in Syria to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to cultural heritage of the country and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and the sites included in the Tentative List;

6. Also urges the State Party to adopt measures for the evacuation of World Heritage properties being used for military purposes;

7. Further urges the State Party to safeguard damaged properties through minimal first aid interventions, to prevent theft, further collapse and natural degradation, and refrain from undertaking conservation and reconstruction work until the situation allows, for the development of comprehensive conservation strategies and actions that respond to international standards in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Launches an appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199 of February 2015;

9. Reiterates its suggestions to the State Party to consider ratifying the Second Protocol (1999) of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Heritage during times of Armed Conflict;

10. Commends the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM), and all the heritage professionals and the local communities in Syria who are working on monitoring and protecting cultural heritage, for their sustained efforts amidst extremely difficult conditions;

11. Requests the State Party to pursue the systematic documentation of all damage incurred by the World Heritage properties whenever conditions allow and to implement all possible risk mitigation measures, to inform on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the identification of corrective measures for all six properties;

12. Calls upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of Syrian cultural heritage through earmarked funds;

13. Also requests the State Party to invite, as soon as the security conditions allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to Syria to assess the state of conservation of the properties and elaborate, in consultation with the State Party, a prioritized action plan for their recovery;

14. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

37. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.13,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for the preparation of the draft "National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020" and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015;

4. Also commends the State Party for the efforts that have occurred in relation to physical preservation and community engagement in Zabid, notwithstanding the difficult security situation;

5. Welcomes the continuing support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the support of the World Heritage Category 2 Centre (ARC-WH) in Bahrain;

6. Noting the urgent need for further resources to support regeneration and conservation projects, encourages the State Party to continue its work in promoting the need for international support;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre details of clearer boundaries of the property and the buffer zone and other technical requirements as requested and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2016** for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the "National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020" to be developed during 2015;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the revised implementation plan and programme, for the Urgent Action Plan' and for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. **Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM7A.14,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the detailed topographic map of the property produced in 2012, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a proposal for the minor boundary modification, in accordance to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by ICOMOS;

4. Encourages the implementation of the emergency assistance project for the property, which will allow the State Party to conduct a full survey and assessment of the Minaret, as well as its archaeologic remains, on the basis of which a long-term strategy can be established;

5. Calls upon the international community to continue its technical and financial support, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in the implementation of corrective measures and in the implementation of the long term conservation strategy, to be established upon the implementation of the International Assistance Request;

6. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to revise the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures upon development of the conservation strategy and action plan, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2016**;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

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

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.15,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that no updated state of conservation report has been submitted by the State Party, in particular regarding recent large scale of development projects;

4. Reiterates that the World Heritage Committee shall be notified prior to any major restoration and or new construction which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of urgency and prior to undertaking the work, detailed information, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), on the proposed Bamiyan Culture Centre and Museum, as well as proposed visitors facilities, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Urges the State Party to incorporate the Cultural Master Plan into the Urban Development Master Plan for the Bamiyan Valley to mitigate development pressure, and to enforce building codes and regulations on development in the buffer zones of the property and other areas protected under the 2004 Afghan Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Properties;

6. Also urges the State Party to finalize and adopt the comprehensive Management Plan within an overall strategy of managing the property as a cultural landscape;

7. Also requests the State Party to take all necessary measures to restore site security and commit cost for site guard(s) in the government's annual budget so as to fully implement the corrective measures and maintain the OUV of the property and further urges the State Party to review, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee;

8. Further requests the State Party to elaborate and implement, with the support of international donors, a capacity building programme to strengthen local and national capacity in heritage conservation and management, including developing the capacity of local communities to contribute to safeguarding the property;

9. Welcomes the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical Advisory mission to the property undertaken in 2014, and encourages the State Party to implement them to mitigate the extensive intervention work carried out on the foot of the Eastern Buddha of the property so as to ensure its future protection;

10. Takes note of the need to consider future reconstruction policies for the Buddha niches, and reiterates its request to the State Party, when considering options for the treatment of the Buddha niches, to ensure that proposals are based on feasibility studies which include:

a) an agreed overall approach to conservation and presentation of the property,

b) an appropriate conservation philosophy based on the OUV of the property,

c) technical and financial feasibilities for the implementation of the project proposals;

11. Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support for the protection and management of the entire property, in order to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

13. **Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

40. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the conservation programme plan for Gelati Monastery;

4. Notes the information provided by the State Party inter alia on the implementation of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission and the revision of Management Plan for Gelati Monastery, which will be presented to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 in the framework of the significant boundary modification;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

6. **Decides to retain Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

41. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and, more particularly, introducing a moratorium on any development in the zone next to the Aragvi and Mtgvari rivers banks declared as a non aedeficandi zone until the Urban Land-Use Master Plan and unified buffer zone are approved and implemented to curb uncontrolled development;

4. Notes with appreciation that an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism has been established with the purpose to ensure that the conservation of World Heritage properties receive priority consideration within the governmental decision-making processes and that a Heritage Code and a World Heritage law are currently in the last stages of approval by the respective authorities and encourages the State Party to sustain these efforts and to secure that all necessary resources and regulatory regimes are in place;

5. Acknowledges the steps taken in addressing the corrective measures through training and capacity building activities, as well as the development, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and partnership with the World Bank, of a project towards the completion of the Urban Master Plan, as well as strengthening the management system through the self-governing status bestowed to the City of Mtskheta and the cooperation agreement with the Patriarchate of Georgia, ensuring co-management of protection and conservation of historical churches;

6. Takes note of the findings and recommendations made by the joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission and the joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank Advisory mission, carried out to the property in November 2014;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a unified buffer zone, to encompass the landscape surrounding the components, including in particular the panorama along the rivers and the mountain setting, and provide this enlarged buffer zone with appropriate protection, and to submit a minor boundary modification proposal of the unified buffer zone of the property to the World Heritage Centre, prior to any further works being completed on the Urban Land-Use Master Plan;

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments, for all proposed projects that may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

10. **Decides to retain the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger and to examine the implementation of the corrective measures at its 40th session in 2016, in view of the possible removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

42. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

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

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property took place in February 2015 at the invitation of the State Party, and that it confirmed that all stakeholders recognize the serious concerns of the World Heritage Committee over the potential threat of the Liverpool Waters development scheme to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

4. Endorses the conclusions of this 2015 Advisory mission, in particular the need to reduce the urban density and height of the proposed development from the maximums granted for the Liverpool Waters project;

5. Urges the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations for the revision of the draft Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In order to do so, invites the State Party to request technical assistance and guidance and jointly organize with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies a series of technical workshops;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an amended DSOCR, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, it being understood that no new detailed plans affecting the property will be approved before that date;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. **Decides to retain Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Encourages the State Party to finalize the agreements for the establishment of the Inter-institutional Committee to address, in an integral manner, all issues pertaining to all the components of property, including the Cerro Rico;

4. Notes with concern that works for the stabilization of the summit of Cerro Rico have been paralyzed and that no revised strategy and timeframe for completion of the stabilization project have been identified and urges the State Party to finalize the process for the adoption of the new legislation to address the issue of the relocation of miners and the moratorium for all explorations between altitudes 4,400m and 4,700 m;

5. Also urges the State Party to work in close co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to finalize, within the framework of the approved International Assistance, the process for the elaboration of the integrated and participatory Management Plan that includes all attributes of the property to ensure its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is sustained and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a set of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

7. Requests the State Party to include in the process of the elaboration of the integrated Management Plan a proposal to define the property's buffer zones and invites it to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a minor boundary modification to allow a clear understanding for the protection of the visually sensitive areas around the property;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

9. **Decides to retain the City of Potosí (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

45. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for the measures taken in response to the earthquakes that occurred in April 2014 by adapting the Priority Interventions Programme (PIP) and taking measures to ensure the security to visitors;

4. Recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to define regulatory measures to ensure an adequate protection of the buffer zone of the property through the Regulatory Plans, and invites it to submit, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, a proposal of minor boundary modification;

5. Appreciates the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures that will contribute to achieve the adopted Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also invites it to pursue its efforts in this regard;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

7. **Decides to retain the Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Appreciates the endorsement by the new administration of previous approaches and recommendations to reach the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and welcomes its commitment to its implementation;

4. Recalls that the timely implementation of the corrective measures defined at the time of inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger is an essential requirement for achieving the DSOCR;

5. Regrets the very serious delays in the implementation of the recommendations expressed in Decision **38 COM 7A.20** and of the corrective measures referred to above and expresses its very serious concern that this may cause irreparable damage to the property and the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Urges the State Party to draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a three-year period, with due consideration of the set of recommendations of the 2014 Advisory Mission, and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation and requests it to submit these documents by **1 February 2016** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. **Decides to retain the Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

47. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.22** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its long-term commitment and efforts to address the deterioration of the earthen architecture remains of the property and to put in place a sustainable and operational management system to continue to handle decay factors and threats;

4. Notes with satisfaction the current measures being put in place by the State Party within the framework of the ENSO 2014-2015 Prevention Programme to protect the property of potential damages connected to heavy rains expected by El Niño phenomenon and encourages the State Party to explore more permanent possibilities that protect all structures within the complex;

5. Notes the results of the December 2014 joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to:

   a) Finalize:

      (i) the approval process of the updated version of the Management Plan as soon as possible, taking into account the views of the different stakeholders and provide an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised planning tools for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,

      (ii) the approval process of Law 28261 to ensure that the property is adequately protected from illegal occupation and seek for supplementary solutions to this issue in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre,

      (iii) the planning of the site museum renovation, together with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism,

   b) Include natural and anthropogenic threats in the Integral Risk Prevention Plan,

   c) Include general aims and priorities of archaeological and conservation interventions in the property in the Archaeological Intervention Manual;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, at which session the Committee may consider the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

48. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (C 658)

Decision: 39 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the submission of the clarification of boundaries for the property and the proposal of extension of the buffer zone and requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

4. Appreciates the progress in the implementation of concrete actions that contribute to the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), such as an important number of conservation interventions in public and privately owned buildings, traffic management, transfer of know-how, improvement of drainage systems and progress in inter-institutional coordination through strategic alliances and the establishment of a Mixed Commission;

5. Recalling, however, that the timely implementation of the revised corrective measures defined in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** is an essential requirement for achieving the DSOCR, regrets that on the basis of the report of the State Party, it is not possible to assess the real and concrete progress in the implementation of the revised corrective measures and make additional recommendations as could be required;

6. Also requests the State Party to urgently draw up a strategy, detailed work plans, timeframes and budgets for the full implementation of the corrective measures within a two year period and to take all the necessary legal, managerial and budgetary provisions for their implementation, and to submit these documents as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2015,** for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

8. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Dja Wildlife Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.1** and **38 COM 7B.86**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's continued efforts to increase staff and the operational budget and investment into the property's Conservation Service, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;

4. Commends the State Party for its efforts to increase surveillance of the property but notes with concern that elephant poaching remains a significant threat to the property, and highly welcomes the commitment by the State Party and its partners to address poaching at the local, national, and transboundary levels;

5. Also welcomes the progress made by the State Party with the formulation of terms of reference for the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of all of the major projects around the property, and encourages the State Party to mobilize funds necessary to carry-out this study;

6. Notes the efforts made to address deforestation, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre statistics about deforestation in the property and in its vicinity, in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of these efforts;

7. Further welcomes the information that the three mining permits overlapping the property have expired and will not be renewed, and also requests the State Party to further clarify the state of the GEOVIC mining project in the property's vicinity, and to ensure that potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are assessed prior to any resumption of activities, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

8. Also notes with concern that no information is provided on the specific measures taken to reduce and mitigate the significant potential direct and indirect impacts on the OUV of the property from both the Mekin dam project and the Sud Cameroun Hévéa industrial plantation, as identified in the respective Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for these developments, and considers therefore that significant progress is required in line with the requests made in Decision **36 COM 7B.1**, Paragraph 7 c) and d);

9. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as a matter of priority, further information on the measures taken to minimize and mitigate the impacts from the above mentioned projects on the property, particularly in relation to degradation and fragmentation of habitats, and the risk of the proliferation of invasive species;

10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre- IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess progress with the implementation of measures to minimize and mitigate the impacts on the OUV of the property from the Mekin dam project and the Sud Cameroun Hévéa industrial plantation;

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

2. Sangha Trinational (Cameroon / Central African Republic / Congo) (N 1380rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.87**, adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the States Parties of Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR) and the Congo for having undertaken measures to increase the security mechanisms in and around the property, and warmly welcomes the information provided by the States Parties that no mining activity was present in the Central African and Congolese components of the property;

4. Notes with concern that poaching of protected species and illegal fishing are on the increase in the property, and requests the States Parties to intensify their surveillance efforts by making available the necessary financial and human resources to ensure an optimal surveillance and increase the tri-national patrols, and ensure the strictest enforcement of the laws and punishments to dissuade the network of commercial poaching;

5. Encourages the States Parties to reinforce cooperation with local communities by seeking solutions to manage the man-elephant conflict, the promotion of activities to generate alternative income and capacity strengthening in the management of natural resources;

6. Also requests the States Parties to repeal possible mining permits that encroach upon the property and its buffer zone, to confirm their categorical commitment that no mining exploration or exploitation would be allowed within the property, in accordance with the position of the Committee that these activities are incompatible with World Heritage status and that no mining activity will be permitted in the vicinity of the property

because of the possible negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and further requests the Cameroon State Party to strengthen its efforts to eliminate all illegal gold mining within the property and to ensure the ecological restoration of the sites;

7. Also notes with concern the road and river transport project that could have an impact on the integrity of the property and reiterates its request to the respective States Parties to carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to identify the possible impacts on the OUV of the property caused by this project, in accordance with the IUCN Note concerning the environmental assessments concerning World Heritage, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre before approval of the project;

8. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit the EIA of the optical fibre project planned to pass in the vicinity of the property;

9. Further notes that the granting of two development and forestry exploitation permits in the Special Forest Reserve in the buffer zone of the Central African component presents certain risks for the integrity of the property, and requests moreover the Central African State Party to develop concise specifications with measures to ensure the integrity, in particular by controlling access and surveillance of the Reserve, and also encourages the companies concerned to certify their concession;

10. Requests in addition the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as the EIA of the road and river transport project is available, to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, in particular the potential impacts of the development projects, impacts of the security crisis on the property, the impact of illegal activities such as poaching and the implementation of the recommendations made at the time of inscription of the property (Decision **35 COM 8B.4**);

11. Finally requests that the States Parties submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

3. Lakes of Ounianga (Chad) (N 1400)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.7** and **38 COM 7B.88**, adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions,

3. Congratulates the State Party for the progress achieved in the implementation of the Committee decisions, notably in ensuring the participation of local communities in the management of the property and the respect of local knowledge and their rights to maintain sustainable traditional use of resources;

4. Welcomes the progress made in the combat against threats to the property, in particular pollution, agricultural development and siltation of the lakes and requests the State Party to provide further information on these activities to ensure that:

   a) Seed distribution to improve the production of market gardening does not lead to an introduction, intentional or accidental, of invasive species and that this risk is strictly controlled,

   b) The installation of fencing to prevent the encroachment of the dunes does not impact negatively on the outstanding natural beauty of the property, as recognized by the inscription on the World Heritage List under criterion (vii);

5. Also requests the State Party to pursue its efforts in establishing a regular garbage collection system, to ensure that the improvement in the cleanliness of the property can be continued and maintained;

6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

4. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) (N 801bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that the report submitted by the State Party of Kenya did not address the requests made by the Committee in Paragraph 10 of its Decision **38 COM 7B.90**;

4. Recalls the significant impacts of poaching, fishing and livestock grazing on the property reported by the 2012 mission, and requests the State Party of Kenya to urgently implement the outstanding 2012 mission recommendations;

5. Welcomes the increased and constructive bilateral discussions between the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia, which led to a joint meeting in January 2015 to discuss the impact of Gibe III dam and the Kuraz Sugar Scheme on Lake Turkana World Heritage property, and notes with appreciation the intention of the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to establish a joint expert panel for monitoring basin-wide natural resource management under the existing Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission;

6. Also notes that impounding of the Gibe III hydroelectric dam began in January 2015 despite the Committee's request to the State Party of Ethiopia not to start filling until a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was completed;

7. Notes with concern that no progress in undertaking a SEA has been made by the States Parties as initially requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 7B.3** and strongly urges the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to ensure that the SEA is completed as a matter of priority, including an assessment of cumulative impacts on

the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN: a report demonstrating significant progress in preparing the SEA by **1 February 2016**; and the completed SEA by **1 February 2018**;

8. Also notes the Gibe III dam may dampen the magnitude of flow variations of the Omo River, and that there will be an additional drop in lake levels during the impounding period;

9. Notes that the current 6,000 ha of Kuraz Sugar Scheme project has limited impact on the property's OUV at present, but that the full potential impact of the final proposed project and additional developments require detailed assessment, and also urges the State Party of Ethiopia to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), using best available hydrological data of the Lower Omo, including its tributaries downstream of the Kuraz Sugar Scheme, and accurate rainfall data, and to ensure the findings in relation to any potential impacts on OUV are fully taken into account and submit the EIA as part of the SEA by **2018** to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

10. Takes note of the 2015 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission Report, and the exchange of letters between the State Party of Ethiopia and the World Heritage Centre regarding its recommendations, further requests both States Parties to include their response to the mission recommendations in their report to the next session of the World Heritage Committee;

11. Requests furthermore the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to continue to make all efforts to ensure protection of the OUV of the property and that any outstanding issues are properly addressed within the existing joint Ministerial Commission and in line with the established procedures of the *World Heritage Convention*;

12. Requests moreover the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a joint updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the adoption of the Kabarnet Declaration, which formally recognizes the Endorois as a community and the Endorois Welfare Council as their representative organization in the management of Lake Bogoria;

4. Also welcomes the State Party's confirmation that geothermal prospecting and development within the property are not allowed, and that any prospective geothermal

energy developments outside the property will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and requests the State Party to provide further information on the current status of the EIA procedure including copies of the EIAs that have already been undertaken;

5. Notes the payments made to the Endorois communities, and the letter from Minority Rights Group International and the Endorois Welfare Council to the World Heritage Centre raising concern about the effectiveness of the implementation of the Endorois ruling and the level of transparency of decision-making processes, and strongly urges the State Party to fully implement the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) Endorois decision and Resolution 197 without delay to ensure the full and effective participation of the Endorois in the management and decision-making of Lake Bogoria;

6. Notes with appreciation the confirmation of the State Party of Tanzania not to proceed with any activities until an EIA has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by IUCN;

7. Further notes that the one-year moratorium on development on the shores of Lake Elementaita has been postponed following the stated compliance by tourism investors, and also further the State Party to provide detailed information on the actions taken to ensure the removal of any existing illegal developments and the ecological restoration of affected areas, and to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

ARAB STATES

6. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by its Decision **37 COM 7B.9**;

4. Notes with concern that the Socotra Archipelago has become vulnerable owing to the deteriorating security situation in Yemen;

5. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that the energy crisis that forced local residents to collect fire wood has been resolved and the assurances given by the Governor of Socotra that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the preservation of the property's rare flora and fauna, but expresses its concern that recent energy shortages are reported on Socotra, which given the risk of recurrence are likely to lead to increasing pressure on the property's natural resources;

6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to:

   a) immediately devise and adopt an action plan for the full activation and implementation the 2008 Cabinet Decrees,

   b) commence the establishment of an independent management authority mandated for the management and long term sustainable development of the property,

   c) ensure that the road network in the property is not expanded and that the road master plan is revised in line with the property's zoning plan, with a particular focus on mitigating impacts from existing roads,

   d) implement all other recommendations of the 2012 IUCN mission;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.8**, **37 COM 7B.10**, and **38 COM 7B.63,** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with concern the conclusion of the 2014 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report that the overall Outlook for the property is poor, and that climate change, poor water quality and impacts from coastal development are major threats to the property's health and regrets that key habitats, species and ecosystem processes in the central and southern inshore areas have continued to deteriorate from the cumulative effects of these impacts;

4. Welcomes the State Party's efforts, in consultation and partnership with stakeholders, to establish the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (2050 LTSP) that outlines an overarching vision for the future conservation of the property over the next 35 years and, in particular:

a) The establishment of an 80% reduction in pollution run-off in the property by 2025 and the commitment of an initial additional investment of AUS 200 million dollars to accelerate progress in water quality improvements,

b) The confirmation of protection of greenfield areas by restricting major new port development in and adjoining the property, thereby limiting capital dredging for the development of new or expansion of existing port facilities within the regulated port limits of the major ports of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbott Point and Townsville, excluding Fitzroy Delta, North Curtis Island and Keppel Bay from future port development and ensuring consistency with the 2003 Great Barrier Reef Zoning Plan,

c) The commitment toward a 5-yearly evaluation of the plan performance and adaptation of its actions and targets on the basis of the results of future Great Barrier Reef Outlook reports;

5. Also welcomes the State Party's decision to reconsider the approval to dispose capital dredge material inside the property from the proposed Abbot Point development and the commitment to establish a permanent ban on dumping of dredged material from all capital dredging projects within the property;

6. Considers that the effective implementation of the 2050 LTSP, supported by clear oversight and accountability, research, monitoring and adequate and sustained financing, is essential to respond to the current and potential threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and requests the State Party to rigorously implement all of its commitments of the 2050 LTSP, including where necessary through their inclusion in legislation, in order to halt the current documented declines in the property, create the conditions for sustained recovery and to enhance the property's resilience;

7. Takes note of the State Party commitment to establish an investment framework in 2015 and also considers that this is an essential requirement for the effective implementation of the 2050 LTSP, that should be established as a matter of priority;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an update on progress with implementation of the 2050 LTSP to confirm that the inception of the plan has been effective, and the Investment Strategy has been established, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and if in their assessment the anticipated progress is not being made, for consideration at the subsequent session of the World Heritage Committee in 2017;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an overall state of conservation report, including a 1-page summary, on the state of conservation of the property demonstrating effective and sustained protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value and effective performance in meeting the targets established under the 2050 LTSP, linked to the findings of the 2014 and anticipated 2019 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Reports, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

8. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the dredging of the Pashur River, adjacent to the property, did not include a specific assessment of the potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an assessment of potential impacts on OUV, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure activities are not conducted before the revised EIA is submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by IUCN;

4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in order to assess the indirect and cumulative impacts from the power plants and other developments in the vicinity of the property, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on its OUV;

5. Also requests the State Party to provide further details on the mitigation measures taken for the power plant project, which should fully consider the findings of the SEA;

6. Regrets that the ecological monitoring data for the property requested by the Committee in Decision **35 COM 7B.11** has not been provided, and urges the State Party to submit the results of the ecological monitoring programme for the property without delay, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, ensuring that the impact of climate change on the OUV is documented, as initially requested in Decision **33 COM 7B.12**;

7. Further requests the State Party to continue monitoring the effects of the December 2014 oil spill on the aquatic environment, and to take measures to prevent such accidents, drawing on the lessons learned so as to strengthen its oil spill preparedness and response capacity, in particular in view of the anticipated increases in river navigation related to the power plant developments upstream;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the state of conservation of the property, and the potential impacts of the thermal power plant development and dredging of Pashur River;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to refrain from granting prospecting and mining licenses in the property and its buffer zones, to respond swiftly and decidedly to illegal mining and to intensify management efforts, including responses to poaching;

4. Also welcomes the State Party's readiness to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to better understand the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the multiple projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and acknowledges that this is a challenging exercise for which limited guidance and relevant experience is available and which will require the development of an approach that is adapted to the local situation;

5. Reiterates its concern that the depth and quality of the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) appear to be incompatible with the scale and complexity of the planned hydropower development that may affect the property, and that preparatory construction has advanced in the absence of approved EIAs in several locations, as confirmed by the State Party in Annex I to its report;

6. Notes with concern the slow progress on the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission and urges the State Party to strengthen its efforts to:

    a) Not proceed with project implementation prior to appropriate EIAs having been completed,

    b) Submit maps of all licenses related to mining in the region surrounding the property, and including the area between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain components of the property, to ensure that none overlap with the property,

    c) Ensure and monitor ecological and landscape connectivity in the area between the Hongshan and Haba Snow Mountain components of the property, including areas included in prospecting licenses,

    d) Urgently implement the remaining recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and in particular to:

        (i) Give full consideration to the possible impacts of future electricity transmission infrastructure,

        (ii) Develop and implement a comprehensive management effectiveness assessment (MEA),

        (iii) Clarify the exact location and surface area of all national protected areas, components and buffer zones of the property and submit this information to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and with both national and other international partners' support, to urgently develop and implement measures to address the threats to the property;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the progress made on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

10. Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China) (N 640)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **22 COM VII.27**, adopted at its 22nd session (Kyoto, 1998),

3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts by the State Party to manage impacts from pollution and remove illegal tourist facilities and buildings within the property and its buffer zone, and requests the State Party to ensure the engagement of affected local communities in the third phase of the demolition project;

4. Notes with concern that three cable cars, an elevator and an electric railway for tourists inside the property are having a negative visual impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that no further such developments are permitted within the property;

5. Urges the State Party to ensure that no new road developments are permitted within the property, and to also ensure that any road development outside the property does not negatively impact on its OUV;

6. Further requests the State Party to notify the World Heritage Centre and IUCN of any future developments that could impact the property, before any decision is taken that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, three printed and one electronic copy of the revised 2005-2020 Overall Plan on Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

8. Notes the high and increasing numbers of tourists that visit the property, and encourages the State Party to consider further enhancing its tourism strategy, as required, on the basis of the new online learning module developed by the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, as well as on the outcomes of the demolition project, and further information on any remaining illegal developments and planned

activities to remove them, and on progress achieved with the ecological restoration of the affected areas, for possible examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party, particularly to secure the property and to address civil strife in the area, such as the establishment of a high-level security committee, engagement with local communities, and increased patrolling, including the introduction of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrolling, and notes with appreciation that these actions appear to have resulted in a decrease of poaching in 2014;

4. Notes with concern the report by the IUCN Conservation Breeding Specialist Group indicating a high risk of local extinction of rhino within 30 years if poaching is not eradicated, and encourages the State Party to continue increasing its efforts to combat poaching in order to secure the property and its recovering Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular the reintroduced rhino and eastern swamp deer populations, including by:

   a) Increasing the number of frontline staff at the property,

   b) Taking appropriate actions to boost forest staff morale, and

   c) Ensuring adequate equipment of forest staff to protect the property from heavily armed poachers and insurgent groups;

5. Requests the State Party to confirm the successful implementation of proposed short-term actions to address the encroachment at Bhuyanpara Range, and to report on progress achieved in reversing current and preventing further encroachment through the implementation of long-term measures to meet the needs of local communities and garner their support for the property;

6. Also requests the State Party to undertake a detailed study on the use of fire as a tool for grassland management, in order to ensure that its application does not result in the further spread of some invasive species, and to allocate adequate funding to control the long-standing threat of invasive species in the property;

7. Also notes with concern that despite the successful operation of the Manas Tiger Conservation Foundation the property remains inadequately funded, as demonstrated by the slow release of funds by the State Government reported by the State Party, and strongly urges the State Party to ensure that adequate funding is available to the property in a timely manner, as this is crucial to the implementation of the abovementioned actions and to significantly address the threats to the property;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Bhutan to submit a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Mangdechhu hydro-electric project, as per Decisions **36 COM 7B.10** and **38 COM 7B.65**, including an assessment of potential impacts on the property's OUV and cumulative impacts in relation to the existing Kurichu dam, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

12. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the State Party's decision to suspend further construction of the Habema-Nduga-Kenyam road until the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and until effective monitoring and strict control of the impacts of the road can be implemented;

4. Notes that a preliminary review of the EIA suggests that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is not clearly defined therein, and urges the State Party to submit a revised EIA, as a matter of priority, in order to include a specific assessment of impacts on the attributes bearing the OUV clearly defined;

5. Notes with appreciation that the State Party is undertaking a review of the management and zonation plans of the property and increased allocation of budget for the Lorentz National Park in 2015, and also urges the State Party to ensure that this revision results in a simplified zonation scheme that is based on a clear definition of the OUV and its associated conditions of integrity, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, one electronic and three printed copies of the revised management and zonation plans, as soon as they are available;

6. Encourages the State Party to consider the methodology breaking down OUV in clearly defined and manageable attributes, to support both the revision of the EIA and for the revision of the management and zonation plans;

7. Also notes the reported progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the March 2014 mission, in particular the research undertaken to identify the causes of the Nothofagus dieback, and ongoing measures to improve the management capacity of the Lorentz National Park Authority, and further urges the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all the recommendations of the 2014 mission;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake an assessment of the level of poaching in the property, and requests the State Party to develop an adequately resourced anti-poaching strategy for the property on the basis of this assessment, including increased cooperation with provincial level authorities, as required;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

13. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.12**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Notes the State Party's efforts to maintain a healthy population of Steller's Sea Lion in the Sea of Japan and in the property, and urges the State Party to ensure that catch quotas are regularly reviewed and adjusted to maintain a stable to growing population of sea lions in the property, and in the wider seascape;

4. Notes with appreciation the reported positive impacts from the modification of river structures, however, notes with concern that no further modifications to the dams on the Rusha river have taken place as requested by the Committee at its 36th session in 2012 (Decision **36 COM 7B.12**), in particular in light of the State Party's noted concerns about negative impacts from these dams on the downstream river bed and the availability of salmonid spawning habitat;

5. Considers that a natural salmonid migration and spawning behaviour are vital for the property to serve as an "outstanding example of the interaction of marine and terrestrial ecosystems", and also considers that, with the removal of the salmon and trout hatchery at the mouth of the Rusha river in 2012, the benefits of the three check dams for disaster risk reduction are outweighed by their impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Also urges the State Party to continue further modifications of these dams, including consideration of the option to fully remove them, in close consultation with the local authority and communities, in order to fully mitigate the impacts of the three dams on the Rusha river, to also consider the option of removing the concrete below surface level, and to fully decommission the road and bridge that lead to the former hatchery, in order to restore normal flow of surface and ground water, and to promote river braiding and meandering to improve salmonid spawning habitat;

7. Recommends the State Party and the IUCN SSC Salmonid Specialist Group to seek a consensus based on best available science regarding the most appropriate and

practicable solution and to consider the possibility of inviting an IUCN Advisory Mission to the property to provide advice on these matters;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

14. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati) (N 1325)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.13**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Highly commends the State Party for its decision to fully close the entire area of Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) from commercial fishing;

4. Notes the information provided by the State Party on the currently available funds in the Trust Fund, and urges the State Party to continue its efforts to fully capitalize the Fund as a matter of priority;

5. Welcomes the involvement of international partners into securing additional funding to cover management activities under the new Management Plan for the period 2015-2020;

6. Also commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party and its partners in the region to minimize illegal activities; however, noting the concern expressed by the State Party that surveillance and enforcement of the Kiribati Cabinet decision remain a challenge due to the size and remoteness of the property, strongly encourages the State Party to strengthen its collaboration with other countries and organizations, including exploring other potentially applicable technological options;

7. Also notes the State Party's request for assistance with the removal of shipwrecks, and requests the State Party to provide further information on the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the presence of these shipwrecks and the potential impacts associated with the various available techniques for their removal;

8. Further notes the information provided by the State Party on the recent boundary changes to PIPA following the boundary delimitation negotiations between the Government of Kiribati, the United States of America and Tokelau, and also requests the State Party to submit an official boundary modification for the property by **1 February 2016**;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the

state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, in particular on the progress achieved towards full capitalization of the Fund.

15. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes with significant concern that the proposed East-West Electric Railway and Terai-Hulaki Highway, if constructed, would result in the fragmentation of the property in four locations, all of which contain important habitat for key species, including elephant, rhino, tiger and gaur, and increase the risk of poaching;

4. Requests the State Party to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Suspension Bridge (Balmikiashram-Trivenidham), and submit the EIAs for the East-West Electric Railway, the Tarai Hulaki Highway and the optical fibre project crossing the property to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, ensuring that the EIAs include a specific assessment of the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as well as an assessment of cumulative impacts and alternative alignments that do not cross the property, as recognised under all its inscription criteria in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit these EIAs and further details on the proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and to ensure that no construction of infrastructure will be permitted if it could negatively impact on the OUV of the property;

6. Recalling the two recent years of zero rhino poaching in the property (2011 and 2013), further requests the State Party to provide an update on the status of poaching of rhino and other wildlife inside the property, in order to demonstrate the continued success of anti-poaching operations;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to review potential impacts from the abovementioned developments on its OUV, and to provide advice on alternative options for infrastructure development that would not have a negative impact on OUV;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

16. Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines) (N 652rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for the significant progress achieved in improving the management of the property and in completing the Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO), which would allow for clarification of on-going land claims, and requests the State Party to submit the report of the completed SRPAO to the World Heritage Centre, along with a report outlining actions taken in the case of illegal occupants and/or land sales;

4. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party and local management staff to control illegal activities, including land clearing, illegal logging and wildlife trade;

5. Notes that clear zonation and ensuring effective management are key to addressing the majority of the issues reported, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the revised management plan of the property;

6. Also requests the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2014 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, notably:

   a) Develop, finalize and submit, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, a detailed management related zoning plan for the property, to allow for the current level and extent of legal occupation, designate appropriate areas for tourism and to ensure areas of critical habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection, including the definition of an appropriate buffer zone to ensure protection of the property,

   b) Continue to address threats from land claims, illegal land sales and illegal developments within the property and resulting threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including by:

      (i) Developing regulations for appropriate tourism development within and adjacent to the property,

      (ii) Mapping of current land ownership and use within the property to inform any approval of future land sales,

      (iii) Continuing and strengthening efforts to engage local people in the process, to ensure awareness of the boundaries and zones of the property and garner support for its conservation, as well as an understanding of the legal basis for current efforts and enforcement decisions,

   c) Take urgent measures to improve the property's management effectiveness, including:

      (i) Provide adequate and secure resources including staff to the management authority to implement management actions,

(ii) Strengthen cooperation and coordination with all relevant agencies and stakeholders at the provincial and national levels to contribute to the effective implementation of management actions,

(iii) Address impacts from high intensity tourism by developing and implementing a detailed, integrated, extensive and long-term tourism management plan,

d) Enhance and strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including between provincial and national level authorities, to continue to address the issues of illegal use of resources, transportation, and land sale, including through budgetary provisions to the management authority to facilitate increased staffing, patrolling and engagement with local communities and protected area occupants to garner their support for the continued conservation of the property and its OUV;

7. Urges the State Party not to proceed with the development of a new wharf at Sabang prior to a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) having been conducted, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and further requests the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to submit to the World Heritage Centre a copy of the EIA for review by IUCN;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017,** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by IUCN.

17. Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to prevent and suppress illegal logging in the property, including the development of an Action Plan, welcomes the international cooperation with Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam in controlling illegal logging and trade of Siamese rosewood, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;

4. Notes the State Party's efforts to address encroachment and the construction of illegal resorts in the property, as well as progress achieved with the removal of illegal cattle;

5. Considers that more time is required to demonstrate whether the State Party's efforts are achieving the desired result of eliminating rosewood poaching, and requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre comparable statistics on rosewood poaching as soon as data are available for fiscal year 2014 – 2015, and to also provide information on any poaching of other wildlife species, which often occurs in association with illegal logging;

6. Urges the State Party to further increase the allocation of resources to park rangers in the property, in order to ensure that they dispose of sufficient patrol provisions, equipment and reinforced capacity to conduct enforcement operations against heavily armed poaching groups, and also urges the State Party to ensure that maximum legal penalties are implemented in a consistent manner, in order to deter poaching;

7. Notes with concern that encroachment and the construction of illegal resorts appear to continue despite the State Party's efforts, and that encroachment appears to be more widespread in other parts of the property than previously reported;

8. Also considers that if they persist, poaching of valuable timber and encroachment would clearly represent ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

9. Also notes the on-going implementation of the Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan for Huay Samong Dam, and also welcomes the non-approval of a feasibility study for the proposed Huay Saton Dam within the property;

10. Further welcomes the State Party's confirmation that Road 3462 will remain closed, and also requests the State Party to provide further information on the proposed development of Highway 348, including information on whether the construction of wildlife corridors is foreseen, and a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which should include an assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

11. Further requests the State Party to ensure effective implementation and rigorous monitoring of impact mitigation measures to minimize impacts on OUV from the widening of Highway 304 and the construction of wildlife corridors, and further urges the State Party to reconsider the planned construction of tourism centres in corridor areas, in view of the potential of the resulting increased human presence to be counterproductive to the corridors' effectiveness;

12. Recommends that the State Party collaborate with the World Heritage Centre to ensure that all tourism activities for the property are in line with the objectives of sustainable tourism management, and also encourages the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property using the new capacity tools developed through the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme to promote conservation and local community development;

13. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

18. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Notes that the World Heritage Centre has received a petition submitted by the Mikisew Cree First Nation expressing their concern about the state of conservation of the property, as well as a response from the State Party;

3. Notes with concern the environmental impacts on the Peace-Athabasca Delta from hydro-electric dams, oil sands development, and proposed open-pit mining in the vicinity of the property, which could negatively impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Also notes with concern the lack of engagement with indigenous communities in monitoring activities, as well as insufficient consideration of traditional ecological knowledge, and takes note of the State Party's three commitments to strengthen monitoring and management with a wide participatory approach in order to address the concerns raised by the Mikisew Cree First Nation;

5. Requests the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential cumulative impacts of all developments on the OUV of the property, including hydroelectric dams, oil sands development, and mining, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

6. Also requests the State Party not to take any decision related to any of these development projects that would be difficult to reverse, and to submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to review the impact of the developments on the property, to evaluate its state of conservation, and to exchange in more depth with the State Party, petitioning First Nation, and other stakeholders as appropriate;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the States Parties of Germany, Slovakia and Ukraine for their cooperation concerning the protection and management of the property and for signing the Joint Declaration of Intent and encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts;

4. Welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party of Slovakia towards enhancing cooperation between relevant Ministries responsible for the management of Slovak components of the property, but notes with concern that an integrated management framework for the Slovak components of the property is still lacking and that forest management plans providing for logging apply to some areas within the property boundaries;

5. Endorses the recommendations of the 2014 reactive monitoring mission and requests the State Party of Slovakia to implement them;

6. Also requests the State Party of Slovakia to ensure that no logging operations take place within the property's boundaries until this issue is resolved through the development, in consultation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, of an integrated management framework for the Slovak components of the property, focused on nature conservation and taking into account all international designations, such as World Heritage property, Biosphere Reserve and European Diploma;

7. Notes that the current delineation of the Slovak components of the property does not provide for adequate protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and further requests the State Party of Slovakia to develop a proposal for boundary modification of its components, in close cooperation with the States Parties of Germany and Ukraine, as well as other States Parties who are currently preparing a proposal for an extension of the property;

8. Takes note of the State Party of Slovakia's intention to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to provide advice on the management of the Slovak components of the property and on the development of a proposal for boundary modification;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party of Slovakia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

20. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.21**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by Decision **37 COM 7B.21**, and did not provide detailed information on the plans for hydropower projects on the Zhupanova River, nor copies of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for these projects, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide this information, as a matter of priority, including a detailed assessment of potential impacts of these projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Notes with concern that apparent contradictions regarding the overall area of the four regional nature parks that form part of the property remain unresolved, and urges the State Party to clarify the overall area of the property, and submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015,** a detailed map showing the boundaries of all components of the property as inscribed;

5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2007 Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly regarding the development and implementation of one integrated management plan and coordination structure, a comprehensive tourism management plan, and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the administrations of the property, both in terms of human and financial resources;

6. Requests the State Party to develop a comprehensive monitoring system for the entire property in order to monitor the status and trends of the populations of key species;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

21. Golden Mountains of Altaï (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.25,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report, as requested by its Decision **37 COM 7B.25**, as well as information requested by the World Heritage Centre on activities and signed agreements between the Governments of the Russian Federation and China on gas delivery via the western route, which includes the Altai pipeline;

4. Expresses its utmost concern about Government Order N° 1416-r of August 2013, which includes the Altai pipeline in its future pipeline development programme, in spite of the State Party's assurance given to the Committee at the 37th session that the design works on the Altai pipeline project had been suspended and that no further funding for the design would be provided in the period 2012-2014;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to take an unequivocal decision to abandon the construction of the Altai gas pipeline through the property and urges the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China to consider alternative routes for gas supply projects;

6. Reiterates its position that any decision to go forward with the gas pipeline through the property would represent an ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and would represent a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. Also reiterates its request to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for any infrastructure development in or around the property, including the gas pipeline and hydropower projects, which could affect its OUV, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

8. Reiterates its concern about Decree 212 N 202 dated 2 August 2012 of the Republic of Altai, which allows the "construction and exploitation of linear objects as well as structures that are an integral part of the process" and therefore, weakens the legal provisions protecting the property, stresses that, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the modification of legal protection status of an area included in a property is considered as a potential danger to its OUV and a reason for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and urges the State Party to revoke the decree;

9. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property in particular the status of the Altai pipeline project, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that the State Party of the Russian Federation did not submit the state of conservation report, as requested by its Decision **38 COM 7B.76**;

4. Reiterates its requests, expressed in Decision **38 COM 7B.76**, to the State Party of the Russian Federation:

    a) To develop a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the future use of the Baikal Paper and Pulp Mill site and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

    b) To ensure that mining at the Kholodninskoye deposit remains prohibited beyond 31 December 2014,

    c) To undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), in particular concerning tourism development within the property and its vicinity, in order to identify alternatives that will not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,

    d) To expedite the development of management plans for the protected areas which constitute the property as well as an integrated management plan for the property as a whole, in line with Paragraph 112 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Thanks the State Party of Mongolia for having invited and hosted an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission further to the Committee request made at its 38th session;

6. Requests the States Parties of the Russian Federation and of Mongolia to implement the mission recommendations, in particular:

    a) For the Russian Federation, to provide, within the report on the state of conservation of the property specific information on the existing provisions and regulations for water use and management in Lake Baikal and their subsequent effects on the hydropower plant management downstream the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its next session,

    b) For Mongolia:

        (i) to ensure that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) developed for the Egiin Gol Project includes assessment of potential impacts not only on the hydrology, but also on the ecological processes and biodiversity of the property, and specifically on its OUV, and to provide the full EIA report to the World Heritage Centre,

        (ii) to ensure that the Terms of Reference developed for the preparation of EIAs for the Shuren Hydropower Plant and the Orkhon River projects include a specific assessment of any potential impacts of the projects on the OUV and integrity of the property,

(iii) to provide to the World Heritage Centre the EIAs for the Shuren Hydropower Plant and Orkhon river reservoir complex,

(iv) to develop an assessment of cumulative impacts of any planned dams and reservoirs in the Selenge river basin that may have an impact on the OUV and integrity of the property and to provide this assessment to the World Heritage Centre,

(v) not to approve any of the projects until the above mentioned EIAs and assessment of cumulative impacts have been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

7. Invites the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to continue their cooperation under the Intergovernmental Agreement and also requests them to jointly develop a SEA for any future hydropower and water management projects which could potentially affect the property, taking into account any existing and planned projects on the territory of both countries;

8. Further requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

23. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation) (N 719)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, as requested by its Decision **38 COM 7B.78**;

4. Welcomes the latest decisions of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and its Board of Appeal which invalidated the boundary changes made to Yugyd Va National Park and confirmed that the Chudnoe deposit area forms part of the national park and therefore effectively reversed the boundary changes, as was repeatedly requested by the Committee;

5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted for the Chudnoe gold mine and urges the State Party to restore the areas damaged by the mining activities, which were undertaken in 2011 and 2012;

6. Reiterates its position that mining exploration or exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and requests the State Party to ensure that no mining exploration or exploitation will be permitted inside the property;

7. Notes that the State Party has submitted a proposal for a significant boundary modification of the property for examination by the Committee at its 40th session and also requests the State Party to consider making the necessary changes to the submitted proposal in order to take into account the decision of the Supreme Court;

8. Further requests the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission and to take measures to ensure that tourism activities in the property do not impact on its Outstanding Universal Value;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016**.**

24. Lena Pillars Nature Park (Russian Federation) (N 1299)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8B.11**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 36th session in 2012;

4. Takes note of the submission of a proposal for a minor boundary modification to include the Sinyaya component, as requested by the Committee in Decision **36 COM 8B.11**;

5. Notes the medium-term management plan provided is lacking a strong programme for awareness raising, focused on the geomorphological and geological features of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that the next management plan adequately reflects the geological features of the property, that form part of its Outstanding Universal Value, and that the necessary scientific and human resources are available to implement the plan;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including a 1-page executive summary, as well as a copy of the new management plan that will be developed for the property, for review by IUCN.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.20**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),

3. Expresses its concern that the construction of a military base appears to have started within the property, with potential to impact significantly on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), regrets that the State Party did not provide any information on this matter, as required by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, nor a response to requests from the World Heritage Centre, and urges the State Party to immediately halt any construction works within the property until the potential impacts are fully assessed and suitable measures to avoid deterioration of the OUV of the property are in place;

4. Notes with serious concern the reported oil exploration activities undertaken by Rosneft in the vicinity of the property, and that one of the exploration ships is reported to have repeatedly entered the property, reiterates its position that oil exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the commitments made by industry leaders not to undertake such activities within World Heritage properties and requests the State Party to urgently ensure that no oil exploration or exploitation activities occur within the property, nor are permitted in its vicinity if they could have negative impacts on the property, taking into account the high sensitivity of the property's Arctic ecosystem;

5. Also requests the State Party to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) of the abovementioned activities, including an assessment of potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

6. Further requests the State Party of the United States of America to ensure that no development proceeds before the potential impacts of the oil exploration planned by Shell Oil on the OUV of the property have been fully assessed and to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to any approval of permits for exploration activities, in order to ensure that any oil exploration or exploitation in the Chukchi Sea will not have negative impacts on the property;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and evaluate current and potential impacts from the construction of the military base within the property and from the oil exploration activities undertaken by Rosneft and/or others, as well as other planned activities in the area and their cumulative impacts;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement an effective plan for tourism use within the property, taking into account the particular sensitivity of the tundra ecosystem, conduct an EIA for the planned tourism infrastructure development, in line with IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

26. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the decision by the Supreme Court of Spain to cancel the dredging project to deepen the Guadalquivir River, and urges the State Party to make a permanent commitment to cancel the project and not permit any future plans to deepen the Guadalquivir River;

4. Notes with appreciation the temporary suspension to the issuing of a Unified Environmental Authorization for gas extraction and storage projects in the immediate vicinity of the property, until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) with a detailed evaluation of the possible cumulative impacts is prepared, and strongly urges the State Party to ensure that the potential impacts of those projects to the OUV and integrity of the property are thoroughly assessed, in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

5. Notes with utmost concern that the company México-Minorbis Group has been proposed by the Technical Committee and the Board of Trade as the international mining company to reopen the site of Aznalcóllar, and therefore also urges the State Party to ensure that a clear risk preparedness plan and associated resources are in place prior to the commencement of mining operations, in order to enable a rapid response in the case of any accidents, and that the potential impact on the OUV of the property is also fully assessed;

6. Also notes that a Working Group has been established for the elaboration of the Special Management Plan of the Irrigation Zones to the North of the Forest Crown of Doñana, and requests the State Party to submit the Plan and an EIA to the World Heritage Centre, which fully considers the possible impact on the property's OUV and ensures the ecological needs for the conservation of Doñana National Park are met;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide a detailed update on the reported increase in water use for irrigation of rice paddies upstream of the property and reported dam construction on the Guadiamar River and also requests the State Party that further research is conducted to confirm the state of the Doñana aquifer as noted during the mission, and that regular monitoring of the Doñana aquifer be ensured;

8. Further requests the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

27. Cerrado Protected areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Reiterates its concern that the majority of the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of this serial property continues to no longer benefit from National Park status, and that its integrity is therefore no longer guaranteed;

4. Notes with concern the lack of significant progress to address the lack of protection of parts of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;

5. Recognizes the actions recently undertaken by the State Party to consider alternatives for the expansion and consolidation of protected areas within the area originally designated as World Heritage and its surroundings, especially the launch of a public consultation process to discuss the expansion of Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park, as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Environment, the Chico Mendes Institute for the Conservation of Biodiversity (ICMBio) and the government of the State of Goiás to improve land management and environmental actions in the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property;

6. Recalls that, according to the *Operational Guidelines*, modification of the legal protective status of the area represents a potential danger and therefore a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. Regrets that no major boundary modification of the property has been submitted for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session, in line with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines* and as requested by the Committee at its 37th session, and that no new conservation units have been established within and outside the property;

8. Urges the State Party to resolve land tenure issues in and around the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property, in order to enable significant progress to be made with the restoration of its protection status and the design of a revised boundary, in consultation with the landowners of the areas that would be considered for inclusion in the property and its buffer zone;

9. Acknowledges the willingness of the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory Mission, to discuss the results of the public consultation process and examine the possible need and related procedures of a major boundary modification and re-nomination;

10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the case that significant progress to address the lack of protection of parts of the property has not been achieved, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the States Parties for the progress achieved in strengthening transboundary cooperation and reducing the threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) originating from encroachment of agriculture and cattle grazing and potential road construction;

4. Strongly regrets that, despite the Committee's previous decisions, construction of the Bonyic dam has been completed without prior consideration of the results of a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and urges the States Parties to develop such an assessment as a matter of priority, based on the results of the preliminary SEA completed in 2012, and in consultation with IUCN, if necessary;

5. Notes with concern the impacts on freshwater biodiversity in at least two watersheds (Changuinola and Bonyic), and requests the State Party of Panama to ensure that the results of the developed monitoring programmes guide adequate measures to minimize biodiversity loss;

6. Considers that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA would lead to the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. Also notes with concern that a new hydropower project on the Changuinola river (Chan II) was approved in 2013 which the States Parties report would result in further cumulative impacts on both aquatic and terrestrial fauna and implies risks of social conflicts with local communities and, noting the reported current review and reconsideration of the project following the proposed changes in its design, also urges the State Party of Panama not to resume this project, until:

   a) the SEA for the property has been completed to guide the review of the project,

b) the project has been subject to an independent Environmental Impact Assessment, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property in conformity with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment,

c) due process has been ensured to achieve Free, Prior and Informed Consent by indigenous communities having territorial rights in the affected lands;

8. Also requests the States Parties to implement all other recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Further requests the States Parties to invite an IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the progress achieved with the development of the SEA and to provide necessary technical advice and to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures developed for Bonyic and CHAN-75 projects;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including an assessment of the effectiveness of the developed mitigation measures for the existing hydroelectric projects, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. Área de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of current and potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and integrity of the property of already existing and planned infrastructure of the Las Pailas geothermal project and its expansion located outside and adjacent to the property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and urges the State Party to finalize such an assessment by 1 February 2016and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

3. Encourages the State Party to invite an advisory mission, to be financed by the State Party, aiming to assess the situation, in light with the outcomes of the requested report, as in paragraph 2;

4. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a progress report and by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Regrets that the State Party did not provide completed Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for the two geothermal production wells, nor the feasibility study or an EIA for the construction of a Small Geothermal Power Plant adjacent to the property, and requests the State Party to provide all available documentation on the project as a matter of urgency, including an assessment of potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;

3. Urges the State Party to suspend the project until these documents have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;

4. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the current status of the project, the impacts of existing geothermal infrastructure and potential impacts of the planned Small Geothermal Power Plant on the OUV of the property;

5. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

31. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Expresses its utmost concern about the reported decline in the overwintering population of Monarch butterfly in the property, notwithstanding the increase recorded in 2014-2015;

4. Commends the States Parties of Mexico, Canada and the United States of America for their considerable efforts to address the decline of the Monarch butterfly population, including through the establishment of the Trilateral High Level Working Group;

5. Notes with appreciation the continued progress reported by the State Party in controlling illegal logging within the property, and requests the State Party to provide an

update on progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit the trilateral action plan, once completed, to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, and to report on the outcomes of the trilateral meeting held in April 2015 and the upcoming North American Leaders' Summit in late 2015;

7. Further requests the State Party of Mexico, in consultation with the States Parties of Canada and the United States of America, to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

MIXED PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.59**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the decision of the State Party to progress a bypass for National Highway 3 to the north of the property; however, notes that the four possible route options might pass through sensitive archaeological areas, and urges the State Party to undertake a detailed Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in line with ICOMOS' guidance on HIAs, including an assessment of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as a means of exploring the optimum route and ways to mitigate impact, and to submit this HIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available;

4. Also urges the State Party to identify options to rehabilitate the existing road through the property as a secondary road for local traffic to maintain adequate transport connections for local communities, to assess potential impacts on OUV, and to put in place measures to limit the use of this road by heavy traffic;

5. Considers that both the road and the fibre optic projects increase the risk of poaching, which is the primary threat to natural values of the property, and further urges the State Party to address the lack of personnel in order to ensure adequate surveillance;

6. Notes with concern that little progress has been made in increasing cultural heritage staff, and requests the State Party to provide training in cultural heritage management to existing staff, and to establish a detailed database and active protection of archaeological and other cultural sites;

7. Urges furthermore the State Party to finalize and approve the 2013-2017 management plan and implement it as soon as possible, in particular its provisions related to staff structure;

8. Also notes with concern that the economic situation at the property, which is marked by a rural exodus and a lack of jobs, is aggravating conflicts between the park and local communities, and encourages the State Party to develop a comprehensive economic development project for the property and its surroundings;

9. Also requests the State Party to update wildlife monitoring data in order to assess current populations and trends of key species, and to better monitor and respond to the impacts from poaching;

10. Also encourages the National Parks Agency (ANPN), in collaboration with the railway company, to urgently put in place a mechanism to prevent recurring train-wildlife accidents;

11. Further requests the State Party to implement all the other recommendations of the 2015 mission, in particular:

    a) Implement the recommendations for the development of the engravings at the Doda Site and the eco-museum, and continue to reflect on the valorisation of other cultural sites,

    b) Undertake a mission to sites with rock engravings to examine any change and the conditions of their preservation,

    c) Put in place a mechanism to systematically control the movements of people and vehicles during the entire duration of the works on the optic fibre project, and foresee awareness raising session and communication sessions to raise the awareness of project staff about the fragility of the area;

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

33. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho / South Africa) (C/N 985bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.18**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the commencement, by the State Party of Lesotho, of new research and documentation of rock art within Sehlabathebe National Park, building on the Analysis of Rock Art in Lesotho (ARAL) project, as well as the study on the landscape elements, encompassing both ethnographic research and oral history, in order to identify their potential contribution to Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the State Party of Lesotho to ensure that this essential work receives high priority and adequate

ongoing resources, and requests the State Party of Lesotho to submit the outcomes to the World Heritage Centre, for review by ICOMOS;

4. Notes the State Party of South Africa's agreement to carry-out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed cableway, and requests that it should include a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and ICOMOS' Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, and also requests the State Party of South Africa to submit a copy of the completed assessment to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Also welcomes the cooperation of both States Parties in updating the Maloti-Drakensberg Joint Management Plan from both a natural and cultural World Heritage perspective, and urges the States Parties to ensure that invasive alien species and fire management are adequately addressed in the Joint Management Plan; including provisions for ensuring the resources required for the implementation of these measures;

6. Further welcomes the progress regarding transnational collaboration and efforts towards establishment of a buffer zone area to the south of Sehlabathebe National Park, and further requests the States Parties to submit a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre to recognise the buffer zones, as soon as they have been formalized;

7. Notes with appreciation that some progress has been made, and that further initiatives are proposed, in training of staff within the Sehlabathebe management base, and also encourages further expansion of this training, so as to ensure that suitably qualified staff are available within both the Department of Culture and the Sehlabathebe National Park;

8. Also notes with appreciation that the two States Parties have commenced updating the cultural heritage management plan, which will incorporate risk preparedness and disaster response plans, and requests furthermore the States Parties to jointly inform the World Heritage Centre as soon as this plan is approved and to provide a copy of it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Further notes with appreciation that the State Party of Lesotho is developing a Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, as a matter of priority, and requests moreover the State Party of Lesotho to inform the World Heritage Centre, as soon as this Bill is approved, and to provide a copy to the World Heritage Centre;

10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and the related matters set out in Decision **37 COM 8B.18,** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.13**, **36 COM 7B.35** and **38 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the establishment of the Cultural Heritage Department within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and encourages the State Party to continue allocating adequate resources for its long-term operation;

4. Notes the decision to relocate the lodge development projects from the crater rim to other areas that the State Party considers less ecologically sensitive, and requests the State Party to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the projects including a specific assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as recognized under all its inscription criteria, in accordance with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage properties (HIAs), and inform the World Heritage Centre of any further changes or developments that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, in line with the Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Urges the State Party to mobilize necessary funds to complete the initiated work on the EIA, including an HIA, for the proposed road surfacing options, including a specific assessment of impacts on OUV in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also welcomes the continued efforts to maintain an open dialogue process with all stakeholders through the "People and Wildlife" project with UNESCO and other efforts to address sustainable livelihood and wildlife protection with stakeholders and to reduce the impacts of livestock grazing and increased population pressure on the OUV of the property, and also requests a holistic sustainable strategy for the property be developed to address all property issues in close cooperation with the different stakeholders and in particular the resident communities;

7. Further welcomes the creation of the international Advisory Committee for the Laetoli Hominid Footprints Conservation Project, as well as the feasibility study commissioned on the Laetoli Museum project, and further requests that a copy of the Feasibility Study, the project implementation document and cultural heritage impact assessment be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Also encourages the State Party to seek International Assistance for the preparation of a detailed report on the new set of footprints discovered at the site in October 2014, and further encourages the State Party to consider inviting an ICOMOS Advisory mission to address the conservation needs of both sets of footprints;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit updated information on any further progress achieved in addressing the threat of poaching, particularly affecting elephant populations as well as progress made in implementing the outstanding recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, including development of an invasive species control strategy, with particular reference to Parthenium weed (Parthenium hysterophorus);

10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the updated 10-year general management plan, which should also include the following elements:

    a) the forthcoming sustainable tourism development strategy for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area,

    b) the road strategy,

    c) general management plans for the cultural assets within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

ASIA-PACIFIC

35. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.36, 37 COM 8B.44,** and **38 COM 8B.47**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively;

3. Expresses its concern that substantial progress has not yet been made on the survey of cultural attributes requested since 2013, and that its completion is not foreseen until 2018, and urges the State Party to ensure this work is undertaken as soon as possible, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;

4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:

    a) Undertake further study and consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community in order to provide more detailed information on the cultural value of the property and how these relate to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),

    b) Provide detailed information on the legal provisions for the protection of cultural heritage in the extended property,

c) Provide detailed information on the management arrangements for cultural heritage and, in particular, for the control of access to archaeological sites and sites of cultural significance;

5. Also urges the State Party to review the proposed new management plan for the property to ensure that it provides adequate protection for its OUV, including:

   a) Recognition of wilderness character of the property as one of its key values and as being fundamental for its management,

   b) Recognition of the cultural attributes of OUV, as also fundamental for its management,

   c) Establishment of strict criteria for new tourism development within the property which would be in line with the primary goal of protecting the property's OUV, including its wilderness character and cultural attributes;

6. Further urges the State Party to ensure that commercial logging and mining are not permitted within the entire property, and that all areas of public lands within the property's boundaries, including Regional Reserves, Conservation Areas and Future Potential Production Forest Lands, have a status that ensures adequate protection of the OUV of the property;

7. Requests the State Party to secure adequate funding for the management of the property, taking into consideration the extension of the property as approved by the Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);

8. Takes note of the proposed retrospective Statement of OUV (SOUV) that has been submitted by the State Party, and also requests the State Party to include additional information in the Statement, to ensure that it reflects accurately the cultural attributes of the property, and further requests the State Party to resubmit a revised draft of the retrospective SOUV to the World Heritage Centre for review, as soon as possible;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint IUCN/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in order to review and provide advice for the revision of the management plan, prior to any decision to finalise the plan, on the survey of cultural attributes and on the re-drafting of the retrospective SOUV, and also to assess the state of conservation of the property as a whole;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and including an electronic and three printed copies of a revised draft management plan that is considered to adequately protect the OUV of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.35** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party towards the implementation of a number of recommendations of the Committee but considers that insufficient progress has been made over the past six years to address the considerable challenges and threats facing the property;

4. Also considers that further technical support is needed in order to consider how obstacles might be overcome, and foster a momentum that might lead to a sustainable outcome;

5. Urges the State Party to implement, in line with the proposals of the Emergency Plan 2009 and the Revised Action Plan 2012, all pending actions defined in previous Committee decisions, as a matter of priority, including:

   a) Harmonize legislative frameworks and strengthen governance arrangements for the property,

   b) Develop a comprehensive strategy for the Western Access before implementing actions that lead to the consolidation of this access,

   c) Undertake the Management Effectiveness Assessment in the framework of the approval process of the Management Plan,

   d) Finalize the Public Use Plan in line with the provisions of the Master Plan, including the definition of the carrying capacity for the Sanctuary and its components, and Machu Picchu Village,

   e) Finalize the Urban Plan Scheme for Machu Picchu Village;

6. Recommends the State Party to invite, as a matter of priority, an Advisory mission with the participation of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in the form of a workshop with national and local authorities, to seek finalization of pending actions mentioned above, and recommends that this mission takes place before the end of October 2015;

7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission, early in 2016, to assess the progress made in the implementation of pending measures as noted above;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016** a progress report on the implementation of the above measures and by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for

examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017, **with a view to considering, in the case of the absence of substantial progress in the implementation of the above, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

37. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.46,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Expresses its great concern following the fire that destroyed the roofs of eight of the ten huts that comprise the property and considers that this catastrophe represents a threat to the integrity of the property;

4. Takes note of the progress achieved by the State Party in the implementation of the plan for the management, conservation and enhancement of the property involving protection and rehabilitation work to reinforce the integrity of the areas and avoid frequent infiltrations; thanks the partners for their support and encourages them to continue and strengthen their support;

5. Strongly urges the State Party to increase efforts to improve the governance, organization and implementation of the monitoring, coordination and involvement mechanisms of the different parties concerned in the general management of the property, and in particular in the prevention of catastrophes;

6. Requests the State Party to finalize, without delay, the risk management plan, proceed with the revision of its plan for the management, conservation and enhancement of the property, and submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, in particular the vulnerability of the roofs of the huts and to propose priority measures for the prevention of fire risks, sustainable conservation and protection;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report including a 1-page summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 8B.17** and **37 COM 7B.37**, adopted respectively at its 36th (St. Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions,

3. Commends the State Party for the implementation of most of the points raised in Decisions **36 COM 8B.17** and **37 COM 7B.37**, and for the various cooperation initiatives developed at national level between stakeholders, and at international bilateral and multilateral levels;

4. Takes note of the extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone and encourages the State Party to continue its reflection on the revision of the boundaries of the zone;

5. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's efforts for the establishment of the Heritage House and the development of conservation and daily management tools for the architectural, urban and landscape heritage, and for the restoration operations and the monitoring of natural threats;

6. Requests the State Party to implement the specific actions required by Decisions **36 COM 8B.17** and **37 COM 7B** and reflected in the Action Plan to strengthen the protection and conservation of the property and bearing on the following themes:

   a) Urban conservation, planning and integrated urban development, taking into account the historic urban landscape and archival documentation,

   b) Training and capacity building in architectural, urban and landscape conservation at local and national level,

   c) Strengthening of financial resources and the technical and administrative capacities of the Heritage House to raise funds and implement activities,

   d) Application of emergency and restoration measures in conformity with the old Palais de Justice;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016** an updated report, including a 1-page analytical summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

39. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.41** and **37COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,

3. Congratulates the State Party for affirming its commitment to financing the consolidation project for the reinforcement of the foundation of Stele III and the investigation of the causes of the rising water level in the Tomb of the Brick Arches; and urges it to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies updated on:

   a) any changes in the agreed-upon project document for Stele III,

   b) the results of the investigation of the rising water level;

4. Acknowledges the reported progress on the construction of the Church Museum but notes that it remains unclear how the façade will be amended to take account of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission's views and therefore, requests the State Party to submit relevant plans and drawings;

5. Also notes the reported development of the Management Plan for Aksum in close collaboration with the Department of Archaeology at Aksum University, and encourages the State Party to remain vigilant that the Plan ensures that critical viewpoints are maintained and tools put in place for monitoring visual impacts;

6. Further notes the development of the Thematic Master Plan and also requests that copies of these documents be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies once they are finalized;

7. Reiterates the urgency of finalizing the clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, according to the specifications for maps provided by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2016** for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

8. Also encourages the State Party to liaise closely with the World Heritage Centre in the development and implementation of the Ethiopian Sustainable Tourism Development Project;

9. Further encourages the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, and further requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, before the end of 2015, to review the progress made on the above issues and to examine the state of conservation of the property;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.46**, **35 COM 7B.39, 36 COM 7B.43, 37 COM 7B.40** and **38 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Notes that the February 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission had to take place in Nairobi due to the security situation in Lamu;

4. Regrets that, despite reporting to the contrary, the State Party did not halt the LAPSSET project in order to allow time for a full assessment of its wider direct and indirect impacts on the property and for appropriate mitigation measures to be defined and implemented;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, details of work so far undertaken for LAPSSET near the property, as well as precise details for the Manda Airport extension and the Lamu resort city, and clarification of fishing plans, mangrove planting, and surveys of coastal morphology;

6. Also requests the State Party to confirm whether the scope of the LAPSSET project will exclude the Lamu archipelago, as suggested to the mission;

7. Welcomes the detailed Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken in 2014 on the LAPSSET project and its clear assessment of potential adverse impacts, and stresses the need for detailed discussion among the State Party, the developer, local communities and other stakeholders on how the proposed mitigation measure outlined might be addressed;

8. Invites the State Party to submit HIAs for individual major parts of the overall project; also welcomes the proposed Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and encourages the State Party to ensure that the 2014 HIA is included as an annex to the SEA;

9. Urges the State Party to strengthen the integration of the LAPSSET project with the Lamu City Council and the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), including appointing an NMK representative on the LAPSSET Board, and to widen and strengthen community engagement;

10. Also urges the State Party as soon as possible to put in place stronger development controls for the property and its setting; and recalls its request for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the new chapter of the management plan, covering the LAPSSET development project and integrating the results of the HIA;

11. Reiterates its requests made at its previous sessions for the State Party to furnish maps clarifying the boundaries of the property, and further requests the State Party to define and submit proposals for extending the buffer zone to cover Lamu and Manda

islands as a minor boundary modification as soon as they are completed and approved;

12. Further welcomes the detailed recommendations of the 2015 mission and requests furthermore the State Party to take them into account in the development of the LAPSSET project;

13. Requests moreover the State Party to give consideration to the inclusion of a conservation dimension within the LAPSSET project that could support programmes for traditional, sustainable livelihoods and traditional Swahili practices, including building as well as oral traditions;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

41. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 C0M 7B.50**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the efforts undertaken by the State Party in the operational implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the conservation and protection of the property;

4. Notes with concern the precarious security situation in Mali that has hindered the capability of the State Party at the site;

5. Expresses its deep concern regarding the low level of implementation of the Emergency Action Plan in view of the numerous threats to the integrity and authenticity of the property;

6. Requests the State Party to increase its efforts and mobilize additional means to accelerate the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan;

7. Calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support for the protection and safeguard of the property through the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission as soon as the security situation permits, to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan and the ascertained or potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of

conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan and the ascertained or potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

42. Le Morne Cultural Landscape (Mauritius) (C 1259bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **32 COM 8B.18**, adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),

3. Notes the efforts made by the State Party to enforce the various legislative and planning frameworks, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription, and reminds the State Party to ensure that new development projects that might impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, as set out in Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, together with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);

4. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to revise the Management Plan and requests it to provide this revised Management Plan and all its annexes to the World Heritage Centre, once approved;

5. Also notes the legal challenges that have been filed for the proposed Trochetia development, which could have a negative impact on the OUV, and that matters of law in relation to these challenges will be heard by the Supreme Court in July 2015, and also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on the outcome of this hearing;

6. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as possible, to assess the development pressures and the overall conservation of the property;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

43. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Groove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.53** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes progress with regeneration of the sacred forest and the increased frequency of river cleaning; but urges the State Party to tackle the source of the river pollution;

4. Also welcomes the revision of the Management Plan and the development of Cultural Tourism and Risk Preparedness Plans and requests the State Party to submit copies of these plans to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes that work on conserving sculptures has begun in the market shrine and that funds are being sought for further work in the Grove, and also requests the State Party to provide more details on the conservation approach, and on forward planning and documentation in the light of the extreme complexity of this work;

6. Also notes that the State Party intends to invite the requested ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property during the year, in order to consider urban development, tourism management and the conservation of natural resources; and suggests that the mission also consider conservation approaches to sculpture conservation;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

44. Fossil hominids sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37.COM 7B.44** adopted as its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the State Party on activities so far undertaken to improve water management on the property, and encourages it to continue with the implementation of all relevant measures and projects;

4. Also commends the State Party for the measures so far undertaken to implement systems and programmes to mitigate the impacts of acid mining drainage on the property, and also encourages the State Party to sustain these efforts;

5. Requests the State Party to:

   a) provide additional information on the management framework for the property including identifying each agency's roles and responsibilities for the water management of the property and the reporting structure,

   b) provide further clarification on the design specifications for the second phase of the western basin works;

   c) undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), on the second phase of works on the Western Basin mine water treatment plant for submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies,

   d) provide additional information on the water management monitoring programme, specifically on the definition of water quality targets and associated monitoring time frames and the dissemination of information,

   e) develop a programme to mitigate the risks from the impact of acid mine drainage and municipal wastewater effluent for the south-western portion of the property still at risk from these factors;

6. Also requests the State Party to consider external factors, such as climate change and leakage from drinking water supplies, in its ongoing water management for the property;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.45**, **36 COM 7B. 49**, and **38 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Deeply regrets that the State Party did not halt work on the Mambo Msiige project as requested in the abovementioned decisions, and allowed the developer to complete the project without taking into account the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the jointly agreed upon matrix and guidelines for a revised design;

4. Considers that the newly completed six storey hotel (two stories above the agreed matrix and guidelines and encroaching onto the public beach and protected open space) has a significant adverse impact on the urban form and silhouette of the property and a substantial adverse impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and notes that the State Party, itself, recognizes in its 2015 state of conservation report, the negative impacts of the encroachment;

5. Urges the State Party to work with the current property management to undertake all feasible mitigation measures, as outlined in the 2014 mission report, to lessen the negative impacts of the hotel on the OUV of the property, and to provide a proposal for this work, including a timeline for implementation for submission to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also notes that the State Party recognizes the lack of effective management procedures, as evidenced by the fact that the 2008 Heritage Management Plan and the 2010 Stone Town Conservation and Development Act have not yet been implemented, and requests the State Party to begin their implementation as soon as possible;

7. Further notes that the State Party has taken steps to improve governance of the property through the setting up of a Development Control Authority, the Heritage Board and the Stakeholders Forum, and also requests the State Party to act with urgency to establish these organizations and ensure their effective implementation with appropriate guidance from the Advisory Bodies;

8. Further requests the State Party not to undertake any development projects until they have been reviewed according to the Management Plan, in collaboration with the proposed new management structures above-mentioned and guided by HIAs, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to engage with urgency in the implementation of the approved Traffic Plan;

10. Calls upon the international community to provide assistance to the State Party to improve the management capacity and systems for the property;

11. Invites the State Party to request International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund to strengthen the management and conservation of the property;

12. Also regrets that the State Party has not complied with all the requests expressed by the Committee in Decision **38 COM 7B.55**, in particular related to the lack of significant progress in implementing the conservation plan and in reversing the decay in most of the building stock, in spite of the recommendations of the Committee over several sessions since 2007, leading to the poor overall state of conservation of the property;

13. Also considers that the serious conservation condition of the property and the lack of effective management and adequate governance has led to inappropriate development such as the completion of the Mambo Msiige project;

14. Requests moreover the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures, a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016;

15. Requests in addition the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2015 to develop corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation to be presented to the World Heritage Committee at the next session in 2016 with a view to considering, in the case of confirmation of the ascertained or potential danger to Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

16. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

ARAB STATES

46. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.46** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Congratulates the State Party for the important efforts aiming to improve the state of conservation of the property;

4. Notes however, the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorization of the property (PPSMVSS), especially due to the co-ordination of problems between the principal actors and intervention projects, but also due to an approach essentially oriented on the safeguarded sector;

5. Encourages the State Party to consider the use of an integrated approach based on the historic urban landscape for the implementation of the PPSMVSS, to respond to the problems raised in Item 4 of the present decision, and if need be, to invite an Advisory mission, financed by the State Party, to develop the use of this approach;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a full report on the result of the analyses of the archaeological excavations carried out at the Place des Martyrs in the framework of the construction of the metro station as well as the underground museum that will be housed within the station;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including an analytical one-page summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

47. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Takes note of the continuing progress made in implementing the plan for the protection and enhancement of the property and its protected area;

4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an assessment of the impact of the proposed enhancement of Tipasa's port on the property, in line with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties, before work commences;

5. Encourages the State Party to organize, in due time, the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission it proposes in its report, to assess progress in the implementation of the plan for the protection and enhancement of the property and its protected area, and to assess the proposed enhancement of Tipasa's port before detailed pre-project designs are prepared

6. Requests the State Party to submit the updated Management Plan, once it is completed, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

48. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Barhain) (C 1192ter)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.47** and **38 COM 8B.49**, adopted at the 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the completion and implementation of the comprehensive management and conservation plan;

4. Also notes the delay in the reviewing of the proposed revision of the Heritage Law, as well as in the signature of memoranda of understanding with the owners of lands located within the area designated for the extension of the World Heritage property, and in the revision of land-use and zoning regulations and requests the State Party to

provide the World Heritage Centre with information on these matters as soon as progress has been made;

5. Takes note of the results of the Rapid Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the road connectivity development for Nurana Island and in light of potential negative impact, also requests that the HIA is reviewed on the basis of additional studies recommended by this Rapid HIA to inform the development of design options and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any decision concerning the option to connect Nurana Island to the mainland;

6. Expresses its concern regarding the important pressure put on the property by the urban development taking place around it and invites the State Party to assess the impacts of proposed long-term development of the setting of the property, including through the approach carried by the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

49. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Noting the maintenance and restoration works carried out at the property, as well as proposed site development activities outlined in the state of conservation report,

4. Expresses its concern about the factors affecting the property and the seeming lack of a comprehensive policy, which constitutes a threat to the integrity of the property;

5. Urges the State Party to develop, as a matter of priority, an integrated management plan for the property and to reduce all interventions and development measures until such a plan has been developed and adopted;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to provide detailed information on the planning and design of proposed and on-going projects, in particular those related to infrastructure development, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to approval and implementation;

7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to consider the above, evaluate the state of conservation of the property and assist the State Party in elaborating the terms of reference for the development of an integrated management plan;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

50. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.51**, and **37 COM 7B.49,** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with great concern the rapid and irreversible degradation of the Historic Cairo urban fabric which will make it very difficult for the State Party to sustain the attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Acknowledges the establishment by the State Party of a Ministerial Committee chaired by the Prime Minister to oversee the management of Historic Cairo, and commends it for adopting the boundaries and buffer zone of the property as proposed by the UNESCO Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo Project (URHC) and requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);

5. Urges the State Party to introduce stricter controls, particularly on demolition and development in order to stabilise the current situation of the urban fabric, in parallel with appropriate awareness-raising actions;

6. Also urges the State Party to consider a large scale urban revitalisation project that addresses the social, economic and environmental problems affecting the property in a holistic manner, and to hold a technical workshop to define the aims, objectives, implementation mechanism and provisional timeframe of such a project;

7. Requests that a Technical Unit formed of a highly-qualified multidisciplinary team be created, to manage the property, establish its integrated management plan, and take forward the URHC;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the revised draft of the retrospective Statement of OUV for the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

51. Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **25 BUR V.281,** adopted by the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee at its 25th session (UNESCO, 2001),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property in spite of the difficult prevailing situation;

4. Expresses its great concern about the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;

5. Considers that the optimal conditions are not present anymore to ensure the conservation and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and that it is threatened by both ascertained and potential danger, in accordance with paragraphs 177 to 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

6. **Decides to inscribe Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

7. Also requests the State Party, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

8. Further requests the State Party, as soon as the security conditions on the ground allow the responsible authorities to visit the site, to carry out a rapid assessment of the state of conservation of the property and to submit the results of this assessment to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any action on the ground;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

52. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes the considerable progress made by the State Party to improve the conservation and management of the property in response to the concerns voiced by the World Heritage Committee, and in particular the adoption of the Petra conservation action plan;

4. Reiterates its request to pursue the progress made to manage the property and submit a Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while ensuring synergies with existing planning initiatives (e.g. the 2015 Conservation Action Plan and the Petra Archaeological Park Operational Priorities Plan of 2010-2015), and undertake the necessary adoption process to ensure its effective enforcement;

5. Encourages the State Party to sustain its efforts in creating opportunities for sustainable local development around the property;

6. Also encourages the State Party to create the conditions necessary for the sustainable livelihood of the local communities displaced from the World Heritage property;

7. Requests the State Party to sustain on-going efforts, with particular attention to the following:

   a) Pursue the progress made to adopt the buffer zone and develop adequate regulatory measures to ensure its protection, and submit a minor boundary modification proposal by **1 February 2017**, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017,

   b) Strictly control urban development in accordance with the planned buffer zone, until the adoption of the above minor boundary modification,

   c) Pursue the efforts to address Disaster Risk Reduction and secure the necessary resources for its implementation, prioritizing the stabilization of the Siq;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit the final architectural drawings for the Petra Museum Project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to the start of the works;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.51** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the State Party on the progress made to manage and conserve the property;

4. Takes note of the progress in the technical investigation of conservation measures at the Stylite Tower; and invites the State Party to undertake dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before detailed work is planned;

5. Urges the State Party to complete the management plan which must include a comprehensive conservation plan and archaeological research policy, and integrate a public use plan;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

54. Tyre (Lebanon) (C 299)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the progress that has been made with a number of management and conservation measures which were addressed by the Committee at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), as well as the submission of an updated Action Plan for the management and conservation of the property;

4. Also welcomes the partnership agreement with the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and the Tunisian Heritage Institute, which will facilitate the preparation of a management plan for the property;

5. Requests the State Party, in accordance with Decision **36 COM 7B.52**, to continue its progress with the implementation of the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly:

   a) Undertake a planning process for the development of a management plan for the property and include provisions for a conservation strategy, risk preparedness, presentation and interpretation as well as for regulatory measures,

   b) Ensure that the management structure becomes fully operational by securing adequate resources for all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring,

   c) Establish a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre,

   d) Improve on-going maintenance practices for vegetation control and put in place measures for fire prevention and adequate drainage and sewage systems,

   e) Establish a recovery programme for detached mosaics and ensure their protection until a decision is made on their conservation and restoration,

f) Monitor conservation interventions to assess their efficacy and use the monitor results to inform the development of the conservation strategy,

g) Further develop and implement the framework for coordination of the Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project (BTAP) and enhance cooperation between the General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA), the "Cultural Heritage and Urban Development" (CHUD), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to effectively monitor the design and implementation of the project;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide a copy of the forthcoming management plan to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it has been prepared;

7. Further welcomes the submission of a concept strategy regarding traffic in Tyre, provided as part of a broader urban development and conservation program, but further requests the State Party, in accordance with Decision **36 COM 7B.52**, to carry out a comprehensive traffic study that clarifies all projected street networks and roundabouts, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the South Highway and its crossing at Tel el-Maachouk, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, as well as a revised and updated version of the Action Plan, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Encourages the State Party to elaborate and implement the Action Plan for the management and conservation of the property, in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and the World Heritage Centre, and to integrate in it a prioritized programme of conservation;

4. Notes that a project to improve the landscape around the Church of St George will be drawn up and requests the State Party to submit details;

5. Also notes that a socio-economic study aimed at improving the living conditions of the communities in and around the property has started;

6. Takes note of the new management structure, but also of the lack of resources to allow it to function;

7. Expresses its concern that three years after the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, few of its recommendations on management and conservation have been addressed;

8. Urges the State Party to operationalize the management structure and update the Management Plan and, once the Conservation Action Plan has been approved, address urgent conservation needs of the property related especially to chapels, ruined buildings, terraces and the covered canal;

9. Also urges the State Party to consider the other recommendations of the 2012 mission, including ways to improve the socio-economic development of the valley in the framework of a sustainable management plan and through the organization of a workshop with the support of the World Heritage Centre;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

56. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.2**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note with great concern of the information provided by the State Party in its report on the state of conservation of the property;

4. Urges the State Party to reinforce the protection of the property by implementing, to the best extent possible, the recommendations of the technical workshops organized by UNESCO and its partners in order to define emergency protection and risk mitigation measures for the safeguarding of Libya's cultural heritage;

5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, as soon as the security situation permits, with more detailed information on the state of conservation of the property as well as with a precise mapping of the different violations at the site, and notably the urban encroachment, looting and vandalism;

6. Also requests the State Party to pursue the establishment of a dialogue between the responsible national and local authorities as well as the involvement of local communities in the protection of the property, in addition to the development of awareness raising initiatives at national level;

7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the site as soon as possible and make sure that the elements requested in paragraph 5 of the present decision are submitted to the World Heritage Centre before the visit of the mission;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 37th session in 2013;

4. Expresses its high concern regarding the absence of information on the state of conservation of the property in the prevailing situation;

5. Requests the State Party to submit information on the state of conservation of the property as soon as the security situation permits, and notably on whether the conservation and recovery measures of the sites vandalized in 2009, as identified in the 2011 Reactive Monitoring mission, have been launched;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

58. Ksar Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.3**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes the State Party's efforts in the conservation of the property, in particular following the 2014 floods which damaged parts of the property;

4. Commends the State Party for the achievements of the 2007-2012 Management Plan and encourages it to continue the positive participatory dynamic that this plan has

generated, for the development of the new 2016-2021 Management Plan and its implementation schedule;

5. Requests the State Party to provide information about the special financial account for the conservation of the property, and take the necessary steps to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for the conservation and sustainable management of the property, in the framework of the Management Plan in preparation;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on the impact of the opening up of the bridge connecting the two banks of the Wadi el-Maleh on the property; and, more broadly, reiterates its recommendation to adopt an integrated approach centered on the historic urban landscape as an additional tool for sustainable management of the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, **by 1 December 2016** an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

59. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Notes with great concern that the Old City of Sana'a continues to be vulnerable owing to the deteriorating security situation in Yemen, in combination with ongoing social change, threats of inappropriate development and continuing lack of organisational support and resources for both heritage management initiatives and physical conservation projects;

4. Commends the State Party for the preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015;

5. Requests the State Party to ensure that the National Strategy Action Plan addresses the current situation of the Old City of Sana'a and includes provisions for completion of the proposed Conservation Plan, cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed water and sewerage rehabilitation project, building conservation, local community awareness and a strategy for attracting international support;

6. Expresses its appreciation for the previous support to the Old City of Sana'a by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and expresses its regret at the termination of the capacity building project for the Old City of Sana'a in December 2014;

7. Encourages the State Party to seek further international assistance, specifically directed at capacity building for the General Organisation for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY), so that it may re-engage and respond to the growing conservation needs of the Old City of Sana'a and other World Heritage properties in Yemen;

8. Also requests that the State Party maintain a moratorium on new development or new construction, pending completion of the proposed Conservation Plan and, where appropriate, project-specific heritage impact assessments;

9. Further requests that prior to proceeding with the proposed rehabilitation of the water and sewerage project, the State party prepare a HIA, which includes assessment of impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with the relevant ICOMOS guidelines and to submit a copy of the HIA to the World Heritage Centre prior to making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

10. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' to be developed during 2015;

11. Reiterates its previous call to the international community to support the State Party, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in any way possible for priority conservation, management measures and capacity building programmes, as soon as the security situation in Yemen improves;

12. **Also decides to inscribe the old city of Sana'a, Yemen, on the World Heritage List in Danger;**

13. Also requests the State Party, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

14. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to reverse the decay and ensure the conservation and protection of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;

15. Requests moreover that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016**.**

60. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **22 BUR V.B.72**, adopted at the 22nd session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 1998),

3. Notes with great concern that the Old Walled City of Shibam is currently subject to significant threats from natural elements, physical changes and a lack of organisational support and material resources for physical conservation projects;

4. Commends the State Party for the preparation of the draft 'National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' and the proposal for a complementary Action Plan to be developed during 2015 and requests the State Party to ensure that the Action Plan addresses the current situation and include provisions for conservation of damaged buildings, local community awareness and a strategy for attracting international support;

5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advise on the proposal for a complementary Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016 – 2020' to be developed during 2015;

6. Urges the State Party to work towards preparation of a management plan for the property, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Decision **22 BUR V.B.72**;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the previous support of Shibam by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) but expresses its regret at the termination of the Yemini/German collaboration in 2010;

8. Further requests, the State Party, as soon as it is feasible to do so, given the current security situation, to consider initiating a large-scale rehabilitation programme for the property, in co-operation with potential regional and international partners;

9. **Also decides to inscribe the Old Walled City of Shibam on the World Heritage List in Danger;**

10. Also requests the State Party, as soon as it is feasible and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016**.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

61. Cultural Landscape of Honghe Hani Rice Terraces (China) (C 1111)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.24,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes the considerable steps taken by the State Party to respond to the recommendations of the Committee;

4. Welcomes the strengthened structures to promote sustainable development of the rice terraces and in particular, efforts to add value to local agricultural produce, and foster traditional local practices;

5. Commends the State Party for organizing an International Workshop on rice terrace landscapes and takes note of the Honghe Recommendations on Sustainable Development of Terraced Cultural Landscapes;

6. Encourages the State Party, to maintain dialogue with other properties in Asia that face similar challenges in managing extensive terrace landscapes;

7. Recommends that the State Party finalizes, adopts and implements the Sustainable Tourism Strategic Planning and the Interpretation Planning documents, and takes into consideration the need to carefully control visitor numbers, and to prepare guidelines for regulating tourism infrastructure development within the property, including impacts of viewing platforms and signage, and requests the State Party to submit copies of the final plans to the World Heritage Centre.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.30**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Acknowledges the steps taken by the State Party to respond to the recommendations, notably the holding of a training workshop on tourism management in cooperation with UNESCO Beijing;

4. Encourages the State Party to proceed with the development, adoption and implementation of the tourism management plan and interpretation plans, in close cooperation with UNESCO Beijing, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

63. Levuka Historical Port Town (Fiji) (C 1399)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the efforts made by the State Party in responding to all the recommendation made by the Committee, notably:

   a) Revising and including the concept of buffer zone management for World Heritage properties, as well as potential future sites in Fiji within the Fiji Heritage Bill,

   b) Progressing with the medium term plan for conservation and cooperating with Heritage New Zealand (New Zealand Agency for International Development) and JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) for the development of a conservation plan and implementation guidelines for stakeholders, as well as a number of capacity building activities,

   c) Completing the Levuka and Ovalau Heritage Register including archaeological sites,

   d) Revising the Levuka Town Planning Scheme to regulate the developments within the property, buffer zone and wider setting;

4. Reiterates its recommendation on the requirement of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) following the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties in order to adequately assess the potential negative impact of any type of tourism developments in the property, buffer zone and wider setting;

5. Requests the State Party to proceed with the works and actions required to officially adopt and implement the Fiji Heritage Bill, the medium-term plan for conservation and the Levuka Town Planning Scheme;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated progress report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes the efforts undertaken to remove the remains of the collapsed bridge and welcomes the impact assessment study for the new location of the bridge;

4. Also welcomes the development of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Hampi World Heritage Site - Action Plans for Priority Implementation and urges the State Party to finalize all Sectoral Plans as well as an overall prioritization and synthesis and adopt as soon as possible the IMP for Hampi World Heritage Site;

5. Also notes the progress made by the State Party to develop a strategy and action plan for the bazaar area, including necessary legal and planning tools to prevent any further encroachments at the Hampi bazaar, and the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Hampi World Heritage Area in line with IMP;

6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre detailed information regarding the proposed bypass to divert heavy traffic from the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

65. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India) (C 247rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.31**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Expresses its concern that notwithstanding the commitments made at the time of inscription, little progress appears to have been made with major project on infrastructure works at Jaisalmer Fort to prevent seepage of water into the Fort mound, or with conservation of buildings within the Fort;

4. Notes with concern that:

   a) Illegal building within the Jaisalmer Fort is rampant and could adversely impact on authenticity and integrity of the component,

b) The Management Plan for Jailsamer Fort that was said to be due for completion in 2013 at the time of inscription has not yet been completed;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, and not later than **1 December 2015**, an updated timetable for the Jaisalmer infrastructure project and to reiterate its commitments to take forward this project;

6. Urges the State Party to complete the Management Plan for Jailsamer Fort, along with the planned sub-plans for visitor management, risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also expresses its concern that control on mining in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort, in place at the time of inscription, appears to have been relaxed;

8. Also requests the State Party to provide, as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2015**, details of the current arrangement of mining in the setting of the Chittorgarh Fort;

9. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report of the consolidation measures undertaken and foreseen for the Kumbhalgarh Fort;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.14**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for having invited an Advisory mission to share concerns and issues raised by the Committee; and notes that the commitments made at the time of inscription for effective management to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property still remain high;

4. Notes with concern that the pressure for land conversion remains significant, creating a considerable vulnerability that is challenging the ability of the authorities to sustain OUV and that, although it was envisaged at the time of inscription that there would be full engagement of the subak farming communities with the Governing Council for the effective implementation of the management plan, this seems not to have been effectively implemented;

5. Takes note that improvements are being introduced to engage communities more effectively through new Forum Coordination mechanisms, although it is too early to evaluate the effectiveness of this mechanism for the overall management of the property;

6. Also commends the action taken by one Regency to provide tax incentives to the farmers; and also notes that the establishment of financial mechanisms to support all the traditional subaks and reduce pressure for land conversion is a continuing priority;

7. Further notes that no comprehensive tourism strategy is in place covering all regencies;

8. Also takes note of the importance highlighted by the mission regarding the protection of water catchment areas for the survival of the subak system;

9. Requests the State Party, in order to strengthen the overall management processes and to address these issues, to implement the recommendations of the Advisory mission as a matter of priority, including the development of the following on an on-going and long-term basis:

   a) Engagement between the Province and Regency Governments and the Forum Coordination,

   b) Financial and other incentives to support the livelihoods of subak communities,

   c) Means to safeguard the water catchment area, essential for the healthy functioning of the subak system,

   d) More effective coordination in relation to land conversion processes, and changes in land use, including new developments,

   e) Action Plans to reflect the wide range of issues that impact on the property,

   f) Effective mechanisms for strategic planning,

   g) Impact assessments for new developments in the property and its wider setting,

   h) Detailed and strategic cultural tourism planning;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

67. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 115)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.62,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Commends the efforts made by the State Party to implement the previous Committee decisions, in particular the completed works on the reduction of the upper floor on the Jahan Nama building;

4. Notes the results of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Metro Line 2 and request the State Party to implement the detailed mitigation measures recommended by the HIA;

5. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to put in place a continuous monitoring system for the adjacent monumental buildings, in order to ensure that the proposed routing of Metro Line 2, constructions and underground drillings do not cause any negative impact on the World Heritage property and its wider setting in Esfahan;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:

   a) a proposal for clarifying the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone,

   b) the draft Conservation and Management Plan;

7. Also recommends that the State Party carries out an assessment study of the vulnerability of the property against disasters such as earthquake or fire and develop a systematic strategy for disaster risk reduction and to integrate it into the Conservation and Management Plan;

8. Encourages the State Party to apply the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL, 2011) as a useful tool to help manage the rapid urbanization and development of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.17,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the joint World Heritage/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;

4. Urges the State Party to formulate and implement an effective and efficient road system before the unmade section of Route 14A is completed and opened to traffic, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Limit the use of 14A to light vehicles, residents and visitors only; with Route 14B being used as the international connection for heavy vehicles between southern Lao PDR, Cambodia and Thailand,

b) Arrange for tourist coaches to park in designated areas at the northern and southern perimeters of the property,

c) Limit the use of the district road through Champasak town and the Ancient City to light traffic generated by the villagers themselves,

d) Analyze and justify the need for proposed additional local roads,

e) Complete Route 14A according to the original alignment 24 metres from the north-west corner of the fourth enclosure wall of the Ancient City, rather than according to the proposed realignment 100 metres from the corner;

5. Regrets that in spite of previous recommendations a number of new constructions have been undertaken in the monumental complex, without overall site planning, thus contributing to the haphazard densification of the main monumental complex;

6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, as a matter of urgency, a Master Plan based on landscape approach, taking into consideration the nature of the property as a cultural landscape and the buried archaeology, and the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to

a) Ensure that the local land use zoning plans conform to the Master Plan,

b) Provide within the Master Plan an overall strategic landscape protection and development framework addressing long-term planning issues,

c) Ensure co-ordination with emerging wider territorial plans,

d) Submit copies of the Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to final approval;

7. Also urges the State Party ensure the provisions of the management plan are put in place and reflect the OUV of the property, as well as to render it more practical and operational by including, among other things, an improved monitoring framework;

8. Notes the need for a clearer definition and understanding of the physical and other attributes of the property that convey its OUV, particularly in relation to the wider cultural landscape and Champasak town. Such consideration should involve meaningful consultation with the local community;

9. Recommends to the State Party to further enhance and strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including between provincial and national level authorities, in order to continue to address the conservation and management issues at the property by the Lao PDR National Committee for World Heritage and to ensure that the various committees concerned with the World Heritage property should be convened regularly and their decision-making processes reinforced through provision of greater technical support;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, and the remaining recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

69. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C121bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Expresses its profound sympathy and deepest condolences to the State Party of Nepal for the tragic loss of life and damage caused to the property, following the devastating earthquake of 25 April 2015;

4. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies concerning the actions undertaken in response to the devastating earthquake and acknowledges the efforts made by the Department of Archaeology of Nepal to ensure the safeguarding of the property in spite of the difficulties being experienced;

5. Considers that the extensive damage of the earthquake to the property represents both ascertained and potential danger, in accordance with paragraphs 177 to 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission at an appropriate time, and by **1 December 2015**, to consider the state of conservation of the property and the further development of the emergency action plan;

7. Calls upon the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party of Nepal in protecting, conserving and restoring the World Heritage property of Kathmandu Valley following the earthquake;

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

70. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.30,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Expresses its concern over the slow progress of works in view of the significant threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which have yet to be fully addressed;

4. Urges the State Party to speed up the completion of the Master Plan, which has listed all the issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions, as a matter of priority;

5. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to:

   a) Review the state of conservation of the property, including factors that constitute a serious threat to the property and the conservation of Tomb of Jam Nizamuddin,

   b) Provide advice to the State Party with the completion and implementations of the Master Plan,

   c) Assist the State Party with further developing and prioritising activities listed in the Master Plan;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

71. Historic City of Ayutthaya (Thailand) (C 576)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B;

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8E**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), adopting the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property;

3. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party and the steps taken in response to the concerns about the quality of the post-flood restoration work undertaken in 2012 and to the ICOMOS Advisory mission; as well as the project to study and establish flood modelling, in order to propose flood risk mitigation measures for the Historic City of Ayutthaya with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Bangkok;

4. Recommends the State Party to carry out, as a matter of urgency, training programmes to improve the skills and expertise of craftsmen undertaking the conservation activities and to ensure conservation approaches are based on scientific conservation principles and respecting use of traditional materials and skills;

5. Requests the State Party to develop a comprehensive plan for conservation and utilization with the assistance of experts and specialists of different disciplines and to update the site Management Plan accordingly;

6. Encourages the State Party to organize an international symposium, in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to debate on the conservation philosophy of brick associated sites, together with academics and international conservation practitioners;

7. Also requests the State Party to refrain from new construction within the property and its setting in particular within the area of the footprint of the historic city that may have an impact on its OUV of the property and to ensure appropriate control mechanisms are established, in line with the national policy concerning the protection of cultural heritage and World Heritage properties;

8. Invites the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information concerning the restoration projects as part of the post-flood interventions and, in general, any major projects foreseen at the property and its buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

72. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Expresses its concern with the slow progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular the lack of progress with the completion of the Management Plan, including an adequate governance system;

4. Notes with concern the slow progress made with the completion of the Management Plan and the lack of coordinated conservation plan and adequate guidance for the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Program and requests the State Party to address these issues, through:

   a) completing the Management Plan as a matter of urgency,

   b) developing a coordinated conservation plan to bring together key conservation activities carried out and planned within the property,

   c) developing clear guidelines for conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of housing to ensure that the authenticity of the property is not compromised,

   d) preparing adequate documentation of the major historic buildings and the overall urban fabric;

5. Encourages the State Party to apply the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL, 2011) as a useful tool to help manage development within the

property and to seek International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property and review its current management and planning system as well as progress made with the implementation of the above paragraph 4 above;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

73. Samarkand - Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes the progress made with the implementation of the Management Plan and efforts of the State Party to strengthen the protection of the property;

4. Takes note that no further information was provided regarding the development of the Draft Traffic Scheme, which is a crucial planning tool for Samarkand, and recommends further dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as this is developed;

5. Invites the State Party to provide confirmation that the implementation of the Management Plan is assured through adequate human and financial resources within the responsible government bodies;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party that construction and infrastructure projects should be anticipated within the framework of the Traffic Scheme and the Management Plan and that the World Heritage Committee shall be notified prior to any major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with the Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Encourages the State Party to apply the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL, 2011), as a useful tool to help manage the rapid urbanization and development of the property;

8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

74. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.87,** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),

3. Notes the information provided by the State Party on the works envisaged within the "Programme for complex measures for development and reconstruction of Shakhrisyabz City";

4. Expresses its concern about the overall impact of the projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the extent of urban transformation which could undermine the integrity and authenticity of Shakhrisyabz and requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre detailed plans and documentation of all works envisaged, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Urges the State Party not to commence or to halt any works until the above assessments and reviews have been carried out;

6. Reiterates that the World Heritage Committee shall be notified prior to any major restoration and/or new construction which may affect the OUV of the property before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse in accordance to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

7. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the proposed development and reconstruction programme, to evaluate the general state of conservation of the property, to review its current management and planning system, and to advise the authorities on the conservation issues at the property;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party to respond to the recommendations of the Committee and those of the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (2012), and encourages the State Party to proceed with the timely adoption and implementation of the new draft Law on Cultural Heritage as well as the new Regulation on the protection, conservation and management of the historic centre of Gjirokastra and its buffer zone;

4. Notes the progress made with controlling illegal constructions, the maintenance and conservation works, as well as the awareness raising and educational initiatives, and requests the State Party to continue to implement the previous recommendations, in particular:

   a) Develop an overarching integrated management plan, including a risk management component with threat mitigation measures,

   b) Ensure that the Tourism Development Strategy correlates with the management plan and Urban Developments plans, aiming to strike a balance between the creation of economic activity and the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),

   c) Continue the processes of monitoring and controlling development, and prepare a focused set of monitoring indicators with a clear articulation of the attributes of OUV,

   d) Maintain the moratorium on any new constructions within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, until the approval of the new Regulation for the protection, conservation and integrated management of the historic centre of Gjirokastra and its buffer zone,

   e) Continue the efforts to address the need of fire hydrants in both historic centres;

5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) concerning the entirety of the rehabilitation project at Berat Castle, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further requests the State Party to prepare a thorough study of the infrastructural situation of the historic centre of Gjirokastra prior to any decision is taken concerning the by-pass road and the conversion of the bazaar into a pedestrian area, and provide details of the project and the results of the study to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also encourages the State Party to continue to provide to the World Heritage Centre any development proposals before their official approval in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015** and **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

76. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.72,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes that amendments have been made to the proposed new development at Residential Area Dr.Franz-Rehrl Platz (Residential Buildings City Life Rehrlplatz) and requests the State Party to submit copies of the final plans to the World Heritage Centre for review;

4. Also notes that the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee in relation to the new development at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thunstr. 2 have not been implemented and that this case is currently pending in court;

5. Also requests the State Party to provide information on the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project as well as details on the Residential Building Priesterhausgarten and the Public Indoor Swimming Pool, Paracelsusbad with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 mission;

6. Further notes that steps have been taken to harmonize the boundary of the property with the Protection zone I and that the revision of the Management Plan should be completed by mid-2015, and strongly encourages the State Party to pursue to include provisions in the Management Plan to ensure adequate protection and conservation of all attributes which convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting;

7. Reiterates its concern about the apparent lack of adequate legislative and planning mechanisms to protect the property from the various proposed urban and infrastructure developments and further requests the State Party to:

   a) develop a comprehensive urban land use plan which includes provisions for protection mechanisms and regulatory measures to ensure the adequate protection and control of the property and its landscape setting,

   b) strengthen legal mechanisms for the protection of monuments in their setting,

c) carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all major projects which may threaten the OUV for the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;

d) implement the recommendations of the 2013 ICOMOS Advisory mission;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

77. Prehistoric Sites and Decorated Caves of the Vézère Valley (France) (C 85)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes with satisfaction the relative stability, over several years, of the state of conservation of the property, due to the implementation of recommendations of early scientific studies and the very rigorous limitation of access;

4. Congratulates the State Party for the high quality of the scientific research programme developed under the auspices of the Scientific Council, which will enable, in the future, the anticipation of risks of imbalance that favour the spread of contaminants;

5. Notes the pursuit of communication efforts through the dissemination of research results as well as exhibitions for the general public based on the new facsimile of the cave;

6. Welcomes the progress accomplished in sanctifying the hill and the management of the hill area;

7. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the state of conservation of the property, in particular the Lascaux II site, and of any evolution that might have an important impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

78. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Regrets that it has not proved possible to include within the Master Plan, as requested, an appraisal of appropriate options for a Rhine crossing; urges the State Party to explore other ways to carry out such an appraisal so that there can be a clear policy way forward beyond the end of 2016; and requests the State Party to submit such an appraisal to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Welcomes the sight line study that has been undertaken in relation to the location of wind turbines, with its clear methodology and detailed implementation as well as the resolution passed by the Federal State of Rhineland Palatinate to keep the property and the buffer free of turbines and to ensure proposals for turbines beyond the buffer zone are evaluated for their impact on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Also urges the State Party and the authorities concerned to accept the outcomes of the sight line study and implement appropriate policies through its energy plan and other measures;

6. Encourages the State Party to collaborate with ICOMOS to develop clear and consistent approaches for wind turbine policies, that might have wider application;

7. Notes the commitments by the States of Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse to drive forward measures to reduce noise levels from trains in the property, but also notes the limit of their possible actions and further urges the State Party and the authorities concerned to use their infrastructure programmes in order to prioritise the reduction of train noise and support technical improvements to train tracks and tunnels;

8. Stresses the need for the updated Management Plan to set out clear governance processes for the property as well as clear policies and strategies in order to support coherent and consistent development across the whole property;

9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.76,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts and secure the necessary resources to ensure that no demolition, inappropriate

development or deterioration of historic buildings which could constitute a threat to the property, occur in the property and its buffer zone;

4. Requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan of the property, including details of the protective measures and reference to decision making framework in regulatory regimes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Also encourages the State Party to continue the work on the proposed enlargement of the buffer zone;

6. Notes that the State Party has completed the Royal Garden Bazaar project and the Kossuth Square development project within the property and requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the implementation of these projects;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit the final designs and plans for the Liget Budapest project for evaluation by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the project;

8. Further requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement the remaining recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

80. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy) (C 829)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.77,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Takes note of the steps taken by the State Party in the implementation of its previous decisions by improving the conservation and management of the property;

4. Endorses the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in November 2014 and requests the State Party to give highest priority to the implementation of its recommendations, notably to:

   a) Seek the extension of the Grande Progetto Pompei (GPP) and assess the resources needed to sustain the future management and conservation of the property,

   b) Include the additional five buildings that remain at risk, identified by the Reactive Monitoring mission, in the safeguarding programme,

   c) Resolve legal issues that are preventing necessary works at Pompei, as a matter of urgency, in order to continue the required consolidation works,

d) Complete the management plan taking into consideration the recommendations provided by the Reactive Monitoring mission,

e) Carefully monitor the results of the drainage work in Region II and IX of Pompei, and if successful, develop a similar programme for the other unexcavated parts of Regions IV and V, and possibly I,

f) Seek to maintain the staffing levels after the GPP has been concluded and integrate the temporarily provided wardens into the regular system, in order to be able to open the property to the public on a permanent basis;

5. Encourages the State Party to pursue its conservation and protection efforts in light of the missions findings and also requests the State Party to resubmit the proposal for the buffer zone modification taking into account the recommendations of the 2014 mission and the World Heritage Committee's Decision **38 COM 8B.51**;

6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

81. Van Nellefabriek (Netherlands) (C 1441)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8B.35**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken in response to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription to complete the New Municipal Urban Development Plan for the property and the whole of its buffer zone, to conserve the visual integrity of the property, to set up a Management Committee for the property, to confirm that there is no threat to the property from transport of hazardous materials in the vicinity, and to submit the plan for a visitor facility;

4. Requests the State party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Municipal Urban Development Plan of the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes the proposed plan for a visitor facility within the property and also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the plans for the project, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

82. Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow (Russian Federation) (C 545)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.83,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and encourages it to sustain these efforts and to secure the necessary resources and regulatory regimes to ensure no demolition, inappropriate development or deterioration to the heritage buildings which could constitute a threat to the property and its buffer zone;

4. Notes that the State Party continues to develop regulatory regimes for the property and buffer zone's protection and requests that they are introduced and implemented as soon as possible;

5. Also requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan for the property, including details of the protective measures provided in its regulatory regimes, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Takes note of the ICOMOS Advisory mission report and further requests the State Party to suspend the possible plans for the reconstruction of the historically lost buildings on the territory of Kremlin within the property, which could represent a threat to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to:

   a) Submit the approved plan for the demolition of the Building 14, including a technical study on the impact of the demolition on the stability of neighbouring historic buildings to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies,

   b) Review the future plans, in line with the recommendation of the ICOMOS Advisory mission and to submit a project proposal for the vacant area including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA),

   c) Carry out archaeological studies of the area prior to the approval of any future projects and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre,

   d) Prepare a conservation plan for the property;

7. Also notes the number of proposed developments and conservation works, including for the Middle Trading Malls (Red Square) and the Spasskaya and Borovitskaya Towers, and requests furthermore to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, technical details, including HIAs, for all proposed projects within the property and its buffer zone that may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;

8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

83. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.85,** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to review the Management Plan for the property and notes that completion of the review is foreseen for mid-2015.

4. Also notes of the State Party's submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Eurasia Tunnel and requested Options Appraisal but regrets that the requested HIA and Options Appraisal for the Eurasia Tunnel were only undertaken at a late stage in the project rather than at the design stage, and that as a result few options could be properly assessed;

5. Reiterates its view that the new six-eight-lane highway would have a highly significant, negative impact on the Sea Walls, the Marble Tower, and the overall relationship between the Historic Peninsula and the sea, one of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Expresses its concern that the HIA for the Yenikapi Land Reclamation Project was also undertaken while work was in progress, and further notes that this project will add cumulatively to the negative impacts of earlier developments along the Marmara Sea side of the Peninsula;

7. Notes furthermore the urgent need for an integrated plan on the peninsula's coastlines and the open spaces surrounding the Theodosian Land Walls, in line with the recommendations of the 2012 Mission;

8. Also welcomes the intention of the State Party to set up a new Directorate for Restoration and Repair within the new Department of Cultural Properties, and the proposed protocol that would enable grants to be offered to private owners for the repair and maintenance of vernacular buildings and reiterates the need for an overall long term conservation strategy to be developed for Ottoman timber buildings;

9. Also expresses its concern that a number of major projects have been developed without adequate Impact Assessments being undertaken in advance of approval or work commencing, and without formal notification being provided in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and considers that there is a need for progress to be made with the revision of the Management Plan in order that these procedural issues might be addressed in a revised governance structure;

10. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to consider the impact of the proposed six-eight lane highway on the OUV of the property and all possible ways to mitigate this impact; to consider the impact of the Yenikapi Land Reclamation project on the profile of the Historic Peninsula; and overall to consider the management of the property;

11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a progress report on the implementation of the above and, by **1**

December 2016, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017, both reports including a 1-page executive summary.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.113** adopted at the 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the protection of all components of the property and its buffer zone and requests it to sustain these efforts and to secure the necessary resources and to adopt regulatory regimes thus ensuring that no inappropriate developments or deterioration of the heritage buildings which could constitute a threat to the property and its buffer zone, will take place;

4. Also requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the Management Plan for the property, including details of the protective measures provided in its regulatory regimes, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes the number of proposed projects and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details of all major developments and conservation works within the property and its buffer zone, with appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also notes the ICOMOS technical review of the regeneration programme of the ancient Jewish quarter and invites the State Party to implement ICOMOS recommendations and, more particularly, to develop a detailed urban master plan and a conservation plan of the Jewish quarter;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.33,** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Takes note of the measures taken by the State Party to implement the previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee;

4. Acknowledges the steps taken by the State Party to develop legal measures for the protection of the property including the moratorium on construction projects in the buffer zone and urges the State Party to adopt all relevant legal documents, regulations and measures specified in its previous decisions to support the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and prevent any potential threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Requests the State Party to reduce the height of non-conforming and dissonant buildings in the buffer zone of the property which threaten and/or have negative impact on the OUV of the property, by means of demolishing the already constructed stories to the level of neighbouring historical buildings in accordance with its previous decisions;

6. Expresses its concern about the reconstruction of the lost buildings undertaken at the property that can potentially erode its conditions of authenticity and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, technical details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), for all proposed projects that may threaten the OUV of the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015,** an electronic and printed copy of the draft management plan of the property revised, in conformity with the ICOMOS recommendations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.94, 37 COM 7B.89**, and **38 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the recommendations of the joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission of January 2015 and requests the State Party to implement them as a priority;

4. Also notes that the proposal for mining at the South Crofty mine remains dormant at the moment, and also requests that the State Party continue its vigilance of the property and ensure that if the proposal to restart mining is confirmed, there is sufficient time to allow for the necessary dialogue and negotiation to ensure that the recommendations of the 2013 mission are followed, including the update of the archaeological reports;

5. Deeply regrets that the State Party did not comply with the requests made in Decisions **36 COM 7B.94, 37 COM 7B.89, and 38 COM 7B.34** to halt the supermarket development project at Hayle Harbour, further notes that the construction has now been completed and also regrets that the completed structure has been found to have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, according to the recently concluded January 2015 mission and the evaluation of the State Party itself;

6. Further requests the State Party to ensure that the implementation of the consented development on the remainder of the South Quay remains on hold and to re-enter into negotiations with the developer to make the necessary changes to the proposal to bring it more in line with the historic character of the site and limit any further adverse effects to the OUV;

7. Notes furthermore the additional information provided by the State Party and the positive efforts in developing new planning tools and requests furthermore the State Party to continue to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on the improvements to the planning and approval processes that will result in better outcomes for development within the World Heritage property that supports its OUV; requests moreover the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details for the current proposed developments (Hayle Harbour, South Crofty and Tavistock) and for any substantial new development which may affect the OUV of the property be submitted, together with respective HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre.

8. Notes furthermore that it will consider the inscription of the World Heritage property Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape on the World Heritage List in Danger, at its 41st session in 2017, if implementation of the current development proposals at Hayle Harbour continues, and if the proposed improvements to the planning tools and approval processes are not put into effect as outlined by the State Party;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.90** and **38 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the State Party's efforts to strengthen the policy and planning framework through guidance documents, but notes nevertheless that there still appears to be an inadequate urban planning framework to manage development in the setting of the property, with the result that development that has been approved contrary to the advice of English Heritage is beginning to have a cumulative negative impact;

4. Deeply regrets that the State Party did not comply with the requests made in Decision **38 COM 7B.36** to ensure that the Nine Elms Regeneration Development Market Towers, Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site projects be revised, and notes with concern that they are currently under construction, without the project having been reconsidered after concerns had been raised by English Heritage;

5. Also notes with serious concern that no reconsideration has been made on the Elizabeth House development scheme concerning its design and size and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the development of the project;

6. Further notes that the lack of an urban planning framework brings the need to appraise individual projects and also requests the State Party to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, any larger-scale projects which may be proposed in the future in the immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, before any decision is taken;

7. Also takes notes that major conservation works are planned for the Palace of Westminster and further requests the State Party to submit, to the World Heritage Centre for review, details as soon as these are available, based on the outcomes of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to finalize the review of the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible;

9. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the extent of impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property resulting from the implementation of the above-mentioned projects and other current planning applications, and to identify potential courses of action to address ways of strengthening the protection of the property, including through improved planning frameworks and management structures;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the

state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

88. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes that the infrastructural projects in the areas of the Monumental Axes, the Stadium and the Television Tower will not negatively impact the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and, in the case of the Television Tower, will contribute to the recovery of the original landscape designs;

4. Regrets that the process for the preparation of the Preservation Plan of Brasilia's Urban Area (PPCUB) has been interrupted and that no substantial progress has been made in its preparation;

5. Urges the State Party to resume this process as a matter of extreme urgency and submit a timetable for the finalization and approval of the PPCUB;

6. Takes note of the establishment of formal cooperation and shared management between the Government of the Federal District (GDF) and the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (IPHAN) as well as the operational arrangements for its implementation;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit a report on the further definition of IPHAN Ordinance No 314 regarding the open spaces in the Pilot Plan;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

89. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party in the establishment of a comprehensive mechanism to enhance the coordination and management of the property at all levels of administration and welcomes the progress made in creation of the future Ministry of Culture;

4. Reiterates the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and urges the State Party to implement them;

5. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the final proposal for the buffer zones of each component part of the property as a minor boundary modification;

6. Notes with concern that no mitigation plan has been submitted to reduce the visual impact of the Castro Mall on the Castro Church and its wider setting as requested in previous decisions;

7. Also urges the State Party to finalize the legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas around each component part and establish the appropriate legislative measures to ensure the overall protection of the property;

8. Requests the State Party to finalize the review of all current Urban Master Plans in the light of the characteristics defined in the final proposal of buffer zones and new regulatory measures designed for the protection of the settings of the Churches of Chiloe and to establish clear building parameters and restrictions for all the municipalities that do not include these planning tools in their management framework to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

9. Also requests the State Party to finalize the process for the development of an Integrated Management Plan for all sixteen churches inscribed in the serial property;

10. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop measures to mitigate the impact of the Castro shopping mall on the visual characteristics and setting of the Castro church to better integrate it with the existing setting;

11. Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit a Study of Traffic Impact for the Castro shopping mall on the urban tissue of the City of Castro;

12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

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

Decision: 39 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to advance in the drawing up planning mechanisms for the city and for the great number of conservation works, including the elevators, that are being undertaken in a situation where it also had to address the emergency situation caused by the massive fire of April 2014;

4. Requests the State Party to submit:

   a) a timeline for the implementation of the Urban Development Policy and its instruments in the city of Valparaiso,

   b) a comprehensive report on the territorial, local and World Heritage site planning mechanisms and their integration,

   c) an analysis of the effectiveness of the above for the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its attributes and the integrated management structures that would be put in place;

5. Notes the response given by the State Party on the Terminal 2 Project, welcomes the actions taken to apply the ICOMOS Guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for World Heritage cultural properties and Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) recommendations in the impact assessment and also requests the State Party to present the finalized studies, as soon as they become available, together with an analysis of how these studies and the project design respond to the recommendations of the 2013 Advisory mission;

6. Also welcomes the efforts of the State Party to review the Puerto Baron Mall Project, and also commends the progress made to date with modifications to the plans and the further development of the Archaeological Management Plan and, while acknowledging that a full Environmental Impact Assessment cannot be undertaken, highly recommends that the State Party undertake a HIA to define formally any impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, and in particular on the city's amphitheatre-like layout and the vitality of the sea port upon which Valparaiso's prosperity was based, for submission when completed to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

91. Maya Site of Copan (Honduras) (C 129)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.99** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Notes that the runway of the Rio Amarillo airport will be limited to 1200 meters long, as requested by the World Heritage Committee and the recommendations of the 2011 Reactive Monitoring mission, and recognizes the efforts made by the State Party to rescue and relocate archaeological remains located in the surroundings of Rio Amarillo;

4. Welcomes the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that was undertaken by the Copan Association for the airport area and invites relevant institutions to consider its observations, recommendations and conclusions;

5. Also notes the cartographic information provided by the State Party and requests the State Party to finalize the boundary clarification within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory process and to submit a final proposal for a buffer zone according to paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines* concerning Minor Boundary Modification;

6. Appreciates the efforts of the State Party to prepare the Management Plan and Carrying Capacity Study for the World Heritage property and also invites the State Party to undertake its revision with due consideration of the ICOMOS recommendations particularly regarding the action plan and financing strategy, tourism projections and visitor management and the participation of communities;

7. Also requests the State Party to keep it informed of further developments in the design and testing results of the protective structure of the Hieroglyphic Stairway;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

92. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to strengthen the management and planning mechanisms for the Historic Centre of Lima and requests the State Party to finalize the approval process of the Master Plan and submit a critical review of it by the competent authority, as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed management arrangements for the property;

4. Reiterates its concern regarding infrastructural interventions in the World Heritage area related to the High Capacity Segregated Corridor and also requests the State Party to undertake and submit Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in the sections that could potentially impact the World Heritage property;

5. Notes with regret that the information provided on the Cable Car Project does not include the relevant Heritage and Visual Impact Assessments requested by Decision **37 COM 7B.102** and further requests the State Party, prior to making any commitment to its implementation, to submit by **1 February 2016** a progress report including:

   a) a HIA following the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties (January 2011),

   b) visual simulations of the entire Cable Car Project route with visual cones projected from relevant points within the Historic Centre and from the Plaza de Toros de Acho, which is very near Tower 2. Simulations should include all four supporting towers as well as the departure and arrival stations;

6. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

OMNIBUS

Decision: 39 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:

   - **Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Iran, Islamic Republic of),**
   - **Rio de Janeiro, Carioca Landscapes between the Mountain and the Sea (Brazil);**

3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;

4. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES (cont'd)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA (cont'd)

94. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

Decision: 39 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the revised High-Rise Concept and the new Glacis Master Plan, and that copies of English translations of these planning documents will be provided to the World Heritage Centre shortly;

4. Notes that the details provided for the proposed development of the Vienna Ice-Skating Club / InterContinental Hotel / Konzerthaus area, as requested by the Committee, do not include detailed architectural drawings, 3D modelling, or a formal Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA);

5. Recalls the concerns expressed by the 2012 mission regarding the critical level reached by urban development since inscription and its cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the need for new tools to orient the development process towards sustainable development that protects the attributes of OUV;

6. Expresses its concern that this proposed development appears to be in contravention of the recommendations of the 2012 mission in terms of the height of the buildings and their contribution to the surroundings, and that the designs appear not to have been constrained by the new planning tools;

7. Considers that the new tools developed since the 2012 mission do not appear to ensure that OUV is adequately protected, and that details of proposed developments need to be provided to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of urgency, as well as information on the new and revised planning tools and how they relate to the Management Plan and other planning mechanisms;

8. Requests the State Party to halt any further approvals for high-rise projects until they can be fully appraised by the Advisory Bodies on the basis of HIAs;

9. Also requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to consider current high-rise proposals, changes to planning tools, as well as the effectiveness of the overall governance of the property against the background of the concerns expressed by the 2012 mission and its call for stronger emphasis on the protection of the attributes of OUV;

10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of

conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2015, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 39 COM 8A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8A**,**

2. Stressing the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool for regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and of long-term planning of its development;

3. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document.

8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Changes to names of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 39 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8B,

2. Approves the name change to Holašovice Historical Village Reservation as proposed by the Czech authorities. The name of the property becomes **Holašovice Historic Village** in English and **Village historique d'Holašovice** in French.

Examination of nominations of natural, mixed and cultural properties to the World Heritage List

NATURAL SITES

AFRICA

EXTENSIONS OF PROPERTIES EXTENSIONS OF PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 39 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Approves the extension of **Cape Floral Region Protected Areas, South Africa**, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of **criteria (ix)** and **(x)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Cape Floral Region has been recognised as one of the most special places for plants in the world in terms of diversity, density and number of endemic species. The property is a highly distinctive phytogeographic unit which is regarded as one of the six Floral Kingdoms of the world and is by far the smallest and relatively the most diverse. It is recognised as one of the world's 'hottest hotspots' for its diversity of endemic and threatened plants, and contains outstanding examples of significant ongoing ecological, biological and evolutionary processes. This extraordinary assemblage of plant life and its associated fauna is represented by a series of 13 protected area clusters covering an area of more than 1 million ha. These protected areas also conserve the outstanding ecological, biological and evolutionary processes associated with the beautiful and distinctive Fynbos vegetation, unique to the Cape Floral Region.

Criterion (ix): The property is considered of Outstanding Universal Value for representing ongoing ecological and biological processes associated with the evolution of the unique Fynbos biome. These processes are represented generally within the Cape Floral Region and captured in the component areas that make up the 13 protected area clusters. Of particular scientific interest are the adaptations of the plants to fire and other natural disturbances; seed dispersal by ants and termites; the very high level of plant pollination by insects, mainly beetles and flies, birds and mammals; and high levels of adaptive radiation and speciation. The pollination biology and nutrient cycling are other distinctive ecological processes found in the site. The Cape Floral Region forms a centre of active speciation where interesting patterns of endemism and adaptive radiation are found in the flora.

Criterion (x): The Cape Floral Region is one of the richest areas for plants when compared to any similar sized area in the world. It represents less than 0.5% of the area of Africa but is home to nearly 20% of the continent's flora. The outstanding diversity, density and endemism of the flora are among the highest worldwide. Some 69% of the

estimated 9,000 plant species in the region are endemic, with 1,736 plant species identified as threatened and with 3,087 species of conservation concern. The Cape Floral Region has been identified as one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots.

Integrity

The originally inscribed Cape Floral Region Protected Areas serial property comprised eight protected areas covering a total area of 557,584 ha, and included a buffer zone of 1,315,000 ha. The extended Cape Floral Region Protected Areas property comprises 1,094,742 ha of protected areas and is surrounded by a buffer zone of 798,514 ha. The buffer zone is made up of privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas and other protected areas, further supported by other buffering mechanisms that are together designed to facilitate functional connectivity and mitigate for the effects of global climate change and other anthropogenic influences.

The collection of protected areas adds up in a synergistic manner to present the biological richness and evolutionary story of the Cape Floral Region. All the protected areas included in the property, except for some of the privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas, have existing dedicated management plans, which have been revised, or are in the process of revision in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. Mountain Catchment Areas are managed in terms of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act. Progress with increased protection through public awareness and social programmes to combat poverty, improved management of mountain catchment areas and stewardship programmes is being made.

Protection and management requirements

The serial World Heritage property and its component parts, all legally designated protected areas, are protected under the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (57 of 2003). The property is surrounded by extensive buffer zones (made up of privately owned, declared Mountain Catchment Areas and other protected areas) and supported by various buffering mechanisms in the region. Together, these provide good connectivity and landscape integration for most of the protected area clusters, especially in the mountain areas. The protected areas that make up the property are managed by three authorities: South African National Parks (SANParks), Western Cape Nature Conservation Board (CapeNature) and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency. These authorities, together with the national Department of Environmental Affairs, make up the Joint Management Committee of the property. All of the sites are managed in accordance with agreed management plans, however, there is a recognised need for a property-wide management strategy in the form of an Environmental Management Framework.

Knowledge management systems are being expanded to advise improved planning and management decision-making, thus facilitating the efficient use of limited, but increasing, resources relating in particular to the management of fire and invasive alien species. The provision of long-term, adequate funding to all of the agencies responsible for managing the property is essential to ensure effective management of the multiple components across this complex serial site.

Invasive alien species and fire are the greatest management challenges facing the property at present. Longer-term threats include climate change and development pressures caused by a growing population, particularly in the Cape Peninsula and along some coastal areas. These threats are well understood and addressed in the planning and management of the protected areas and their buffer zones. Invasive species are being dealt with through manual control programmes that have been used as a reference for other parts of the world.

4. Commends the State Party for its review of the nomination boundaries to bring forward an extension of the property which, on the basis of fine scale scientific analysis, significantly increases the number of Fynbos vegetation types protected within the property and strengthens the property's integrity;

5. Encourages the State Party to address longstanding shortfalls in financial resources which are impeding management of the property and which will be increasingly important in light of the substantially increased area and complexity of the extended property;

6. Requests the State Party to complete the Environmental Management Framework and submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017** and to strengthen the role and resources of the Joint Management Committee so that it can more effectively act as a single coordinating authority that guides management across all inscribed component parts of the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including progress on the finalization of a property-wide integrated management plan; strengthened governance arrangements to improve coordination; and the implementation of actions to ensure adequate financial resources for the property's management, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

ARAB STATES

PROPERTIES DEFERRED OR REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 39 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Refers the nomination of the **Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park, Sudan**, back to the State Party, taking note of the strong potential to meet natural criteria (vii), (viii), (ix) and (x), in order to allow it to prepare a revised nomination taking into account the need to:

   a) Review, with the support of IUCN, the boundaries of the nominated property to better define the nominated area and buffer zones to ensure that all the natural attributes which contribute to the globally significant values are appropriately included and that integrity is enhanced. Specifically, consideration should be given to including the designated marine buffer zone area of Sanganeb Marine National Park and other reefs (included in the buffer zone) within the nominated area; to expanding the nominated area to include more of the terrestrial component of Dungonab Marine National Park designated buffer zone; and to incorporating other attributes contributing to Outstanding Universal Value which lie within the linking buffer zone;

   b) Update the management plans for Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Marine National Park and develop an integrated management framework for the whole property that guides coordinated inter-agency policy and management and

promotes the effective involvement of different stakeholders including local communities;

c) Demonstrate increased financial resources and staffing capacity to ensure an adequate level of effective management of the nominated property and provide assurances to the World Heritage Committee on commitments to maintain ongoing sustainable financing.

3. Takes note of the willingness of the State Party to work with IUCN to improve the nomination and emphasizes the importance of addressing the full scope of recommendations contained within the IUCN evaluation;

4. Commends the State Party for its efforts to legally protect Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Marine National Park, improve interagency cooperation and for collaborative initiatives to engage local communities in the management of the area.

ASIA / PACIFIC

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Refers the nomination of **Landscapes of Dauria, Mongolia** and **Russian Federation** back to the States Parties, noting the potential for a nomination in the wider Daurian Steppes Ecoregion to meet natural criterion (x), in order to allow the States Parties to provide supplementary information, taking into account the need to:

   a) Review, with the support of IUCN, the boundaries of the nominated area and buffer zones to include areas important for the protection of forest steppe ecosystems which are an essential component to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value, and are currently poorly represented within the nominated property and to ensure the property is designed with boundaries that better support the critical habitat of migratory birds and habitat associated with the migration of Mongolian Gazelle;

   b) Prepare a joint management plan for the property to ensure a strengthened approach to sustainable regional development, tourism planning, threatened species conservation actions, research, monitoring and environmental education. This plan should be developed consistent with the transboundary framework provided by the Joint Commission between the States Parties of the Russian Federation, Mongolia and China supporting the Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA) initiative.

3. Requests the States Parties to strengthen transnational collaboration to mitigate threats and ensure consistent capacity and effectiveness in both the Russian Federation and Mongolian components of the nominated property, and specifically to:

   a) develop strengthened, better coordinated policies, practices and action plans to combat the threat of fire;

b) develop strengthened, better coordinated management of buffer zones including with regard to grazing and cutting, in order to prevent overexploitation;

c) establish enhanced legal and other measures to reduce hunting and poaching pressures on the nominated property;

d) provide the necessary long term resourcing and capacity to address imbalances and ensure effective management across the transnational nominated property as a whole.

4. Also requests the State Party of Mongolia, in line with the position of the World Heritage Committee on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage site status, to confirm unequivocally that mining exploration and exploitation activities will not be permitted within the nominated property;

5. Commends the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia for their commitment to the protection of important Central Asian steppe ecosystems which remain poorly represented on the World Heritage List;

6. Further requests IUCN in consultation with the relevant States Parties, to update the 2005 Central Asia Regional Thematic Study on natural World Heritage to identify at a regional scale the most outstanding steppe areas with potential for future nomination to the World Heritage List.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Refers the nomination of the **Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex, Thailand**, back to the State Party, taking note of the strong potential for this property to meet criterion (x), in order to allow it to:

   a) Address in full the concerns that have been raised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning Karen communities within the Kaeng Krachan National Park including the implementation of a participatory process to resolve rights and livelihoods concerns and to reach the widest possible support of local communities, governmental, non-governmental and private organizations and other stakeholders for the nomination;

   b) Provide updated data on the conservation status of key populations of threatened species, based on the most recent information available, to confirm their viability and contribution to the distinctive global values of the nominated property;

3. Encourages the State Party to consider nominating the property also under criterion (ix);

4. Also encourages the State Party to continue the commendable initiatives on future biological connectivity opportunities including those between the nominated property and Thungyai - Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries in Thailand and, working in partnership with the State Party of Myanmar, between the nominated property and neighbouring transnational protected areas within the Taninthaya Forest Corridor in Myanmar;

5. Commends the State Party and partner NGOs for their efforts to address improved conservation management within the nominated property including improved anti-

poaching patrol systems, community engagement in Kui Buri National Park dealing with human/elephant conflict, and enhanced ecological research and monitoring, and encourages the State Party to continue with these efforts;

6. Welcomes the roadmap adopted by the Thai Cabinet on 23 June 2015, with a view to addressing all recommendations made by IUCN for the potential inscription of the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex on the World Heritage List at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, taking note that the representatives of the Karen community have recently been included in the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex Management Board.

EXTENSIONS OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 39 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Approves the extension and renomination of **Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, Viet Nam**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (viii), (ix)** and **(x)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park is located in the middle of the Annamite Mountain Range in Quang Binh province, Viet Nam, and shares its boundary with the Hin Namno Nature Reserve in the Lao PDR to the west. The property comprises an area of 123,326 ha and contains terrestrial and aquatic habitats, primary and secondary forest, sites of natural regeneration, tropical dense forests and savanna and is rich in large, often spectacular and scientifically significant caves.

The property contains and protects over 104 km of caves and underground rivers making it one of the most outstanding limestone karst ecosystems in the world. The karst formation has evolved since the Palaeozoic period (some 400 million years ago) and as such is the oldest major karst area in Asia. Subject to massive tectonic changes, the karst landscape is extremely complex, comprising a series of rock types that are interbedded in complex ways and with many geomorphic features. The karst landscape is not only complex but also ancient, with high geodiversity and geomorphic features of considerable significance.

The karst formation process has led to the creation of not only underground rivers but also a variety of cave types including: dry caves, terraced caves, suspended caves, dendritic caves and intersecting caves. With a length of over 44.5 km the Phong Nha cave is the most famous of the system with tour boats able to penetrate inside to a distance of 1,500 m. The Son Doong Cave, first explored in 2009, is believed to contain the world's largest cave passage in terms of diameter and continuity.

A large number of faunal and floral species occur within the property with over 800 vertebrate species recorded comprising 154 mammals, 117 reptiles, 58 amphibians, 314 birds and 170 fish. The property clearly has impressive levels of biodiversity within its intact forest cover, notwithstanding some gaps in knowledge of the population status of some species. .

Criterion (viii): Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park is part of a larger dissected plateau, which encompasses the Phong Nha, Ke Bang and Hin Namno karsts. The limestone is not continuous and demonstrates complex interbedding with shales and sandstones. This has led to a particularly distinctive topography. The caves demonstrate a discrete sequence of events, leaving behind different levels of ancient abandoned passages; evidence of major changes in the routes of underground rivers; changes in the solutional regime; deposition and later re-solution of giant speleothems and unusual features such as sub-aerial stromatolites. On the surface, there is a striking series of natural landscapes, ranging from deeply dissected ranges and plateaux to an immense polje. There is evidence of at least one period of hydrothermal activity in the evolution of this ancient mature karst system. The Son Doong Cave, first explored in 2009, could contain the world's largest cave passage in terms of diameter and continuity. The plateau is one of the finest and most distinctive examples of a complex karst landform in Southeast Asia and the property is of great importance for enhancing our understanding of the geologic, geomorphic and geo-chronological history of the region.

Criterion (ix): Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park consists of a complex limestone landscape, which includes very large caves and underground rivers. The property includes karst formations which are some of the oldest and largest in Asia, and it has geological, climatic, hydrographic and ecological conditions which are distinct from other limestone karst landscapes. Its cave ecosystems and habitats are unique with high levels of endemism and adaptations displayed by cave-dependent species. The property constitutes one of the largest remaining areas of relatively intact moist forest on karst in Indochina, with a forest cover estimated to reach 94%, of which 84% is thought to be primary forest. Furthermore, the property protects globally significant ecosystems within the Northern Annamites Rainforests and Annamite Range Moist Forests priority ecoregions.

Criterion (x): A high level of biodiversity is found within the property, with over 2,700 species of vascular plants and over 800 vertebrate species. Several globally threatened species are also present: 133 plant species and 104 vertebrate species have been reported, including several large mammals such as the endangered Large-antlered Muntjac, Clouded Leopard, and the critically endangered Saola. The level of endemism is high, especially in the cave systems. Furthermore, it is estimated that over 400 plant species endemic to Viet Nam are found within the property, as well as 38 animal species endemic to the Annamite range. Several new species to science have recently been found, including cave scorpions, fish, lizards, snakes and turtles, and more species are likely to be discovered. Importantly, four threatened primate taxa endemic to the Annamites are found within the property: the Hatinh Langur (specialised in karst forest and endemic to Viet Nam and the People's Democratic Republic of Lao), the black form of the Hatinh Langur, sometimes considered as a separate species, the Red-shanked Douc Langur, and the largest remaining population of White-cheeked Gibbon.

Integrity

The property constitutes one of the largest protected karst landscapes in South East Asia. Covering an area of 123,326 ha and bounded to the west by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, all elements necessary to manifest the outstanding geological values of the property of Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park are contained within the boundaries of the property. The inscribed property is completely surrounded and protected by a buffer zone of 220,055 ha and is designated into three management zones: a strictly protected, an ecological restoration and an administrative/service zone. The watershed protection forests in the buffer zone also protect the integrity of the property. Furthermore, the extension of the property enhances its integrity and connectivity with the karst landscape in Lao PDR.

There are, however, a number of issues that affect the integrity of the property. Wildlife poaching and illegal harvesting of forest products are a direct threat to biodiversity values. The property has also suffered from past developments and its integrity could be threatened by further uncontrolled tourism developments, notably by the proposed construction of a cable car and access roads. There is a need for the implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments for any projects which could negatively affect the site. This would ensure that the natural landscape, geologic and geomorphic values, and key features such as primitive forest, caves, rivers and streams within the inscribed area remain intact. The property is situated within an area of high population density and as such a number of activities, such as cultivation, tourism, transport and freshwater fisheries could also impact on its integrity.

Protection and management requirements

Originally designated as a Nature Reserve in 1986, Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park was established in 2001 under the Decision 189/QD-TTg by the Prime Minister and is managed by a Management Board. The Management Board is responsible for protection of forest resources and biodiversity and was established in 1994. Cave conservation and the provision of a tourism service are the responsibility of the Cultural and Ecological Tourist Centre under the Management Board. The property is also included in the Special National Heritage List (2009), and the Special Use Forest system (1999). The National Park is effectively protected by a number of national laws and government decisions, which prohibit any action inside or outside the boundaries of the National Park or a World Heritage property that may have a significant impact on the heritage values.

A Strategic Management Plan has been in place since 2012 and is based on existing plans, including the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, the National Park Operation Management Plan and the Buffer Zone Development Plan. The Management Board oversees law enforcement programmes including ranger patrols and joint law enforcement operations on the border with Lao PDR. Nevertheless, the rugged nature of the country and community dependence on natural resources coupled with relatively limited resources for enforcement means that wildlife poaching and illegal timber gathering are difficult to eradicate and remain a challenging issue.

The Ho Chi Minh highway, constructed outside and to the north of the property is appropriately located and provides important and valuable benefit to the National Park in terms of opening up views of and access to the Ke Bang forest area. However, other road construction and tourism development will require rigorous and comprehensive assessment of environmental impact before decisions are made on whether they should be permitted or not. It is paramount that such developments do not impact on the karst and biological values for which the property has been inscribed. Impacts of increased development pressure and tourism numbers will also require continual consideration, planning and management to ensure that these pressures do not damage the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The property clearly has impressive levels of biodiversity within its intact forest cover, however, up-to-date data on large mammal species is also needed to confirm the population status of reported large mammals including tiger, Asiatic black bear, Asian elephant, giant muntjac, Asian wild dog, gaur and the recently discovered saola

4. Commends the efforts made by the State Party to address the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee regarding the integrity, protection and management of the property;

5. Notes with concern proposals to construct a cable car to provide access to the Son Doong cave within the strictly protected zone of the property and the potential impacts this may have on the property's Outstanding Universal Value and urges the State Party to complete Environmental Impact Assessments, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on

Environmental Assessment, prior to a decision on the implementation of any tourism development projects and to ensure that development proposals are not permitted if they would negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

6. Requests the State Party to revise the property's Sustainable Tourism Development Plan to include the property extension and ensure an integrated and environmentally sensitive approach to tourism that ensures visitor use remains compatible with the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2016**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including updated data on the population status of key large mammal species; advice on the status of proposals to construct a cable car to access Son Doong Cave; and advice on sustainable financing for the extended property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

MIXED SITES

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

PROPERTIES DEFERRED OR REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 39 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B, WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes the **Blue and John Crow Mountains, Jamaica**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (vi)** and **(x);**

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The cultural and natural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains comprises 26,252 ha of tropical, montane rainforest within the larger Blue Mountain and John Crow Mountain ranges, located in the eastern part of Jamaica in the Caribbean. These two ranges cover approximately 20% of the island's total landmass and are recognised for their biodiversity significance within the Caribbean Region. The property spans elevations from 850m to 2,256m asl and is surrounded by a buffer zone of some 28,494 ha. The high elevation, rugged landscape and the north and south-facing slopes of the mountains of the property have resulted in a wide variety of habitat types with nine ecological communities within the upper montane forest of the Blue Mountains (over 1,000m) and John Crow Mountains (over 600m). These include a unique Mor Ridge Forest characterised by a deep layer of acidic humus with bromeliads and endangered tree species. Above 1,800m, the vegetation of the Blue Mountains is more stunted with some species restricted to these altitudes. Above 2,000m the forest is known as Elfin

Forest due to the stunted and gnarled appearance of the trees which are heavily coated with epiphytes including hanging mosses, ferns and tiny orchids.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains property lies within the Jamaican Moist Forests Global 200 priority eco-region, and is part of one of the 78 most irreplaceable protected areas for the conservation of the world's amphibian, bird and mammal species. Furthermore it coincides with a Centre of Plant Diversity; an Endemic Bird Area and contains two of Jamaica's five Alliance for Zero Extinction sites. There is an exceptionally high proportion of endemic plant and animal species found in the property, Jamaica having evolved separately from other landmasses. In addition, the property hosts a number of globally endangered species, including several frog and bird species.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains property offered refuge to Maroons (former enslaved peoples) and therefore preserves the tangible cultural heritage associated with the Maroon story. This includes settlements, trails, viewpoints, hiding places, etc. that form the Nanny Town Heritage Route. The forests and their rich natural resources provided everything the Maroons needed to survive, to fight for their freedom, and to nurture their culture. Maroon communities still hold strong spiritual associations with these mountains, expressed through exceptional intangible manifestations.

Criterion (iii): The Blue and John Crow Mountains in combination with its cultural heritage, materialised by the Nanny Town Heritage Route and associated remains, i.e. secret trails, settlements, archaeological remains, look-outs, hiding places etc., bear exceptional witness to the phenomenon of grand marronage as characterized by Windward Maroon culture which, in the search for freedom from colonial enslavement, developed a profound knowledge of, and attachment to, their environment, that sustained and helped them to achieve autonomy and recognition.

Criterion (vi): Blue and John Crow Mountains is directly associated with events that led to the liberation, and continuing freedom and survival, of groups of fugitive enslaved Africans that found their refuge in the Blue and John Crow Mountains. The property conveys outstandingly its association with living traditions, ideas and beliefs that have ensured that survival, and the specificity and uniqueness of which was recognised by UNESCO in 2008 through its inscription in the Representative List of Intangible Heritage.

Criterion (x): The Blue and John Crow Mountains belongs to the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot and is an important centre for plant endemism in the Caribbean displaying 50% endemicity in the flowering plants at elevations above 900-1000 m asl with between 30-40 % of these species found only within the property's boundaries. One of two Centres of Plant Diversity in Jamaica, the property includes a reported 1,357 species of flowering plant of which approximately 294 are Jamaican endemics and 87 of these species are found only within the property. 61 species of liverwort and moss occur in the property as well as 11 species of lichen, all of which are endemic. Genera which are well represented in the endemic flora of the property include Pilea (12 spp); Lepanthes (12 spp); Psychotria (12 spp) and Eugenia (11 spp).

The Blue and John Crow Mountains overlaps with one of the world's most irreplaceable protected areas, based on its importance for amphibian, bird and mammal species. The property hosts globally significant populations of bird species and represents a key part of the Jamaican Endemic Bird Area. It is important for a number of restricted-range species as well as a large number of migratory birds such as the Petchary (Tyrannus domenciensis) Bicknell's Thrush (Catharus bicknellii) and Swainson's Warbler (Limnothlypis swainsonii). The property contains two of Jamaica's five Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, hosting a significant number of globally endangered species, including the critically endangered plant species Podocarpus urbanii, Eugenia kellyana and Psychotria danceri. The property is also home to several endangered frog and bird species including the critically endangered Arntully Robber Frog, Eleutherodactylus orcutti and the Jamaican Peak Frog, E. alticola. Threatened bird species include

Bicknell's Thrush C. bicknellii, the Jamaican Blackbird, Nesopsar nigerrimus, as well as the Yellow-billed Parrot, Amazona collaria and Black-billed Parrot, Amazona agilis. The only terrestrial non-flying mammal species found in the property is the threatened rodent Hutia, Geocapromys brownii with a population restricted to John Crow Mountains.

Integrity

The Blue and John Crow Mountains protects the most intact forests within the upper elevations of the Blue and John Crow Mountains. The more disturbed lower elevation areas are contained within the surrounding buffer zone. The property is legally well protected as it falls within the boundaries of the larger Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and is aligned with the park's Preservation Zone, providing the strictest levels of protection within the zoning system. The area is rugged, remote with limited access thereby providing additional security against some threats. The boundaries of the property are well designed to include the key attributes of its biodiversity values. Nevertheless there are a range of current and potential threats to the property, including from invasive alien species, encroachment, mining, fire and climate change. The majority of threats emanate from the interface between the higher elevation property and lowlands within the buffer zone.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains encompass the core cultural properties, sites and vestiges that support their significance as the refuge of the Windward Maroons. Their physical fabric is in a fair condition. The relationships and dynamic functions present in the landscape and the living properties essential to its distinctive character are maintained but require strengthening. The effective protection of the buffer zone is essential in order to sustain the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

The cultural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains related to the story of the Windward Maroons exhibits a high degree of authenticity in terms of location and setting. The rugged topography and the impenetrable vegetation convey the function as refuge played by the area. Continuity of names of specific places and stories associated with them contribute to sustaining their authenticity. However, the most important aspect of authenticity for this cultural heritage is the meaning and significance attributed by Maroons to their heritage, and the strength and depth of linkages established by them to it. The mountains are also home to Maroon ancestors' spirits and therefore provide a link for Maroons to their past and preceding generations.

Protection and management requirements

The property enjoys good levels of legal protection as it lies within the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. As such it is protected by a suite of legislation including the Natural Resources (National Park) Act (1993) and its regulations; the Forestry Act (1996); the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act (1991) and the Protected National Heritage under Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act (1985). The property is also covered by a well-structured 5 year management plan.

The Blue and John Crow Mountains is subject to a complex governance regime that ensures broader engagement but should strive for continually improved inter-organisational coordination and cooperation. The management of the property recognises the complex interplay between its natural and cultural values and the Maroon local communities are positively engaged with the site and its management. The integration in protection and management activities of Maroon community members helps sustain their links with their heritage and supports the state agencies in achieving their mandates for the safeguarding of the property. Protection of the natural values of the property is also dependent to large extent on the sympathetic management of the lower elevation buffer zone which has been subject to a history of deforestation,

agricultural landuse and encroachment. Active and sustained management of the edge effects from surrounding lands will be critical to ensure issues such as buffer zone planning, development and land use do not impact on the property. It will be important to manage the potential impacts of invasive alien species, fire and encroachment from both small scale shifting agriculture and commercial coffee growing. Vigilance will be needed to ensure that mining exploration and/or operations are not permitted to overlap with the property, and legislation and policy should be tightened to protect the World Heritage site in perpetuity from mining, in line with the established position of the World Heritage Committee and leading industry bodies. Monitoring of climate change impact on the elevation sensitive ecology of the property will be important to ensure proactive planning and management of this threat.

Adequate and increased capacity of staff and funding will be needed to manage the property in the face of the threats outlined above. Sustainable funding will be necessary in particular to strengthen management of the buffer zone and effectively address issues such as planning for sustainable development, support for livelihoods and enhanced community engagement. Stringent monitoring of activities carried out within the property and its buffer zone is also fundamental.

4. Commends the efforts made by the State Party to reconfigure the nomination in response to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee; to recognize the role of civil society and local communities in the management of the property and to address issues of protection and management of the property;

5. Requests the State Party to integrate into the interpretation and presentation programme of the property the "satellite sites" related to Maroon tangible and intangible heritage and located outside the property and its buffer zone as well as the heritage of the wider Jamaican Maroonage phenomenon;

6. Takes note of the long history of the deforestation in the buffer zone of the property and also requests the State Party to strengthen measures to combat the threat of small-scale and commercial agricultural encroachments impacting on the property by improving monitoring and public education, increasing technical capacity and engaging the support of relevant international institutions such as IUCN and FAO;

7. Encourages the State Party to allocate increased financial resources to ensure the effective long term management of the property, noting that current estimates suggest up to a doubling of the budget and resources for the protection of the property and buffer zone will be needed to ensure effective protection and management;

8. Notes with appreciation the assurances of the State Party that the property will be protected from mining, and further requests the State Party, in line with the position of the World Heritage Committee on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage site status, to strengthen legal protection of the property to ensure that no mining prospecting licenses and/or operations will be permitted within the area, and that any mining activity in the buffer zone will be subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment, including a Heritage Impact Assessment, in line with the advice of IUCN and ICOMOS, in order to ensure no adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Any proposal for mining activities in the buffer zone should be notified to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any decision to grant permission;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit an updated report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property, including advice on actions to address fully the threats from mining and encroachment and updated data on the provision of adequate and sustainable financial resources to support the

conservation of the property, along with a final report on the state of implementation of the 3-year Joint Work-Plan proposed in February 2015 and the revised management plan 2016-2021, to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

CULTURAL SITES

AFRICA

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Refers the nomination of the **Thimlich Ohinga Cultural Landscape, Kenya**, back to the State Party to allow it to reconsider the focus of the nomination of this property, including the possibility of nominating it as a site and an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement;

3. Considers that such a new nomination would need to include an augmented comparative analysis;

4. Also considers that a new nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Increasing the boundary of the property to include the plot to the south-east as well as the buffer zone;
   b) Conducting archaeological research in and around the nominated property to substantiate some of the site interpretations as well as to determine the extent of archaeological evidence of the wider settlement;
   c) Defining and putting in place formal agreements with land owners and also provide legal protection that includes clear management and permitted uses in the buffer zone;
   d) Providing maintenance and other conservation practices to ensure the continued stability of the walls;

6. Recommends the State Party to consider inviting ICOMOS to work on the preparation of a proposal for a revised nomination in accordance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, within the framework of the Upstream Process.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Refers the nomination of **Nyero and other hunter gatherer geometric rock art sites in Eastern Uganda, Uganda**, back to the State Party in order to allow it, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

   a) Further investigate geometric rock art sites in the region in order to establish whether the nominated sites can be considered unique or exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilisation which is living or which has disappeared, and thereby justify criterion (iii);

   b) Complete formal gazettal of all components of the nominated property as national monuments;

   c) Provide legal protection of the buffer zones and reinforce the Memoranda of Understanding with land owners/users by further consultation with the communities;

   d) Define boundaries clearly on the ground by visible permanent markers at corners and other appropriate locations;

   e) Prepare a conservation strategy which will include a detailed inventory comprising a systematic photographic record and data base of the paintings, rocky outcrops with “cupules”, rock gongs, ritual practices and their related features as a basis for conservation assessment and monitoring, together with a site audit procedure and schedule;

   f) Prioritise specialist conservation works to remove graffiti at Dolwe and Kapir;

   g) Formally prohibit quarrying from encroaching on the buffer zones;

   h) Strengthen and extend management system and plan at all of the individual properties so that local communities are practically empowered to undertake protection and guiding roles;

   i) Extend management plan to include analysis of potential tourism opportunities and community involvement in these; as well as practical duty descriptions and visitor management guidelines;

3. Recommends that the name of the property be changed for “Nyero and Other Geometric Rock Art Sites in Eastern Uganda”;

4. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;

5. Also recommends that the State Party undertake further research as a basis for interpretation and presentation including archaeological investigation of buffer zones;

6. Invites the international community to consider support for the management and conservation of the nominated property.

ARAB STATES

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Baptism Site "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" (Al-Maghtas)**, **Jordan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Baptism Site "Bethany beyond the Jordan" (Al-Maghtas) is located in the Jordan Valley, north of the Dead Sea. The site contains two distinct archaeological areas, Tell el-Kharrar, also known as Jabal Mar Elias, and the area of the Churches of St. John the Baptist. "Bethany beyond the Jordan" is of immense religious significance to the majority of denominations of Christian faith, who have accepted this site as the location where Jesus of Nazareth was baptised by John the Baptist. This reference encouraged generations of monks, hermits, pilgrims and priests to reside in and visit the site, and to leave behind testimonies of their devotion and religious activities, dating to between the 4th and the 15th century CE. At present, the site has regained a popular status as pilgrimage destination for Christians, who continue to engage in baptism rituals on site.

Physical remains associated with the commemoration of the historic baptism event include a water collection system and pools as well as later built churches, chapels, a monastery, hermit caves and pilgrim stations. These archaeological structures testify to the early beginnings of this attributed importance which initiated the construction of churches and chapels, habitation of hermit caves and pilgrimage activities. Beyond its key significance, the site is also associated with the life and ascension of Elijah (also called Elias and Elisha), which is of common relevance to the monotheistic religions.

Criterion (iii): "Bethany beyond the Jordan" represents in an exceptional way the tradition of baptism, an important sacrament in Christian faith, and with it the historic and contemporary practice of pilgrimage to the site. This tradition is illustrated by the archaeological evidence, which references the practice of baptism since the 4th century. The majority of Christian connotations accepted that Bethany beyond the Jordan is the authentic location of Jesus of Nazareth's baptism, a conviction which strongly characterized historic and present practice of the cultural tradition.

Criterion (vi): The Baptism Site, "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" (Al-Maghtas) is directly associated with the Christian tradition of baptism. The property is of highest significance to the majority of Christian denominations as the baptism site of Jesus of Nazareth and since millennia has been a popular pilgrimage destination. Its association to this historic event, believed to have taken place in the property, and the contemporary rituals which are continued at the Baptism Site illustrate the direct association with the Christian tradition of baptism.

Integrity

The area proposed for inscription corresponds to the area administered by the Baptism Site Commission. It is maintained as a wilderness area and locates within all the known archaeological remains which are attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. All the elements necessary to read and understand the significance conveyed by the property are still present and are encompassed by the area. The size of the property allows the whole valley to be viewed and appreciated by visitors and in most directions integrates the wider setting of the Jordan Valley. The property is well protected through heritage legislation but a construction moratorium should yet be issued to prevent any new constructions within the property.

Envisaged new structures in the buffer zone should also be subject to construction guidelines to be defined, in particular apllying to the churches and the planned pilgrimage village should further be considered through comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) before any approval is granted for construction.

Authenticity

The site of “Bethany Beyond The Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) is considered by the majority of the Christian Churches to be the location where John the Baptist baptised Jesus. The continuing pilgrimage and veneration of the site is a credible expression of the spirit and feeling attributed to it and the atmosphere, which the property conveys to the believers. As the location of Jesus’ baptism is described as wilderness, the preservation of the Zor, the green wilderness along the Jordan River, is essential to maintain this attribution. Despite the large volume of visitors to the site, a wilderness feeling still exists, which is enhanced by the natural materials and simple local construction technology that was used to build the shelter structures and visitor rest areas.

As an important religious site, several Christian Churches desire to have their presence in places of veneration and accordingly locations just outside the property have been and continue to be allocated for the construction of churches. Although these recent structures could be seen as compromising the authenticity of the setting of the site, they do not presently impinge on or negatively impact the central area containing the archaeological remains.

The archaeological areas have been preserved in their original materials, but have in many places been restored adding similar materials from the area to allow for easier interpretation or use of the structures. In some cases archaeological fragments have been reassembled and at times restoration work undertaken could be seen as reducing the authenticity in material and workmanship.

Protection and management requirements

The property is designated as an antique site according to Antiquities Law 21/1988, art. 3, par 8. This law prohibits destruction, damage or alteration of the antiquity itself and regulates development works around it, so as to avoid major impact on the antiquity and on its contextual perception. The property and its buffer zone are likewise protected by the Jordan Valley Authority Laws and on the site level by the By-Laws of the Baptism Site Commission. The objective of these laws is to protect the property from potential future threats, focused mainly on development and tourism projects that might jeopardize the nature and character of the Site and its immediate surroundings. It is recommended that a construction moratorium be issued for the property to prevent any new constructions except those exclusively dedicated to the protection of archaeological remains.

The veneration of the place, the presence of several church communities and the continuing pilgrimage add a level of traditional protection. It is not in the interest of the Christian communities that the property changes its character and accordingly visitation

is arranged with respect to the site's significance. The protection measures of both the national level and in particular the Baptism Site Commission are effective and will, if consistently implemented, prevent negative impacts to the property. The World Heritage Committee further encouraged all concerned State Parties to ensure the protection of the western banks of the Jordan River to preserve important vistas and sightlines of the property.

The authority responsible for the management of the Baptism Site, "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" is the Baptism Site Commission, which is directed by an independent board of trustees appointed by H.M. King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein and chaired by H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad. Revenues generated on site are utilized for the administration and management of the property. As result of these adequate financial resources, the management team is well staffed and qualified.

The management is guided by a preliminary management plan of January 2014, which is to be revised and completed to also cover the aspects of risk preparedness, maintenance and visitor management. It should also integrate regular reviews to evaluate achievements and revise objectives. The current management arrangements already in place are largely adequate. Visitor access is controlled at one single entrance gate, which allows not only for the control of visitor numbers but also for the distribution of information and specific paths are laid out on site for the visitor walks and pilgrim processions to protect the remaining character of wilderness.

4. Congratulates the State Party to have adopted the construction moratorium for the property, which prevents any construction except for architectural structures created solely to protect archaeological remains;

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Integrate the management procedures on maintenance, visitor management and disaster response in the management system;

   b) Develop design and construction guidelines for the Churches which are to be constructed in the buffer zone;

6. Encourages the border Member State, Palestine, to ensure the protection of the western banks of the Jordan River to preserve important vistas and sightlines of the property;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016** a final report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia**, **Saudi Arabia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i)** and **(iii)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

The serial property of the 'Rock Art in the Hail Region' is comprised of two components: the Jabal Umm Sinman at Jubbah, located approximately 90 km northwest of the city of Hail, and the Jabal al-Manjor/Raat at Shuwaymis, approximately 250 km south of Hail. At Jabal Umm Sinman, Jubbah, the ancestors of present-day Arabs left marks of their presence in numerous petroglyph panels and inscriptions within a landscape that once overlooked a freshwater lake; and at Jabal al-Manjor and Jabal Raat, Shuwaymis, the large number of petroglyphs and inscriptions has been attributed to almost 10,000 years of human history within a valley with flowing water. Together, these components contain the biggest and richest rock art complexes in Saudi Arabia and the wider region. Processes of desertification from the mid-Holocene altered the local environmental context and patterns of human settlement in these areas, and these changes are expressed in the numerous petroglyph panels and rich inscriptions. The attributes of the property include the large number of petroglyphs, inscriptions, archaeological features and the environmental setting.

Criterion (i): The rock art of Jabal Umm Sinman at Jubbah and the Jabals of al-Major and Raat contain an exceptionally large number of petroglyphs, created by using a range of techniques with simple stone hammers, against a background of gradual environmental deterioration, and are visually stunning expressions of the human creative genius.

Criterion (iii): The rock art at Jabal Umm Sinman at Jubbah and the Jabals of al-Major and Raat at Shuwaymis provide an exceptional testimony to the challenges of past societies in response to environmental catastrophes. In addition, the petroglyphs at Shuwaymis provide an exceptional testimony of a society that vanished, leaving behind an exceptionally detailed record of its existence.

Integrity

The serial approach is justified for this property, and together, the components of the Rock Art of the Hail Region contain all the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value. The boundaries of the components of the property are appropriate, and buffer zones have been established, although the buffer zone of Jabal Umm Sinman should be extended to the west to adequately protect the visual setting and views. A tall water tower and a dam constructed by the Municipality of Jubbah have an impact on the visual setting of Jabal Umm Sinman; and fencing and other protective measures need further reinforcement to prevent vandalism and graffiti to the rock art, particularly in the south-western portion of Jabal Umm Sinman. The components of the property have been extensively documented and generally exhibit a good state of conservation, although vulnerabilities exist due to some threats from vandalism, development in the buffer zone and lack of preparedness for increased future tourism activity.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the serial property and of each component is demonstrated by the diversity and large number of petroglyphs located within the components at Jabal Umm Sinman and Jabal al-Manjor/Raat, and that all have retained their original location, setting, materials, form and design.

Protection and Management Requirements

Protection is provided through Royal Decree No. M/26 dated 23/6/1392 H (1972 AD) and through the Resolution by the Council of Ministers No. 78 dated 16/3/1429 H (2008 AD). The Government of Saudi Arabia, and of the Hail Region provide substantial resources for the safeguarding of the two components of the property - Jabal Umm Sinman at Jubbah, and Jabal al-Manjor/Raat at Shuwaymis. The museum and antiquities office in

Hail has responsibilities for the protection and management of rock art, inscriptions and archaeological sites in the region, and any noted interference or damage to rock art can be reported to the local police by site guards or citizens, including local Bedouin tribes. The local community therefore plays an important role in protecting the sites, and in welcoming visitors.

The property is managed by the provincial Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities (SCTA) in Hail, which operates under the supervision of the SCTA head office in Riyadh. There are on-site staff at Jubbah, and site guards are soon to be provided at Shuwaymis, following the completion of a road from the Shuwaymis village to an interpretation centre at the entrance to the buffer zone. Additional planning for tourism management and interpretation have been identified for future work by the State Party.

A management plan that considers the long-term development and protection of the component sites was developed with the nomination to the World Heritage List; and there are also provincial and local tourism plans in place (dated 2002 and 2004 respectively). While there are adequate monitoring arrangements for the rock art, there is a need to monitor development and tourism activities and impacts, to establish Heritage Impact Assessment processes, and to implement remedial measures where necessary.

The State Party has undertaken to mitigate the visual impact of several developments that have had an impact on the setting of the property – including the existing rain water diversion dam and water tower.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Extend the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component of 1.0 to 1.5 km towards the west and the south, in order to preserve the long-term visual integrity of the property;

   b) Frame and mask the rain water diversionary dam or water barrier near Jubbah with typical low desert vegetation in view of the necessity of the structure and the substantial investment already made in its construction;

   c) Consider ways of reducing the visual impact of the water tower that is constructed on the eastern side of Jabal Umm Sinman, near the existing fresh water reservoir;

   d) Set up visitor infrastructures that will include marked routes, raised walkways and viewing platforms, that will prevent visitors from making contact with the rock art panels, and carry out this work in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties;

   e) Develop a tourism management strategy including an interpretation strategy that will address the increase in visitation numbers as part of the management plan;

   f) Develop monitoring indicators for impacts of development and tourism on the attributes of the serial property;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

ASIA / PACIFIC

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Tusi Sites, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Distributed around the mountainous areas of south-west China are the remains of tribal domains whose leaders were appointed by the central government as 'Tusi', hereditary rulers of their regions from the 13th to the early 20th century. This system of administrative government was aimed at unifying national administration while simultaneously allowing ethnic minorities to retain their customs and way of life. The three sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress combine as a serial property to represent this system of governance. The archaeological sites and standing remains of Laosicheng Tusi Domain and Hailongtun Fortress represent domains of highest ranking Tusi; the Memorial Archway and remains of the Administration Area, boundary walls, drainage ditches and tombs at Tangya Tusi Domain represent the domain of a lower ranked Tusi. Their combinations of local ethnic and central Chinese features exhibit an interchange of values and testify to imperial Chinese administrative methods, while retaining their association with the living cultural traditions of the ethnic minority groups represented by the cultural traditions and practices of the Tujia communities at Laosicheng.

Criterion (ii): Tusi sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress clearly exhibit the interchange of human values between local ethnic cultures of Southwest China, and national identity expressed through the structures of the central government.

Criterion (iii): The sites of Laosicheng, Tangya and the Hailongtun Fortress are evidence of the Tusi system of governance in the South-western region of China and thus bear exceptional testimony to this form of governance which derived from earlier systems of ethnic minority administration in China, and to the Chinese civilisation in the Yuan, Ming and Qing periods.

Integrity

The property contains all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. Later layers of occupation overlay parts of the Tusi period remains at Laosicheng and Hailongtun but there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value. Parts of the property at Hailongtun and Tangya are vulnerable to vegetation growth. The property is vulnerable to erosion impacts of heavy rainfall, and could become vulnerable to pressure due to visitor numbers and the development of tourism infrastructure.

Authenticity

The authenticity of material remains at the three component parts of the property in terms of function, form and layout, materials and style of construction, location and setting is retained. Authenticity of spirit and traditions is high in Laosicheng due to the presence of Tujia ethnic minority groups in the property area.

Protection and management requirements

The property components are designated as State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites under the Law on the Protection for Cultural Relics 1982, amended 2007. They are also protected under relevant provincial legislation. Laosicheng and Tangya Tusi sites are within designated National/Provincial Scenic Areas and protected by the Regulations on Scenic Areas 2006. The property area and buffer zone are protected in accordance with regulations relating to the Protected Area and Construction Control Zone of State Priority Protected Cultural Heritage Sites.

Management of the three component parts is co-ordinated at the provincial level under the State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH) by a steering group created by the Joint Agreement Concerning Protection and Management of Tusi Sites. This comprises representatives of Hunan, Hubei and Guizhou Provinces in which the component parts of the property are located. Management offices at each of the components relate through their relevant county administration and People's Government and Autonomous Prefectures to the People's Government of their relevant provincial administrations. The Steering Group is led by the Cultural Heritage Bureau of Hunan Province to establish common standards for management of the property including joint research projects, meetings and training courses for staff.

Conservation and Management Plans have been prepared for each of the component parts of the property for the period 2013-2030 including visitor management and presentation and monitoring of factors relating to natural disasters. The management system and plans will be strengthened to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Strengthening the management system and plans so as to ensure overall control of tourism projects directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;

   b) Fully implementing the monitoring system.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Susa, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii), (iii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in the lower Zagros Mountains, in the Susiana plains between the Karkheh and Dez Rivers, Susa comprises a group of artificial archaeological mounds rising on the eastern side of the Shavur River, encompassing large excavated areas, as well as the remains of Artaxerxes' palace on the other side of the Shavur River. Susa developed as

early as the late 5th millennium BCE as an important centre, presumably with religious importance, to soon become a commercial, administrative and political hub that enjoyed different cultural influences thanks to its strategic position along ancient trade routes. Archaeological research can trace in Susa the most complete series of data on the passage of the region from prehistory to history. Susa appears as the converging point of two great civilisations which reciprocally influenced each other: the Mesopotamian and the Iranian plateau civilisations. Susa's long-lasting and prominent role in the region, either as the capital of the Elamites, or of the Achaemenid Empire, or as a strategic centre sought by neighbouring powers (e.g., Assyrian, Macedonian, Parthian, Sassanid) is witnessed by the abundant finds, of disparate provenance and of exceptional artistic or scientific interest, and by the administrative, religious, residential and palatial, as well as functional structures and traces of urban layout (e.g., the remains of the Haute Terrasse in the Acropolis, the Palace of Darius in the Apadana, the residential or production quarters, the Ardeshir Palace) that more than 150 years of archaeological investigations have revealed.

Criterion (i): Susa stands as one of the few ancient sites in the Middle East where two major social and cultural developments took place: the development of the early state, and urbanization. Susa is among the few sites in the Middle East where the dynamics and processes that led to these monumental human achievements has been documented, and still holds a huge body of important tangible evidence to understand better the early and mature stages of social, cultural and economic complexity. In its long history, Susa contributed to the development of urban planning and architectural design. The royal ensemble of the Palace of Darius and Apadana, with its tall hypostyle hall and porticos, lofty stone columns and gigantic capitals and column bases, and the orthostatic and ceramic wall decorations, together represent an innovative contribution to the creation of a new expression, characteristic of the Achaemenid Empire.

Criterion (ii): The proto-urban and urban site of Susa bears testimony, from the late 5th millennium BCE to the first millennium CE, to important interchanges of influences, resulting from ancient trade connections and cultural exchanges between different civilizations, namely the Mesopotamian and Elamite. Susa has been identified as the focal point of interaction and intersection between the nomadic and sedentary cultures. It played a key role in creating and expanding technological knowledge, and artistic, architectural and town planning concepts in the region. Through its sustained interaction with nearby regions, archaeological and architectural materials discovered at Susa exhibit a variety of styles and forms, shedding light on an international ancient city that both influenced and was imitated by its neighbours.

Criterion (iii): The remains of the ancient city of Susa bear exceptional testimony to successive ancient civilizations during more than six millennia, as well as having been the capital city of the Elamite and Achaemenid Empires. It contains 27 layers of superimposed urban settlements in a continuous succession from the late 5th millennium BCE until the 13th century CE. Susa is on the most ancient of the sites, where the processes of urbanization crystallized in the late 5th millennium BC. A decade of scientific excavations from 1968 to 1978, and philological works at Susa, also documented the development and changing character of this early urban centre throughout the millennia.

Criterion (iv): Susa is an outstanding and rare example of a type of urban settlement representing the beginnings of urban development in the proto-Elamite and Elamite periods, from the late fifth millennium BCE. Furthermore, from the sixth century BCE, as the administrative capital city of the Achaemenid Empire, Susa contributed to the creation of a new prototype of ceremonial architecture, which became a characteristic feature of the Iranian Plateau and its neighbouring lands.

Integrity

The excavated site of the ancient urban and architectural remains of Susa is included within the boundaries of the property. Even though many of the finds are today exhibited in museums, Susa still includes the essential elements to express its Outstanding Universal Value. The property covers the known part of the ancient city, which is now protected against adverse development. Due to the high archaeological potential of the area that surrounds Susa, continuing archaeological research and documentation sustains the integrity of the property. The recent haphazard urban development of modern Shush threatens the edges and immediate setting of the property; however, strict regulations have been elaborated, integrated into the planning system and enforced. Their stringent implementation is crucial to maintaining the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

More than 150 years of archaeological research and historical sources confirm that the property encompasses the site of the ancient city of Susa. The material and form of the architectural remains are historically authentic, although many of the decorative elements are now deposited in museums for protection. As a protected archaeological property, Susa is being conserved using scientific and philological methods and approaches. Therefore, the excavated remains have been stabilized and conserved respecting their architectural and planning design as well as their building materials. From its initial formation and in the course of its development until its final decline, Susa has always remained on its present site; its environmental setting has, however, changed, with the hydraulic works carried out upstream of the Karkheh and the Shavur Rivers; however, these changes do not prevent the understanding of the role played by the environmental setting in the long-lasting prominence of Susa.

Protection and management requirements

Susa is protected as a National monument and falls under the responsibility of the ICHHTO which protects and manages the property through its Susa Base. Regulations for the property and its buffer and landscape zones have been incorporated into the planning instruments as prevailing norms. Their stringent implementation is crucial to guaranteeing the adequate protection and preservation of Susa's buried and unburied archaeological remains. Inter-institutional cooperation and coordination among existing instruments in the management of the property, and particularly of its immediate and wider setting, is fundamental to ensuring that urban growth respects the archaeological potential of the area and makes it an asset for a compatible and equitable development of Shush within its wider region.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Ensuring stringent implementation of the protection measures established for archaeological remains in the buffer and landscape zones;

   b) Including representatives of the technical staff of the municipality in the technical committee;

   c) Ensuring effective coordination among the territorial and urban planning instruments in force in the buffer and landscape zones;

   d) Developing ad hoc indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the inter-institutional agreement recently signed;

   e) Strengthening the protection measures for archaeological remains and mounds within the buffer zone on the grounds of the specific measures for archaeological mounds envisaged in the landscape zone regulations;

f) Including risk preparedness considerations in the Susa Development Plan and in the management framework of the property;

5. Requests the State Party to provide a preliminary report concerning an updated implementation calendar for the action plan, by including the necessary financial resources and institutional/administrative steps as well as a progress report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, particularly those related to the protection of the archaeological remains, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2015**;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide a final report concerning an updated implementation calendar for the action plan and on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining**, **Japan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

A series of industrial heritage sites, focused mainly on the Kyushu-Yamaguchi region of south-west of Japan, represent the first successful transfer of industrialization from the West to a non-Western nation. The rapid industrialization that Japan achieved from the middle of the 19th century to the early 20th century was founded on iron and steel, shipbuilding and coal mining, particularly to meet defence needs. The sites in the series reflect the three phases of this rapid industrialisation achieved over a short space of just over fifty years between 1850s and 1910.

The first phase in the pre-Meiji Bakumatsu isolation period, at the end of Shogun era in the 1850s and early 1860s, was a period of experimentation in iron making and shipbuilding. Prompted by the need to improve the defences of the nation and particularly its sea-going defences in response to foreign threats, industrialisation was developed by local clans through second hand knowledge, based mostly on Western textbooks, and copying Western examples, combined with traditional craft skills. Ultimately most were unsuccessful. Nevertheless this approach marked a substantial move from the isolationism of the Edo period, and in part prompted the Meiji Restoration.

The second phase from the 1860s accelerated by the new Meiji Era, involved the importation of Western technology and the expertise to operate it; while the third and final phase in the late Meiji period (between 1890 to 1910), was full-blown local industrialization achieved with newly-acquired Japanese expertise and through the active adaptation of Western technology to best suit Japanese needs and social traditions, on Japan's own terms. Western technology was adapted to local needs and local materials and organised by local engineers and supervisors.

The 23 components are in 11 sites within 8 discrete areas. Six of the eight areas are in the south-west of the country, with one in the central part and one in the northern part of

the central island. Collectively the sites are an outstanding reflection of the way Japan moved from a clan based society to a major industrial society with innovative approaches to adapting western technology in response to local needs and profoundly influenced the wider development of East Asia.

After 1910, many sites later became fully fledged industrial complexes, some of which are still in operation or are part of operational sites.

Criterion (ii): The Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution illustrate the process by which feudal Japan sought technology transfer from Western Europe and America from the middle of the 19th century and how this technology was adopted and progressively adapted to satisfy specific domestic needs and social traditions, thus enabling Japan to become a world-ranking industrial nation by the early 20th century. The sites collectively represents an exceptional interchange of industrial ideas, know-how and equipment, that resulted, within a short space of time, in an unprecedented emergence of autonomous industrial development in the field of heavy industry which had profound impact on East Asia.

Criterion (iv): The technological ensemble of key industrial sites of iron and steel, shipbuilding and coal mining is testimony to Japan's unique achievement in world history as the first non-Western country to successfully industrialize. Viewed as an Asian cultural response to Western industrial values, the ensemble is an outstanding technological ensemble of industrial sites that reflected the rapid and distinctive industrialisation of Japan based on local innovation and adaptation of Western technology.

Integrity

The component sites of the series adequately encompass all the necessary attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. In terms of the integrity of individual sites, though the level of intactness of the components is variable, they demonstrate the necessary attributes to convey Outstanding Universal Value. The archaeological evidence appears to be extensive and merits detail recording research and vigilant protection. It contributes significantly to the integrity of the nominated property. A few of the attributes are vulnerable or highly vulnerable in terms of their state of conservation. The Hashima Coal Mine is in a state of deterioration and presents substantial conservation challenges. At the Miike Coal Mine and Miike Port some of the physical fabric is in poor condition. The physical fabric of the Repair shop at the Imperial Steel Works is in poor condition although temporary measures have been put in place. In a few sites there are vulnerabilities in terms of the impact of development, particularly in visual terms. At the Shokasonjuku Academy, the visual integrity of the setting is impacted by the subsequent development of the place as a public historic site and experience. However, this development does not adversely compromise its overall integrity. The visual integrity of the Takashima Coal Mine is compromised by small scale domestic and commercial development, while at Shuseikan, the Foreign Engineer's Residence has been relocated twice and is now located in the proximity of its original location. The residence is surrounded by small scale urban development that adversely impacts on its setting. The setting can only be enhanced if and when the surrounding buildings are demolished and any further development is controlled through the legislative process and the implementation of the conservation management plan.

Authenticity

In terms of the authenticity of individual sites, though some of the components' attributes are fragmentary or are archaeological remains, they are recognisably authentic evidence of the industrial facilities. They possess a high level of authenticity as a primary source of information, supported by detailed and documented archaeological reports and surveys and a large repository of historical sources held in both public and private archives.

Overall the series adequately conveys the way in which feudal Japan sought technology transfer from Western Europe and America from the middle of the 19th century. And adapted it to satisfy specific domestic needs and social traditions.

Protection and management requirements

A number of existing legislative protection instruments, both national and regional, provide a high level of protection for the sites and associated buffer zones. The relationship between the different types of legislation is provided in the conservation management plans for each area. The most important of these instruments are the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties that is applied to the non-operational sites, and the Landscape Act that applies to the privately owned and still operational sites that are protected as Structures of Landscape Importance. This applies to the four components owned and operated by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. at Nagasaki Shipyard, and the two components owned and operated by Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation at Imperial Steel Works. The Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties is the primary mechanism for regulating any development and change of the existing state of a designated place and under this law permission must be granted by the national government. Similarly, under the Landscape Act permission must be sought to change any Structure of Landscape Importance and owners of such structures must conserve and manage them appropriately. The control of development and actions within the buffer zones is largely controlled by city landscape ordinances that limit the height and density of any proposed development. Conservation management plans for each of the components have been developed that detail how each component contributes to the Outstanding Universal Value of the series. “Basic Policies” in the plans provide an overarching consistent conservation approach though there are variations in the level of detail provided for the implementation of work in each component.

The Japanese Government has established a new partnership-based framework for the conservation and management of the property and its components including the operational sites. This is known as the General Principles and Strategic Framework for the Conservation and Management of the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Kyushu-Yamagachi and Related Areas. Japan’s Cabinet Secretariat has the overall responsibility for the implementation of the framework. Under this strategic framework a wide range of stakeholders, including relevant national and local government agencies and private companies, will develop a close partnership to protect and manage the property. In addition to these mechanisms, the private companies Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation and Miike Port Logistics Corporation have entered into agreements with the Cabinet Secretariat to protect, conserve and manage their relevant components. Attention should be given to monitoring the effectiveness of the new partnership-based framework, and to putting in place an on-going capacity building programme for staff. There is also a need to ensure that appropriate heritage advice is routinely available for privately owned sites. What is urgently needed is an interpretation strategy to show how each site or component relates to the overall series, particularly in terms of the way they reflect the one or more phases of Japan’s industrialisation and convey their contribution to Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Developing as a priority a detailed conservation work programme for Hashima Island;

   b) Developing a prioritised conservation work programme for the property and its component sites and an implementation programme;

   c) Defining acceptable visitor threshold levels at each component site to mitigate any potential adverse impacts, commencing with those most likely to be at risk;

d) Monitoring the effectiveness of the new partnership-based framework for the conservation and management of the property and its components on an annual basis;

e) Monitoring the implementation of the conservation management plans, the issues discussed and the decisions made by the Local Conservation Councils on an annual basis;

f) Establishing and implementing an on ongoing training programme for all staff and stakeholders responsible for the day-to-day management of each component to build capacity and ensure a consistent approach to the property's ongoing conservation, management and presentation;

g) Preparing an interpretive strategy for the presentation of the property, which gives particular emphasis to the way each of the sites contributes to Outstanding Universal Value and reflects one or more of the phases of industrialisation; and also allows an understanding of the full history of each site[1];

h) Submitting all development projects for road construction projects at Shuseikan and Mietsu Naval Dock and for new anchorage facility at Miike Port and proposals for the upgrade or development of visitor facilities to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Requests the State Party to submit a report outlining progress with the above to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018;

6. Also recommends that the State Party consider inviting ICOMOS to offer advice on the implementation of the above recommendations.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape**, **Mongolia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding landscape, lies in the central part of the Khentii mountains chain that forms the watershed between the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, where the vast Central Asian steppe meets the coniferous forests of the Siberian taiga. Water from the permanently snow-capped mountains feed significant rivers flowing both to the north and south. High up the mountains are forests and lower down mountain steppe, while in the valley below are open grasslands dissected by rivers feeding swampy meadows.

[1] The World Heritage Committee takes note of the statement made by Japan, as regards the interpretive strategy that allows an understanding of the full history of each site as referred to in paragraph 4.g), which is contained in the Summary Record of the session (document WHC-15/39.COM/INF.19).

Burkhan Khaldun is associated with Chinggis Khan, as his reputed burial site and more widely with his establishment of the Mongol Empire in 1206. It is one of four sacred mountains he designated during his lifetime, as part of the official status he gave to the traditions of mountain worship, based on long standing shamanic traditions associated with nomadic peoples. Traditions of mountain worship declined as Buddhism was adopted in the late 15th century and there appears to have been a lack of continuity of traditions and associations. Since the 1990s, the revival of mountain worship has been encouraged and old shamanist rituals are being revived and integrated with Buddhist rituals. State sponsored celebrations now take place at the mountain each summer around rivers and three stone ovoo-s (or rock cairns).

The Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain has few structures other that three major stone ovoo-s alongside paths connected to a pilgrimage route. The cairns were apparently destroyed in the 17th century but have now been re-constructed with timber posts on top. The pilgrimage path starts some 20km from the mountain by a bridge over the Kherlen River at the Threshold Pass where there is also a major ovoo. Pilgrims ride on horseback from there to the large Beliin ovoo made of tree trunks and adorned with blue silk prayer scarves and from thence to the main ovoo of heaven at the summit of the mountain. The sacredness of the mountain is strongly associated with its sense of isolation, and its perceived 'pristine' nature.

The Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape, as a sacred mountain, were at the centre of events that profoundly changed Asia and Europe between the 12th and 14th and centuries and have direct links with Chinggis Khan and his formal recognition of mountain worship.

Criterion (iv): Burkhan Khaldun Sacred Mountain reflects the formalisation of mountain worship by Chinggis Khan, a key factor in his success in unifying the Mongol peoples during the creation of the Mongolian Empire, demonstrating its vital historical significance for Asian and world history.

Criterion (vi): The Burkhan Khaldun Sacred Mountain is directly and tangibly associated with The Secret History of the Mongols, an historical and literary epic recognised as of world importance in its entry in the Memory of the World Register. The Secret History records the links between the mountain and Chinggis Khan, his formal recognition of mountain worship, and the formal status of Burkhan Khaldun as one of four sacred mountains he designated during his lifetime.

Integrity

The site has adequate attributes within its boundaries to reflect the scale and scope of the scared mountain, although the boundary needs to be delineated in relation to natural features. Further work needs to be undertaken on archaeological sites that might strengthen associations with Chinggis Khan or traditions of mountain worship.

Authenticity

All the natural and cultural attributes of the Burkhan Khaldun Mountain display their value. Various parts of the mountain are vulnerable to an increase in tourism which could profoundly change its sense of isolation if not well managed, and to over-grazing that could impact on its 'perceived' pristine nature.

Requirement for Protection and Management

Although the majority of the Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain is situated on the territory of the Khan Kentii Special Protected Area (KK SPA), a small area to the north-west and a much large area to the south lie outside this protected zone. There are plans to include the whole property and its buffer zone in the territory of the KK SPA in 2015. The KK SPA offers legal protection, but this is for natural and environmental protection rather

than cultural heritage protection. The buffer zone is included within the buffer zone of the KK SPA. Currently the property buffer zone has no protection for cultural attributes nor does it have any regulatory procedures related to land-use or new construction.

Since 1990 and the renewal of older Mongolian practices related to sacred mountains, national traditions and customs of nature protection in Mongolia and the laws associated with “Khalkh Juram” have been revived and are now incorporated into State policy. On 16 May 1995, the first President of Mongolia issued a new Decree “Supporting initiatives to revive the tradition of worshiping Bogd Khan Khairkhan, Burkhan Khaldun (Khan Khentii), and Otgontenger Mountains”. The Decree pronounced the State’s support for initiatives to revive Mountain worship as described in the original Mongolian Legal Document and as “set out according to the official Decree”. A further Decree of the President on “Regulation of ceremony of worshipping and offering of state sacred mountains and ovoos” provides legal tools for visitor organization during the large state worshipping ceremonies. Any activity on Burkhan Khaldun Mountain itself, other than worshipping rituals, is traditionally forbidden. The KK reserve staff do however undertake fire-fighting, forest protection, forest clearing and renovation, and address illegal hunting and wood cutting.

At the national level, management of the site is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Green, and of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. At the local level, local authorities at the levels of aimak-s, soum-s and bag-s have responsibility for providing local protection. Although soum administrations have people responsible for environmental protection, there appears not to be any formal arrangement for cultural heritage work. An Administration for the Protection of the World Heritage Property responsible for both natural and cultural protection and conservation of the property is to be established, although no timescale has been provided for this. Traditional protection is supported through the long standing tradition of worshipping nature and sacred places. For example, it is forbidden to disturb earth, waters, trees and all plants, animals and birds in sacred places, or hunt or cut wood for trading.

A draft Management Plan was submitted as part of the nomination dossier. This will run from 2015-2025 and covers both cultural and natural heritage. It includes both long-term (2015-2025), and medium-term (2015-2020) plans. The draft Management Plan has not yet been approved or implemented. Before completion and adoption, more work is needed to augment the Plan to allow it to provide an appropriate framework for management of the property and necessary funding has still to be put in place from stakeholder organisations together with further support from aid and international donor organizations. Archaeological sites on the mountain that may contribute to a wider understanding of mountain worship and have not been formally identified nor are they actively conserved. Both of these aspects should be addressed in the Plan.

Although a management plan exits for the Khan Khentii protected area and this is implemented by the Administration of Khan Khentii Special Protected Area, this is restricted to conservation of the natural environment and it appears that there is currently no active management for its cultural attributes, nor is work guided by specific cultural strategies and policies.

4. Recommends the State Party to:

   a) Put in place legal protection for the property that covers cultural as well as natural attributes;

   b) Clearly define the protection offered by the buffer zone;

   c) Confirm that no mining or extractive industry will be permitted within the property;

   d) Put in place an overall management structure with resources to implement an augmented and approved management plan;

e) Draw up and implement a conservation programme, covering preventative and active measures, based on a wide assessment of need and priorities;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2018**, an report to provide information on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee in its 43rd session in 2019.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Baekje Historic Areas, Republic of Korea**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in the mountainous mid-western region of the Republic of Korea, the remains of three capital cities collectively represent the later period of the Baekje Kingdom as it reached its peak in terms of cultural development involving frequent communication with neighbouring regions. The Baekje lasted 700 years from 18 BCE to 660 CE and was one of the three earliest kingdoms on the Korean peninsula. The Baekje Historic Areas serial property comprises eight archaeological sites dating from 475-660 CE including the Gongsanseong fortress and royal tombs at Songsan-ri related to the Ungjin capital Gongju; the Archaeological Site in Gwanbuk-ri and Busosanseong Fortress, Jeongnimsa Temple Site, royal tombs in Neungsan-ri and Naseong city wall related to the Sabi capital Buyeo; the Archaeological Site in Wanggung-ri and the Mireuksa Temple Site in Iksan related to the secondary Sabi capital. Together these sites testify to the adoption by the Baekje of Chinese principles of city planning, construction technology, arts and religion; their refinement by the Baekje and subsequent distribution to Japan and East Asia.

Criterion (ii): The archaeological sites and architecture of the Baekje Historic Areas exhibit the interchange between the ancient East Asian kingdoms in Korea, China and Japan in the development of construction techniques and the spread of Buddhism.

Criterion (iii): The setting of the capital cities, Buddhist temples and tombs, architectural features and stone pagodas of the Baekje Historic Areas contribute in forming exceptional testimony to the unique culture, religion and artistry of the kingdom of Baekje.

Integrity

The property components together contain all the elements necessary to embody the values of the property as a whole. The component parts are of sufficient scale to present the historic function of the capital cities and their relationship to their settings. Apart from the pumping station in the vicinity of the northern gate of Busosanseong Fortress and the remaining residential accommodation within the Archaeological Site of Gwanbuk-ri, the sites have not been impacted adversely by development or neglect.

Authenticity

Most elements of the eight component parts of the serial property have suffered human intervention including reparation and restoration to different degrees. Materials and techniques used have largely been traditional. The forms of tombs and temples have been retained. The temple sites are now to some extent islands amongst low scale urban development but the settings of the fortresses and tombs largely retain their forested setting in a mountain landscape.

Protection and management requirements

The property components are all designated as Historic Sites under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act 1962 amended 2012; the Special Act on the Preservation and Promotion of Ancient Cities 2004, amended 2013 and under local government Cultural Heritage Protection Ordinances: Chungcheongnam-do 2002 and Jeollabuk-do 1999. The buffer zones are protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act up to 500m from the boundaries of the property components and under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act which limits the height of new buildings to 8 metres.

The property is managed by the Baekje Historic Areas Conservation and Management Foundation with input from central, provincial and local authorities as well as community associations through the Community Council, which in turn co-ordinates three Local Community Councils. The Community Councils set up under the three municipalities of Gongju, Buyeo and Iksan are responsible for conservation and management, utilization and publicity, and coordinating community participation. An overall Conservation and Management Plan for 2015-2019 was developed to integrate all the agencies responsible for the eight components with the aim of ensuring maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value. This is currently being extended to include an overall tourism management strategy for the property as well as a visitor management plan for each component part.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Completing the management system and plans as proposed to include an overall tourism management strategy for the property as well as visitor management plans for each component part directed at retention of Outstanding Universal Value;

   b) Adjusting as proposed the periodicity of monitoring of the conservation status of the murals and internal environmental changes in the tombs.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Singapore Botanical Gardens, Singapore**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

The Singapore Botanic Gardens is situated at the heart of the city of Singapore and demonstrates the evolution of a British tropical colonial botanic garden from a 'Pleasure Garden' in the English Landscape Style, to a colonial Economic Garden with facilities for horticultural and botanical research, to a modern and world-class botanic garden,

scientific institution and place of conservation, recreation and education. The Singapore Botanic Gardens is a well-defined cultural landscape which includes a rich variety of historic landscape features, plantings and buildings that clearly demonstrate the evolution of the Botanic Gardens since its establishment in 1859. Through its well-preserved landscape design and continuity of purpose, the Singapore Botanic Gardens is an outstanding example of a British tropical botanic garden which has also played a key role in advances in scientific knowledge, particularly in the fields of tropical botany and horticulture, including the development of plantation rubber.

Criterion (ii): The Singapore Botanic Gardens has been a centre for plant research in Southeast Asia since the 19th century, contributing significantly to the expansion of plantation rubber in the 20th century, and continues to play a leading role in the exchange of ideas, knowledge and expertise in tropical botany and horticultural sciences. While the Kew Botanic Gardens (United Kingdom) provided the initial seedlings, the Singapore Botanic Gardens provided the conditions for their planting, development and distribution throughout much of Southeast Asia and elsewhere.

Criterion (iv): The Singapore Botanic Gardens is an outstanding example of a British tropical colonial botanic garden, and is notable for its preserved landscape design and continuity of purpose since its inception.

Integrity

The Singapore Botanic Gardens contains all the attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value and fully contains the original lay-out of the Botanic Gardens. A number of specific attributes including historic trees and plantings, garden design, and historic buildings/structures combine to illustrate the significant purposes of the Singapore Botanic Gardens over its history. The integrity of the property could be further strengthened by developing additional policies directed at the replacement and retention of significant plants.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the Singapore Botanic Gardens is demonstrated by the continued use as a botanic garden and as a place of scientific research. The authenticity of material remains in the property is illustrated by the well-researched historic trees and other plantings (including historic plant specimens), historic elements of the designed spatial lay-out, and the historic buildings/structures which are being used for their original purposes or adapted to new uses that are compatible with their values.

Management and Protection Requirements

Most of the Singapore Botanic Gardens is in a National Park, and the other designations include: Conservation Area, Tree Conservation Area and Nature Area (applied to the rainforest area). There are 44 heritage trees within the property, and a number of protected buildings/structures such as houses 1 to 5 of the former Raffles College, Raffles Hall, E.J.H. Corner House, Burkill Hall, Holttum Hall, Ridley Hall, House 6, Garage, Bandstand and Swan Lake Gazebo.

The Singapore Botanic Gardens is protected primarily through the Planning Act of Singapore, which regulates conservation and development and requires permits to be obtained for new development or works. The Singapore Concept Plan guides strategic planning over a 40-50 year period and land use planning in Singapore is carried out by URA, the national land use planning and conservation authority. Land use, zoning and development policies for Singapore are established by a statutory Master Plan (2014) prepared under the Planning Act. The Master Plan is regularly reviewed and there are provisions for specific development control plans that provide guidance on the height and location of new developments as well as conservation principles for conserved buildings and their setting.

Land within the buffer zone is designated as 'Landed Housing Areas' (including 'Good Class Bungalow Areas') with guidelines on the height and building form of residential developments. Under these guidelines, developments within the proposed buffer zone should generally maintain low-rise and low density, although this could be strengthened by ensuring that the 'Landed Housing Zone' is applied to the entire buffer zone.

A Management Plan has been prepared for Singapore Botanic Gardens with the primary aim of ensuring effective protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the attributes of the site's Outstanding Universal Value. The Plan provides the over-arching framework for management of the property.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Strengthening the protection of the buffer zone by applying the 'Landed Housing Zone' to its entirety, or by providing some other appropriate measure that can restrict the height of new constructions;

   b) Strengthening the conservation measures through improvements to the frequency of inspections of the historical buildings;

   c) Developing monitoring indicators for development and tourism in light of the growing impacts from these potential threats;

   d) Ensuring that all new proposals for development are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

   e) Formulating a Living Plant Collections Policy and Plant Acquisition and Replacement Policy.

PROPERTIES DEFERRED OR REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 39 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 8B.27** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Inscribes the **Cultural Landscape of Maymand, Islamic Republic of Iran,** on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (v)**;

4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

Maymand is a small and relatively self-contained south facing valley within the arid chain of Iran's central mountains. The villagers are agro-pastoralists who practice a highly specific three phase regional variation of transhumance that reflects the dry desert environment. During the year, farmers move with their animals to defined settlements, traditionally four, and more recently three, that include fortified cave dwellings for the winter months. In three of these settlements the houses are temporary, while in the fourth, the troglodytic houses are permanent.

Sar-e-Āghol are the settlements on the southern fields used from the end of winter until late spring. The houses come in two different types. Markhāneh are circular houses, semi-underground to shelter them from the wind, with low dry stone wall and a roof covering of wood and thatch of wild thistles. Mashkdān houses are above ground and built with dry stone walls and a conical roof of branches. Some of the buildings for cattle are much more substantial and have barrel vaulted brick or stone roofs.

Sar-e-Bāgh houses are sited near seasonal rivers and used during summer and early autumn. When the weather is hot the structures are light: dry stone walls support a roof structure of vertical and horizontal timbers covered with grass thatch. In inclement weather more substantial houses are constructed with taller stone walls and a conical roof. Cattle are collected in roofless stone enclosures. Around these summer villages are the remains of terraces for growing wheat and barley, and the remains of mostly now ruined water-mills. Pits for boiling and straining grape juice are still in use as are Kel-e-Dūshāb which are used to contain the resulting Dūshāb or syrup of grapes.

The winter troglodytic houses are carved out of the soft rock, in layers of up to five houses in height. Around 400 Kiches or houses have been identified and 123 units are intact. Each house has between one and seven rooms, traditionally used for living, and storage.

In the exceptionally arid climate, traditionally every drop of water needed to be collected from a variety of sources such as rivers, springs and subterranean pools and collected in reservoirs or channelled through underground qanats to be used for animals, orchards and small vegetable plots. The community has a strong bond with the natural environment that is expressed in social practices, cultural ceremonies and religious beliefs.

Criterion (v): The Cultural Landscape of Maymand, a small mainly self-sufficient community within one large valley, reflects a traditional three phase transhumance system with unusual troglodytic winter housing in a dry desert environment. It is a good example of a system that appears to have been once more widespread, and involves the movement of people rather than animals to three defined settlement areas, one of which is cave dwellings.

Integrity

All the components of the landscape reflecting the agro-pastoral system and permanent and seasonal dwellings are within the boundaries. The components are however vulnerable, in relation to the resilience of the transhumance systems. This continues for the present, with a decreasing population. Although the small irrigated fields survive in outline they no longer are used to grow staple crops for self-sufficient families. Improved communications, such as with nearby towns means that people can look after their animals and vegetable plots in different ways than previously. As a result far fewer people are over-wintering in the troglodytic villages than a generation ago and there are far fewer families using the seasonal settlements. Only around 90 out of 400 of the troglodytic dwellings are inhabited during the winter. A few more of them are inhabited only during weekends, when people return from the nearest town to where they have moved. The number of Āghols has reduced in the last few years due to the decreasing numbers of pastoralists. In the property there remain at least 8 Āghols that are still living and used by families who have sufficient cattle to ensure their survival. There are two others that are abandoned. Most of the seasonal buildings are largely re-constructed each season and are therefore a reflection of a traditional practice that has persisted for generations. But this is a practice that is highly vulnerable and could disappear within a generation, if the pastoral way of life is not attractive or sufficiently viable for the younger generation.

Authenticity

There is little doubt of the authenticity of most of the components of the property, in terms of the landscape itself and the traditional practices that interact with it, as reflected in troglodytic houses, seasonal shelters and water structures. Some of the latter have been adapted in recent decades and only two of the qanats survive. The troglodytic structures have undergone extensive restoration over the past ten years.

Authenticity is also vulnerable to a weakening of traditional practices which could lead to a reduction in the size of the community that manages the landscape, to more families only living in the valley during the summer months, and to the impacts of tourism in particular on the troglodytic dwellings.

Protection and management requirements

The troglodyte village is registered in the National Heritage List, and is protected under the Historical Monument's Protection and Conservation Law. It is understood that the whole property will be legally protected upon inscription in line with other inscribed properties in Iran.

The property is also protected by other cultural and natural Iranian laws, such as the Iranian Civil Law that forbids transferring the ownership of public monuments and prohibits private ownership of significant cultural property. The Islamic Penal Law also protects the property, as no restoration, repair, renovation, transfer, or change of functions, etc. of registered monuments can be done without the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization approval. The area is also under regulation concerning natural heritage protecting the natural environment.

Since 2001 the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization has assumed responsibility for the property and a Maymand Cultural Heritage Base has been established, with close links to the Maymand village council and the Maymand village administration office. The local council manages the day-to-day affairs in collaboration with the Maymand Cultural Heritage Base. There are currently adequate local resources for administration

A Management Plan in the initial nomination set out regulations for the property area. For the buffer zone, large scale plans that may include industrial complexes and development projects such as highways, etc. must be agreed by the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organisation.

Details of an augmented plan, arising from a workshop that aimed to encourage sustainable development for the local communities by opening up engagement between them and national and regional agencies, have been provided. This will focus on raising awareness of the legacy that the communities sustain, and put in place a sustainable development framework based on support and encouragement for innovative ways to add value to local produce, as well as some official support such as for dredging qanats and vaccinating livestock. This sustainable development plan has only recently been framed and clearly more work will be needed to translate it into an action plan with an agreed timescale and necessary resources.

Three other plans have also been developed by University Departments. These are: Evaluation of Ecological Capabilities, Agro-Pastoral lifestyle description and comparative study, and Research project on the impact of Water Sources and Farming. In addition a local team is engaged in mapping the activities of the farming year.

In spite of these initiatives and the engagement of the local community in a dialogue on how to sustain the dynamic landscape practices, there is nevertheless still concern that such a small community of some 70 families can form a sustainable and resilient unit that will keep the Maymand agro-pastoral system alive, even if in the future it does not

survive in neighbouring valleys. Authenticity and integrity are thus vulnerable to a weakening of traditional practices.

Sustainable development will undoubtedly need to harness appropriate tourism opportunities. A plan is needed to set out how tourism might be managed in such a way that it supports rather than detracts from local traditions and avoids turning the village into a museum and contributing to the demise of agro-pastoral traditions.

5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Confirming that legal protection has been put in place for the whole property, in line with other inscribed properties in Iran;
   b) Undertaking further work to develop the sustainable development framework and integrate it into the Management Plan through an agreed Action Plan with necessary resources;
   c) Developing and implementing a cultural tourism plan that sets out parameters to ensure that tourism is managed to support rather than subtract from local traditions and agro-pastoral activities, and avoids turning the troglodytic village into a museum;
   d) Making available the outcomes of the specialised reports and research that have been undertaken into the Maymand landscape;
   e) Working closely with other States Parties, especially those in the region, to promote the concept of Desert Cultural Landscapes.

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.19

The nomination of the **Hall in Tirol – The Mint, Austria**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement**, **Denmark,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The 18th century settlement of Christiansfeld in South Jutland is an exceptional example of a Moravian Church planned colony settlement, which reflects the Moravian Church's societal and ethical ideals. Founded in 1773, it was built as a colony of the Moravian Church, a Lutheran free congregation centred in Herrnhut, Saxony. Christiansfeld is one

of many exceptional settlements, and it presents the best-preserved example of a northern European colony settlement constructed around a central Church Square. The town presents an intact and well-preserved collection of buildings, oriented along two tangential east-west streets surrounding the Church Square and integrates a cemetery placed outside of the town. The town reflects the Moravian Church's societal structure, characterised by large communal houses for the congregation's widows and unmarried men and women. The architecture is homogenous and unornamented, with one- and two-storey buildings in yellow brick and with red tile roofs. The proportions, materials, and craftsmanship contribute to the town's special atmosphere of peace and harmony.

Criterion (iii): The Moravian Church settlement of Christiansfeld bears an exceptional testimony to the Brethren's principles, which are expressed in the town's layout, architecture and craftsmanship as well as the fact that numerous buildings are still used for their original functions and the Moravian Church activities and traditions are continued. Its exceptional state of preservation allows Christiansfeld to be recognized as the best preserved and most complete example of a European Moravian Church colony illustrating urban planning principles aimed at reflecting the social and ethical values of this community.

Criterion (iv): Christiansfeld is an outstanding example of a planned idealized Protestant colony, as is illustrated in its town plan, unity and functional distribution, in which the Moravian Church's vision of an urban society could be realized. Like other Moravian settlements, it reflects new ideas introduced in the Age of Enlightenment which anticipated ideas of equality and social community that became a reality for many Europeans only much later. The democratic organisation of the Moravian Church is expressed in its humanistic town planning, illustrated by its open plan, established on agricultural land and representing all important buildings for the common welfare. Christiansfeld possesses all necessary town functions and illustrates its unity through homogenous groups of buildings with shared styles, materials, proportions and a high quality of craftsmanship.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property include the complete original town plan of Christiansfeld and with it all elements that were planned as part of the Moravian Church settlement. A large percentage of the original buildings have been preserved and the town plan remains widely legible. The religious rituals and beliefs of the community, which are the reason for the design of physical spaces, are to a large extent continuously practiced. The visual relations between different parts of the town, including the cemetery and the landscape surrounding it, are still extant. Christiansfeld, due to its excellent state of preservation, illustrates the highest number of characteristic elements found in any European Moravian Church colony settlement and therefore demonstrates integrity. In terms of the overall network of Moravian settlements, further elements could contribute to Christiansfeld's integrity by means of a future serial transnational nomination of Moravian Church Settlements into which Christiansfeld could be integrated.

Authenticity

The structure and characteristics of the original town plan remain largely unaltered. All buildings, especially those of the early Moravian period of 1820, retain their authenticity in material, design, substance, workmanship, and some of them as well in function and use. The continuity of the Moravian Church community contributes to safeguarding authenticity in spirit and feeling as well as atmosphere of the property. Most of the residential units have been modernized in their interiors to be in line with contemporary living standards whilst aiming to retain their authenticity wherever possible. In some cases architectural renovations could have been implemented with more respect for authenticity. At times architects have aimed for modern interiors of a high aesthetic standard and refinery which have unfortunately reduced traces of historic construction

materials and techniques. It is recommended that future modernizations, including of interiors, should pay special attention to the preservation of historic surfaces.

Protection and management requirements

The key historic buildings in Christiansfeld are protected according to the Buildings and Urban Environment Act (Act No. 685 of 9 June 2011). The entire property is protected by Local Planning Act 1311-41 which lays down the rules for the area's use, land development, roads, trails and parking, wiring systems, the development's size and location, the development's outward appearance, etc. World Heritage Sites, according to Danish legislation, are by definition sites of national interest and any approvals granted by the municipality need to be reviewed by the Minister of the Environment. While the protection by planning act seems sufficient and effective at present, planning acts are agreed upon for limited timeframes and may change in the future. Since a national interest has been added with the World Heritage designation, ideally the entire property should be designated as a historic monument at the highest possible level in the national designation system. The Moravian Church has for the past 200 years provided traditional protection to its buildings through their requirements for use.

The management and administration is shared by several partners in a so-called UNESCO Management Group and a Group of Interested Parties. The municipality has allocated funds earmarked for the preservation of Christiansfeld and the Moravian Church has recently established a committee under the Board of Elders for conservation, renovation and maintenance decisions. A senior craftsman employed by the Moravian Church is in charge of the execution of decisions concerned. The State Party has indicated that a risk preparedness and disaster response plan will be developed for the property by 2016.

The management plan predominantly aims at the preservation and protection of Christiansfeld with regards to its town plan, historic architecture and landscape setting. The plan combines a list of specific measures divided into three areas; urban, architectural and cultural, to be undertaken in the forthcoming four years. The current priorities and actions are intended to be implemented up until 2017, when a comprehensive evaluation and revision of the management plan is envisaged. Quality assessment indicators for the evaluation of its implementation are yet to be finalized. The management plan is yet to be officially adopted but the different actions contained in it have been endorsed by either the Kolding Municipality or the Management Group. The Moravian Church community remains very active in upholding its religious and social services. These also form opportunities for involvement in the social and ethical principles that underline the significance of the settlement.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Preserving historic surfaces in restoration and modernization measures and involving the National Agency for Culture in all cases where difficulties arise;

   b) Strengthening the level of legal protection of the complete property as an historic urban district or cultural heritage site;

   c) Augmenting the management plan to provide further details on the planned activities, in particular indicators that will facilitate quality assessment;

   d) Finalizing the proposed risk preparedness and disaster response plan;

   e) Completing the monitoring including specified indicator schemes, a manual and database by November 2016, as indicated by the State Party;

5. Also recommends that the State Party, in cooperation with other States Parties which envisage participation in a larger serial nomination and with the assistance of ICOMOS

in the context of the Upstream Process, develops a concept for a transnational serial nomination and prepares an overall composition of the future potential serial property and its nomination phases and integrate Christiansfeld into such a potential transnational serial property during its initial nomination phase.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand, Denmark**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand series covers the former royal hunting forests of Store Dyrehave and Gribskov, traces of connecting roads between them, and the former royal hunting park of Jægersborg Dyrehave/Jægersborg Hegn. The entire former royal forest landscape covered a much larger area with a number of royal castles. The components have been selected as they encompass a completeness of attributes illustrating the development of the Baroque par force hunting landscape as an emblematic and functional spatial entity. Designed and created intentionally by Man, the par force hunting landscape exemplifies a 17th-18th-century landscape created to perform courtly hunts. Its layout results from the combination of French and German design models based on a central-star grid system, combined with an orthogonal grid subdivision, which optimised its function during the hunt, and makes it emblematic of an absolute European monarch, his role in society, and his reason and power to control nature. The Outstanding Universal Value of the landscape lies in the spatial organisation of the hunting forests, hunting roads, buildings, emblematic markers, numbered stone posts, stone fences, and numerical road names conveying an understanding of the practical application of the design as a means of orientation.

Criterion (ii): The par force hunting landscape in North Zealand exceptionally exemplifies how the interchange of Baroque values in Europe influenced developments in landscape design in the 17th-18th centuries, and particularly bears witness to the influence exerted by French and German designed hunting landscapes. These models were adapted to the specific situation of the Danish terrain and to the Danish kings' aspirations. The series illustrates a development in design that evolved alongside the landscape function during par force hunts also in terms of its increasing symbolic significance.

Criterion (iv): As a landscape of power created by an absolute monarch in the late 17th century, the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand exemplifies a significant stage in European landscape design applied to hunting grounds when the rise of scientific thought took place within the context of absolutist ambitions. The orthogonal geometry conceived for its design improved the octagon or circle-based star network used in French or German examples. In its infinite expandability, the orthogonal grid could give equal access to all parts of the forest; differently from radial examples, its diagonals created more than one star point suitable for the rendez-vous.

Integrity

The series comprising the two hunting forests Store Dyrehave and Gribskov, the six partially preserved road traces between them, and the hunting park of Jægersborg Dyrehave and Jægersborg Hegn exhibits all attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the par force hunting landscape in North Zealand. The preserved forest cover, despite interventions of reforestation, the hunting roads and their mutual situation, the numbered stones, the fences and the emblematic markers altogether give a clear understanding of a spatial plan that focused on nature and developed in line with changes in the practical and emblematic demands of the absolute monarch. Visual and functional integrity of some components has suffered from the effects of development; however the property currently does not suffer from development or neglect and urban pressure in the wider setting is under control. The character of the wider setting facilitates the understanding of the property.

Authenticity

The history of North Zealand as a royal estate, later to become state-owned, is thoroughly documented in sources of high credibility. Historical maps confirm that the forest cover and the road systems realised according to the original spatial plan have survived to a large extent. In Store Dyrehave most secondary rides have disappeared, as has the forest cover, which has been changed due to later reforestation, and parts of the roads connecting Gribskov and Store Dyrehave. All original road dams and the stone fence around Store Dyrehave are authentic, while wooden bridges and fences have been replaced several times. Stone posts in Store Dyrehave reflect their original positions. The king's monogram, crown and initials document the authenticity of Kongestenen, but the mound it was placed on has been disturbed. The series gives a clear sense of the spatial development of the par force hunting landscape. The character of the wider setting contributes to the understanding of the series as the best-preserved elements of a wider historic designed hunting landscape.

Protection and management requirements

The property is almost entirely state- or municipality-owned and is protected by national acts and enactments, regional plans and agreements, and municipal and local plans. Almost all activities are determined by the budget. Responsibility for the forest management rests with the Nature Agency. Fifteen-year management plans also stipulate how this protected cultural heritage should be managed. The Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties manages Eremitageslottet and operates 10-year plans. The municipalities have 4-year municipal plans providing frameworks for local plans and guidelines to protect cultural heritage, including road traces in private ownership. The cooperation and coordination among all **institutions** and bodies with responsibilities in the property and buffer zones ensures the long-term effectiveness of protection and management and is granted by a Steering Committee representing state agencies, municipalities, and museums. As the public's awareness of the cultural heritage of the area, and their desire to return to it time and again, are vital to the successful long-term protection of the par force hunting landscape of North Zealand, the property is well equipped with public facilities, and the dissemination of knowledge should be based on a comprehensive strategy and focussed on the Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Carrying out a survey and recording of the ride system, both those parts remaining and those rediscovered, and other elements and arrangements which bear witness to the hunting landscape formation;

   b) Extending the monitoring system to all management tasks and identifying appropriate indicators;

c) Developing an overall interpretation and presentation programme specifically for the par force hunting landscape;

d) Considering for the future the removal from the southern part of the Store Dyrehave of the infrastructure that currently cuts through the forest, and restoration of the vegetation cover.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **Viking Age Sites in Northern Europe, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Latvia** and **Norway,** to the World Heritage List in order to allow the States Parties to:

   a) Explore further the full scope, scale and nature of Viking Age sea and river migration and trade routes, and the settlements that these routes engendered through:

      (i) Definition of the main parameters of time, space and cultural terms related to the migrations;

      (ii) Mapping of the major migration and trade routes and of the surviving evidence for Viking trade settlements along these routes;

      (iii) Selection of the routes where significant remains survive which illuminate migration and trade and the key facets of influence and cultural exchange;

   b) Define a nomination strategy, that might include one or more series, which could allow key aspects of the Viking Age migrations to be reflected on the World Heritage List, and allow future nominations to be accommodated;

   c) On the basis of this further work, submit a new serial nomination;

3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the sites;

4. Recommends that the States Parties consider inviting ICOMOS to offer advice and guidance in the framework of the Upstream Process.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Climats, terroirs of Burgundy, France**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(v)**:

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

The Burgundy Climats are small and precisely delimited vineyard parcels located on the slopes of the Cotes de Nuits and of Beaune, extending for 50Km south of Dijon up to

Maranges. The property encompasses the elements that made possible the development and differentiation of these parcels in relation to the features and qualities of the wines they produce and comprises two separated components: the first covering a series of small hills articulated into 1247 vineyard parcels – the Climats – each identified by its own name and cadastral data, the associated productive units, the rural villages and the town of Beaune, illustrating through its tangible attributes the commercial dimension of the Burgundy Climats, and the second encompassing the historic core of Dijon, which represents the political regulatory impulse to the formation of the Climats system.

The 1,247 Climats materialise in an outstanding manner the long lasting relationship of the local human communities with their territory and their ability to identify, exploit and distinguish progressively their geological, hydrological, atmospheric and pedological proprieties and associated productive potential since the Middle Ages. The historic construction of the parcels is linked to the foundation of Cluny and Citeaux abbeys the influence of which extended throughout Europe, but also to the Dukes of Burgundy, who acted as owners, managers, stewards, through the regulations they issued, as well as their promoters. The Climats represent an outstanding vineyard production model and a living repository of specific vine- and wine-cultural traditions and technical know-how which has resulted from the century-long human work to produce a minute subdivision of land cadastral units where a great number of localities still clearly recognisable in the landscape through paths, stonewalls, enclosures, meurgers, ... and fixed and regulated in the bylaws for denominations of origin since 1936. the cultural and historical construction of the Climats relates to the development of settlements and villages along the Cotes, the built heritage of which materialises a tangible testimony of this process: life and production places (wineries, cellars, vineyard habitat and villages, cabottes, etc.), places of political and religious power that could be found particularly in Dijon (e.g. Saint Benigne Cathedral, Church of Saint Vivant de Vergy, Saint Bernardine Monastery, Ducal Palace, Ancient Parliament of Bourgogne, Municipal Archives and Library), places associated to the commercialisation of the wines (e.g., houses of commerce and cellars), and places associated to research and education (e.g., the Hotel Pouffier, the oenological station in Beaune, the vine-cultural Lyceum) mainly concentrated in Beaune. These attributes are complemented by intangible manifestations, attesting to the liveliness of the vine – wine culture tradition of the Burgundy Climats (e.g. the wine auction in the Hospices of Beaune, the guild of knights of the taste-wine, the feast of Saint Vincent tournante).

Criterion (iii): The system of the Burgundy Climats, in associating the cadastral vineyard parcels, the villages of the Cotes, the towns of Dijon and Beaune, is a remarkable example of a vineyard historic landscape the authenticity of which has never been questioned throughout the centuries and where viticulture is still lively. The vitality of this activity rests upon the transmission to future generations of experimented practices and the several-century long accumulation of vine farming and wine making know-how. The differentiation of places and wines was made possible by the political and commercial impulse of the towns of Dijon and Beaune which still remain lively centres for the scientific and technical formation, for commerce and institutional representation. This distinction is accompanied by the progressive construction of a body of regulations the completion of which corresponds to the establishment, in the first half of the 20th century of the denominations of origin.

Criterion (v): The Burgundy Climats attest to the historical construction of a viticultural territory, the parcels of which has been precisely delimited, which expresses the cultural fact that a human community has chosen the reference to the place (the climat) and to times (the millesime) as a marker of quality and diversity of a product which results from the conjoined work of the natural potential and the human work. The Climats represent the human interaction with a specific natural environment under the influences of the

urban poles of Dijon and Beaune. The recognition of specific properties of the soil parcels and the progressive establishment of the Climats are materialised through physical delimitations which still survive in enclosures, walls, stone-piles (meurgers), hedgerows, paths, etc. and attest to the specificities of each Climat. The built heritage of the town of Dijon and Beaune bear tangible witness to this viticultural construction: it is formed by edifices of power and representation of the institutions which governed the viticultural territory and are closely linked to the places of production and of life of the viticultural actors. For two thousand years, the human perseverance in alliance with the unique natural conditions have made of this site the exemplary crucible of site- specific vineyards.

Integrity

The property, despite the presence of the highway A6, the urban growth occurred in delimited areas and some changes to the landscape, maintains a satisfactory level of integrity. The cadastral structure has never been substantially affected as the historic studies demonstrate.

The energy and the commitment of the vineyard owners ensures the maintenance of the Climats, as this is their primary interest in relation to the great economic importance of the vineyards, of the parcels themselves and of specific wines therein produced, have also contributed to the containment of the urban sprawl and to maintaining most of the original features of the villages and of the rural landscape as well as the stability of ownership and land-use.

However, the structure of the landscape has undergone some changes, namely the afforestation with conifers of uncultivated plots and the reduction of its fine- grained appearance due to the loss of small elements caused by mechanisation, which require careful monitoring and ad – hoc protection measures which are to a large extent already in place or, where missing, under elaboration and shall cover the entirety of the property according to its specificities.

Authenticity

Living witness of a specific natural environment which has been valorised by a stable human community, the Burgundy Climats' authenticity is materialised in the permanence and liveliness of the millennial vine- and wine culture vocation. The cadastral recording of the vineyard parcels attests to the their size, location and ownership reflecting in a credible manner the complex process of formation of the Climats and the persistence of tradition and ancestral techniques and farming land management. The continuity of the land use and of the minute parcelling is expressed also by the several landscape features that materialise the articulation of the climats (e.g., stonewalls, hedgerows, meurgers, paths, enclosures, etc.) and make evident their distinction and specificity. The phylloxera crisis at the end of the 19th century – in itself a discontinuity which hit all European vine cultivation and wine making – strengthened the resilience and perseverance of the local human communities. The denominations of origin, established in 1936, and the related cahiers de charges contribute to maintain the conditions of authenticity of the property although they need to be accompanied by other ad – hoc measures that are partly in place and partly being developed and that shall cover the entirety of the property. The urban poles of Dijon and Beaune as the living centres for scientific and technical knowledge and education as well as for marketing and institutional representation share in the same authenticity and still bear witness through their built heritage of the role played throughout the centuries in the construction of the Climats.

Protection and management requirements

The protection of the property relies upon different legal instruments, namely the Heritage, the Urban Planning, the Environment, the Rural and Forest Codes. Several zones, areas and monuments are already covered by specific forms of protection (sites classes, sites Natura 2000, monuments historiques, abords des monuments, secteurs sauvegardés, aires de valorisation de l'architecture et du patrimoine) and other ones are being developed and shall cover the entirety of the property to complement and complete the protection provided by the cahiers de charge for the existing denominations of origin, which also act as management tools. The entirety of the property is covered by territorial plans known as Schemas de Coherence Territoriale which provide the overall framework for the municipal master plans and land-use plans: the coordination of their objectives and regulatory tools contributes to territorial management effectiveness also through their sectorial planning instruments. The management framework is completed by the signing of a Territorial Charter by the 53 local decision makers which engages them to cooperate for the value – based governance of the property, which is ensured by the Mission de Climats de Bourgogne. The Mission encompasses a governing body – the territorial conference – and operational body – the permanent technical commission, advised by a scientific committee, and a participation forum of citizens and civil society. The expertise of the commission relies upon the technical competences of the permanent staff of the existing bodies and offices. Financial resources for the functioning of the Mission are allocated by each body, institution and office part of the Mission. The management system is documented in a management plan which identifies priorities and a strategic action plan detailed by specific operational schedules. Altogether these instruments must ensure that the landscape qualities and minute features of the property continue to be respected and enhanced where this is necessary.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Complete the protection through regulatory instruments to the entire property, so that all attributes that materialise the historical development of the Climats be protected;

   b) Finalise the landscape plan and related cahiers des charges for the quarry district within the property and prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment for the plan in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties;

   c) Developing traffic and tourism-specific management strategies to be integrated into the enforced planning framework;

   d) Continuing the process of coordination and harmonisation of goals with the Department of Saône-et-Loire for planning previsions and projects to avoid negative impacts on the attributes of the property;

   e) Sensitizing the relevant territorial authorities to upgrade progressively their planning instruments to ensure the prompt adaptation of urban local plans to SCOT objectives and rational;

   f) Including the notion of bio-cultural diversity according to the CBD – UNESCO declaration within management;

   g) Operationalising the management system so as to manage the property as one entity and as a cultural landscape, paying special attention to the landscape's man-made elements;

   h) Extending the monitoring system to the elements of the landscape mosaic and map these elements at an adequate scale of representation for conservation planning and monitoring;

i) Ensure, in accordance with national legislation and in particular the landscape plan, that the impact studies for the renewal of quarries' concessions shall demonstrate that visual or hydrological impacts related to the operation of the basement do not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd in 2018.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars, France**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

In north-east France, on cool, chalky land, the Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars form a very specific agro-industrial landscape, with the vineyards as the supply basin and villages and urban districts concentrating the production and trading functions. The imperatives of Champagne wine production have resulted in an original, three-pronged organisation, based on functional town planning, prestigious architecture and an underground heritage. This agro-industrial system, which has structured not only the landscape but also the local economy and daily life, is the outcome of a long process of development, technical and social innovations, and industrial and commercial transformations, which speeded up the transition from an artisanal crop to mass production of a product sold around the world. Women and the Franco-German heirs of the old Champagne fairs played a special role in this evolution, which has its roots in Hautvillers, among the hills of Aÿ, the heart of the wine-growing sector. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it then spread to the two nearest towns, to Saint-Nicaise Hill in Reims and to Avenue de Champagne in Épernay, which were entirely built on the wine-growing activity of Champagne. The three ensembles that make up the property embody the Champagne terroir and serve as a living and a working environment and a showcase for traditional know-how. Patronage has also been a source of social innovation, the greatest emblem of which is the Chemin Vert garden city in Reims. This is the place where the benchmark method of producing sparkling wine was born, a method that would spread and be copied across the world from the 19th century up to the present day. Champagne is a product of excellence, renowned as the universal symbol of festiveness, celebration and reconciliation.

Criterion (iii): The Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars are the outcome of expertise perfected over the generations, of exemplary inter-professional organisation and of the protection of the appellation, as well as the development of inter-cultural relations and social innovations over a long period of time, which women also took part in. Through the development of traditional know-how, the people of Champagne have overcome a number of obstacles, both in the vineyards (a harsh climate and rather infertile chalky soils), and in the wine-making process, through their mastery of sparkling wine production techniques, and in assembly and bottling. Champagne enterprise was able to gain from the technological and entrepreneurial contributions of the British and

Germans. The equilibrium between wine-growers and the Champagne Houses led to the development of a pioneering inter-professional structure that is still active today.

Criterion (iv): As the legacy of wine-growing and wine-making practices perfected over the centuries, production in Champagne is founded on its supply basin (the vineyards), its processing sites (the vendangeoirs, where grapes are pressed, and the cellars) and its sales and distribution centres (the headquarters of the Houses). They are functionally intertwined and intrinsically linked to the chalky substratum where the vines grow, which is easy to hollow out and which is also found in the architecture. The production process specific to Champagne, based on secondary fermentation in the bottle, required a vast network of cellars. In Reims, the use of the former Gallo-Roman and medieval chalk quarries, and the digging of suitable cellars in Épernay or on the hillsides, led to the formation of an exceptional underground landscape – the hidden side of Champagne. As Champagne has been exported around the world since the 18th century, trade development resulted in a special kind of town planning, which integrated functional and showcasing goals: new districts were built around production and sale centres, linked to the vineyards and to transport routes.

Criterion (vi): The Champagne, Hillsides, Houses and Cellars, and particularly the Saint-Nicaise Hill, with its monumental quarry-cellars and its early Champagne Houses, and the Avenue of Champagne, with the showcasing spaces of the commerce houses, convey in an outstanding manner the unique and world-renowned image of Champagne as a symbol of the French art of living, of festiveness and celebration, of reconciliation and victory (particularly in sport). Literature, painting, caricatures, posters, music, cinema, photography and even comics all testify to the influence and the constancy of this unique wine's image.

Integrity

The property includes the most representative and best preserved elements, testifying to the birth, production and spread of Champagne, through symbiotic functional and territorial organisation. The entire property has recovered from wars, the phylloxera crisis and the wine-growers' revolts. The hillside villages, limited by the topography and high value of the vineyards, remain well preserved within their original limits. Landscape and plots have changed very little and the built heritage is still in good condition. Although it was bombarded during the First World War, Saint-Nicaise Hill was restored and has maintained its function. The chalk quarries are still used in Champagne production and the network of cellars is well preserved and still perfectly operational. Long-term safeguarding of the visual integrity of the property requires monitoring of large energy installations; whilst functional integrity may benefit from a program to restore bio-diversity, which may also contribute to Champagne specificity.

Authenticity

Extensive archival, written and iconographic documentation attests to the history and development of the Champagne story in the area, and to the minor changes to the visual qualities of the landscape. As was the case across the whole of Europe, phylloxera decimated the vines: the replanting of grafted, trellised vines, to replace ungrafted, bulk vines, did not lead to much visible change, although it does bear witness to this major crisis in wine-growing history. The hillsides of Hautvillers, Aÿ and Mareuil sur-Aÿ have exported their wine continuously for at least four centuries and testify to the vine-growing monoculture based on the oldest form of external trade in Champagne. The Champagne Houses have ensured the safeguarding of their architectural heritage, including the original decor and furniture, to a large extent, and they are still used for activities related to the Champagne enterprise.

Protection and management requirements

The property benefits from a comprehensive protection scheme, applying the tools provided by regulations, contracts, land management and heritage-listing, and backed by French and European legislation.

Other tools strengthen this scheme ; for example, designated Aires de mise en Valeur de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine (AVAP) areas, or zones protected as secteur sauvegardé. The boundaries of the official Champagne appellation, comprising over 300 towns and villages, has been defined as a "commitment zone" within the management system. Here, the local communities, the wine growing profession and other stakeholders undertake, on a voluntary basis, to conserve and enhance their landscape and heritage. This commitment zone constitutes the setting and surroundings of the property, and is also a coherent historical and geographical ensemble, embodied by the property and without which its value cannot be understood. It allows for the implementation of extended management and ensures actions taken to enhance the landscape, heritage and the environmental are consistent with one another. To ensure effective conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value, a management structure has been set up, bringing together public and private stakeholders, project managers and representative bodies. The management plan for the Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars is a tool for regional development as well as for protection. It incorporates the overall framework associated with the history of the property and its territory as it is both conceived and experienced.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Providing an updated calendar for the finalisation of the protection designations currently being established;

   b) Developing an Heritage Impact Assessment for the wind farm projects of Pocancy-Champigneul;

   c) Undertaking a comprehensive study on the structural behaviour of the quarries in the Saint-Nicaise Hill with a view to defining specific protection/ preservation measures, including an appropriate buffer zone related to their specificity, an adequate and effective structural conservation strategy, and appropriate interventions;

   d) Selecting the most relevant indicators for the assessment of the state of conservation in relation to the state of conservation of the property and of its value, and define an appropriate periodicity of measurement for each of them;

   e) Establishing and implementing measures to protect or to restore the biodiversity of the landscape;

   f) Submitting all new projects located within the Mercier House estate at the south of the Place de la République to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016** a progress report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2017** a final report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes **Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus**, **Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Speicherstadt and the adjacent Kontorhaus district are two densely built central urban areas in the German port city of Hamburg. Speicherstadt, originally developed on a 1.1-km-long group of narrow islands in the Elbe River between 1885 and 1927 (and partly rebuilt from 1949 to 1967), is one of the largest unified historic port warehouse complexes in the world. The adjacent Kontorhaus district is a cohesive, densely built area featuring eight mainly very large office complexes that were built from the 1920s to the 1950s to house businesses engaged in port-related activities. Together, these neighbouring districts represent an outstanding example of a combined warehouse-office district associated with a port city. Speicherstadt, the "city of warehouses," includes 15 very large warehouse blocks that are inventively historicist in appearance but advanced in their technical installations and equipment, as well as six ancillary buildings and a connecting network of streets, canals and bridges. Anchored by the iconic Chilehaus, the Kontorhaus district's massive office buildings stand out for their early Modernist brick-clad architecture and their unity of function. The Chilehaus, Messberghof, Sprinkenhof, Mohlenhof, Montanhof, former Post Office Building at Niedernstrasse 10, Kontorhaus Burchardstrasse 19-21 and Miramar-Haus attest to architectural and city-planning concepts that were emerging in the early 20th century. The effects engendered by the rapid growth of international trade at the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century are illustrated by the outstanding examples of buildings and ensembles that are found in these two functionally complementary districts.

Criterion (iv): Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus District with Chilehaus contains outstanding examples of the types of buildings and ensembles that epitomize the consequences of the rapid growth in international trade in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their high-quality designs and functional construction, in the guise of historicism and Modernism, respectively, make this an exceptional ensemble of maritime warehouses and Modernist office buildings.

Integrity

Speicherstadt and the Kontorhaus district contain all the elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including the buildings, spaces, structures, and waterways that epitomize the consequences of the rapid growth in international trade in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and that illustrate the property's high-quality designs and functional construction. The 26.08-ha property is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance, and it does not suffer from adverse effects of development or neglect.

Authenticity

Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus district is substantially authentic in its location and setting, its forms and designs, and its materials and substances. The maritime location is unchanged, though considerable changes have been made to the adjacent urban

setting. Speicherstadt was significantly damaged during the Second World War, but this has not reduced the ability to understand the value of the property. The forms and designs of the property as a whole, as well as its materials and substances, have largely been maintained. The function of the Kontorhaus district has also been maintained. The links between the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its attributes are therefore truthfully expressed, and the attributes fully convey the value of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The property, which is owned by a combination of public and private interests, is within an area listed in the Hamburg Conservation Registry. Speicherstadt was listed under the Hamburg Heritage Protection Act in 1991 and the Kontorhaus district was listed under the Act in 1983 and 2003. The Act, by means of a 2012 amendment, includes a duty to comply with the *World Heritage Convention*. The competent authority for compliance with the Act is the Department for Heritage Preservation at the Regional Ministry of Culture in Hamburg, which is advised by a Heritage Council of experts, citizens, and institutions. A Management Plan aimed at safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property, and protecting its buffer zone, entered into force in 2013.

The long-term and sustainable safeguarding of Speicherstadt and the Kontorhaus district will require preserving the historic buildings, the characteristic overall impact of the Speicherstadt and Kontorhaus ensembles, and their typical appearance within the townscape; maintaining or improving the quality of life of the residents of Hamburg by safeguarding a unique testimony to Hamburg's cultural and historical development, which played a key role in establishing its identity; and raising awareness and disseminating information.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Extending in the future the boundaries of the buffer zone in the Cremon-Insel area to become an integral component of the State Party's commitment to ensure the protection, conservation, and management of the property, and to be officially included in the property's overall management system;

   b) Expanding the management system to include risk preparedness and visitor/tourism plans that ensure the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity are sustained;

   c) Revising the key indicators of the state of conservation to better relate to the attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value, and developing and implementing a monitoring system to determine whether the goals set are being achieved;

   d) Carrying out heritage impact assessments in Speicherstadt before any alterations are approved and implemented, in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **The Naumburg Cathedral and the Landscape of the Rivers Saale and Unstrut – Territories of Power in the High Middle Ages, Germany**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party to:

a) further explore the relationship between the Naumburg Cathedral and the surrounding landscape;

b) strengthen the representativeness of the territorial and urban organization for the period of the High Middle Ages and the significance of the related monuments;

c) redefine the boundaries of the site taking into account the concerns put forward by ICOMOS so as to ensure adequate protection;

d) submit – on the basis of the above-mentioned recommendations – a significantly revised nomination, which will require an expert mission to the site;

3. Suggests that the State Party consider inviting ICOMOS to offer advice and guidance.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes the **Necropolis of Bet She'arim: A Landmark of Jewish Renewal**, **Israel**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Hewed into the limestone slopes of hills bordering the Vale of Jezre'el, a series of man-made catacombs was developed from the 2nd century AD as the necropolis of Bet She'arim. It became the primary Jewish burial place outside Jerusalem following the failure of the second Jewish revolt against Roman rule and the catacombs are a treasury of eclectic art works and inscriptions in Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew and Palmyrene. Bet She'arim is associated with Rabbi Judah the Patriarch, the spiritual and political leader of the Jewish people who composed the Mishna and is credited with Jewish renewal after 135 AD.

Criterion (ii): The catacombs of Bet She'arim show the influence of classical Roman art including human images, inscriptions and decorative details and include iconographic motifs and multi-language inscriptions testifying to cross-cultural interaction with the Greco-Roman artistic cultural world of Europe, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia and the Jewish cultural world. The assimilation of burial types and artistic expression together with inscriptions indicating the origins of those buried in the cemetery testify to the wide dispersal of the Jewish people at that time and the incorporation into Jewish religious culture of influences from the surrounding populations.

Criterion (iii): The necropolis of Bet She'arim constitutes exceptional testimony to ancient Judaism in its period of revival and survival under the leadership of Rabbi Judah the Patriarch. The extensive catacombs containing artwork showing classical and oriental influences illustrate the resilient Jewish culture that flourished here in the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Integrity

The property includes all elements necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey its significance. The property does not suffer from adverse effects of development or neglect.

Authenticity

The catacombs themselves, preserved in-situ, retain authenticity in terms of location, setting, form and materials. In terms of use and function, the catacombs had ceased to be used for burial purposes by the 6th century, were abandoned and subsequently neglected. Today they are preserved as part of a national park with some open to the public.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected as an Antiquities Site under the Antiquities Law 1978. No changes can be made without the approval of the Israel Antiquity Authority (IAA). The property and buffer zone are already protected under the National Parks, Nature Reserves, Heritage and National Sites Law, 1998. Paragraph 25 of the Law prohibits any activity, which could in the opinion of the Authority, hinder the designation of the area; it empowers the INPA to take steps against violations of that Law. The northern part of the property and the buffer zone within the jurisdiction of Qiryat Tiv'on Local Council is approved as a national park according to the statutory plan and will shortly be declared officially as a National Park. The southern part within the jurisdiction of Emek Yizreal Regional Council is currently designated as "approved national park at detailed planning" and will be officially declared as a National Park as soon as possible. Meanwhile the buffer zone is protected by Land Use statutory plans while the property and buffer zone are further protected and managed by the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (INPA) by virtue of the National Parks, Nature Reserves, Heritage and National Sites Law, 1998.A World Heritage Forum within INPA headed by INPA director general and the director of the Archaeology and Heritage department includes directors of the various divisions of INPA, directors of district offices of INPA and of nature reserves and national parks containing World Heritage sites. This Forum convenes every six months to discuss issues pertaining to these sites.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Completing the legislative protection of the property and buffer zone by declaring them officially as a National Park as soon as possible;

   b) Undertaking geophysical investigations of the site and buffer zone;

   c) Improving mapping to show underground features in relation to the property boundary;

   d) Assessing seismic risk;

   e) Extending the management plan to include a risk preparedness strategy and implementation of treatment for insect infestation;

5. Requests the State Party to submit by **1 December 2016**, a report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes **Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalú and Monreale**, **Italy**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located on the northern coast of the Italian island of Sicily, Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalú and Monreale is a series of nine religious and civic structures dating from the era of the Norman kingdom of Sicily (1130-1194). Two palaces, three churches, a cathedral, and a bridge are in Palermo, the capital of the kingdom, and two cathedrals are in the municipalities of Monreale and Cefalù. Collectively, they are an outstanding example of a socio-cultural syncretism between Western, Islamic, and Byzantine cultures. This interchange gave rise to an architectural and artistic expression based on novel concepts of space, structure, and decoration that spread widely throughout the Mediterranean region.

The monuments that comprise this 6.235-ha serial property include the Royal Palace and Palatine Chapel; Zisa Palace; Palermo Cathedral; Monreale Cathedral; Cefalù Cathedral; Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti; Church of Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio; Church of San Cataldo; and Admiral's Bridge. Each illustrates important aspects of the multicultural Western-Islamic-Byzantine syncretism that characterized the Norman kingdom of Sicily during the 12th century. The innovative re-elaboration of architectural forms, structures, and materials and their artistic, decorative, and iconographic treatments – most conspicuously the rich and extensive tesserae mosaics, pavements in opus sectile, marquetry, sculptural elements, paintings, and fittings – celebrate the fruitful coexistence of people of different origins.

Criterion (ii): Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale bears witness to a particular political and cultural condition characterized by the fruitful coexistence of people of different origins (Muslim, Byzantine, Latin, Jewish, Lombard, and French). This interchange generated a conscious and unique combination of elements derived from the architectural and artistic techniques of Byzantine, Islamic, and Western traditions. This new style contributed to the developments in the architecture of the Tyrrhenian side of southern Italy and spread widely throughout the medieval Mediterranean region.

Criterion (iv): Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale is an outstanding example of stylistic synthesis that created new spatial, constructive, and decorative concepts through the innovative and coherent re-elaboration of elements from different cultures.

Integrity

The serial property includes all the elements necessary to express its proposed Outstanding Universal Value, including religious, civic, and engineering works, and is therefore of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance. The property does not suffer unduly from adverse effects of development or neglect.

Authenticity

The cultural value of the property and of its individual components is truthfully and credibly expressed through attributes such as their locations and settings, forms and designs, materials and substances, and uses and functions. The authenticity of the mosaics in particular has been confirmed by experts in the field of Byzantine mosaics.

Protection and management requirements

The nine components of the serial property are under the ownership of various governmental and religious bodies. They have been given the highest level of protection established by national legislation under the 2004 Italian Code of the Cultural and Landscape Heritage. In addition, the Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, Church of

Santa Maria dell'Ammiraglio (Church of the Martorana), and Monreale Cathedral have been designated individually as National Monuments. The Level I and Level II buffer zones are protected by virtue of the regulations and planning directions in the territory's current planning tools.

A management system and Management Plan for the serial property as a whole have been laid out in a Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum establishes a Steering Committee comprised of representatives of the owners, managers, and institutions that are responsible for the nine components. This Committee will specify the activities to be carried out annually, and the Sicilian UNESCO Heritage Foundation will implement the Committee's decisions. The Management Plan includes a description of the serial property and its components; the system of protection, planning, and control for the property, buffer zones, and setting; existing planning at the civic and regional levels; the management system; the territorial context; and action plans.

Long-term challenges for the protection and management of the property include eliminating or mitigating the consequences of human actions (vandalism, theft, fire); degenerative phenomena provoked by the pressures of mass tourism, including cruise ships; environmental disasters (earthquakes, landslides, floods, pollution), particularly for monuments subject to seismic risk; and socio-economic decay of the historic urban centres. These potential vulnerabilities and threats to the property's Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity must be fully addressed by the Management Plan and management structure.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Implementing the proposed monitoring system at the earliest opportunity;
   b) Proceeding to a new translation of the nomination dossier to be kept in the archives as a reference for new nominations or comparative studies.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes **Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site**, **Norway**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in a dramatic landscape of mountains, waterfalls and river valleys, the Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site comprises a cluster of pioneering hydro-electric power plants, transmission lines, factories, transport systems and towns. The complex was established by the Norsk-Hydro company which brought together results of science and research from Europe and North America to produce hydroelectricity and manufacture artificial fertilizer from nitrogen in the air in response to the Western world's demand for increased agricultural production in the early 20th century. Rjukan and Notodden company towns incorporated social innovations in workforce provision influenced by international planning ideas which together with innovative transport solutions enabled supply of a new, globally significant product for the world-wide market.

Criterion (ii): Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site manifests an exceptional combination of industrial themes and assets tied to the landscape, which exhibit an important exchange on technological development in the early 20th century.

Criterion (iv): The technological ensemble of Rjukan-Notodden comprising dams, tunnels, pipes, power plants, power lines, factory areas and equipment, the company towns, railway lines and ferry service, located in a landscape where the natural topography enabled hydroelectricity to be generated in the necessary large amounts stands out as an example of new global industry in the early 20th century.

Integrity

In general all important remaining physical structures and objects that are testimony to the industrial pioneering period of the production of artificial fertilizer for agriculture in Norway in the early 20th century are within the boundaries of the area which is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. The physical fabric of the property and its significant features are generally in a good condition. The property is not suffering from adverse effects and neglect.

Authenticity

The property incorporates buildings, structures and remains which convey credibly and truthfully its Outstanding Universal Value as a pioneering industrial enterprise for the production of artificial fertilizer in the early 20th century.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected under the Cultural Heritage Act 1978, amended 2009 and the Planning & Building Act 2009, amended 2012. All specified items will be protected by the Cultural Heritage Act or specific heritage provisions of the Planning & Building Act by June 2015. The buffer zone is protected under the Cultural Heritage Act and zoning controls pursuant to the Planning & Building Act.

A 'Declaration of Intent' has been signed by the State Party and relevant county council and municipalities undertaking to protect the Outstanding Universal Value and the buffer zone. A provisional World Heritage Council comprising representatives from the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, the county authority, municipalities and the Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum has been set up to deliver a management structure for the property. A World Heritage Coordinator with responsibility for the whole area will be appointed. The Management Plan 2014-2019 includes an Action Plan with goals and actions for conservation, strengthening of Outstanding Universal Value, competence building and research, information & presentation, and visitor management and will include a risk preparedness strategy.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Extending the Management Plan to include a risk preparedness strategy as proposed;

   b) Refining the Monitoring System to relate to the inventory/database.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.30

The nomination of **The Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, Romania**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of the **La Rioja and Rioja Alavesa Wine and Vineyard Cultural Landscape, Spain,** to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to deepen the study of the nominated property to bring into focus the areas of potential significance of the property in relation to its attributes and, if such a study suggests that a robust case could be made to justify the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, then reconsider the scope of the nomination in relation to the specificities of other vineyard cultural landscapes inscribed, or not, on the World Heritage List;

3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes **Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape**, **Turkey**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief Synthesis

The Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is located on an escarpment in the Upper Tigris River Basin. The fortified city with its associated landscape has been an important centre and regional capital during the Hellenistic, Roman, Sassanid and Byzantine periods, through the Islamic and Ottoman periods to the present. The property includes the impressive Diyarbakır City Walls of 5800 metres – with its many towers, gates, buttresses and 63 inscriptions from different historical periods; and the fertile Hevsel Gardens that link the city with the Tigris River and supplied the city with food and water. The City Walls, and the evidence of their damage, repair and reinforcement since the Roman period, present a powerful physical and visual testimony of the many periods of the region's history. The attributes of this property include Amid Mound (also known as the İçkale or Inner Castle), Diyarbakır City Walls (known as the Dişkale or Outer Castle), including its towers, gates and inscriptions, the Hevsel Gardens, the Tigris River and Valley, and the Ten-Eyed Bridge. The ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property.

Criterion (iv): The rare and impressive Diyarbakir Fortress and the associated Hevsel Gardens, illustrate a number of significant historical periods within this region from the Roman period until the present through its extensive masonry city walls and gates (including many repairs and additions), inscriptions, gardens/fields and the landscape setting in relation to the Tigris River.

Integrity

The boundary of the property encloses all the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value, including the importance of the landscape setting of the fortress and the proximity to the Tigris River. The City Walls demonstrate many periods of damage, repair and additions. While a section of the City Walls was demolished in 1930, and there are some examples of poorly planned, executed and documented conservation work completed within the past half century, the Walls are otherwise intact and generally in a good state of conservation. The state of conservation of the Hevsel Gardens is adequate, but vulnerable due to unauthorized settlements and businesses that have been established at the base of the citadel, and by blocked drains, water quality issues, and by dams on the Tigris River that divert water upstream. An adequate buffer zone has been delineated. Overall, the integrity of the property is considered to be vulnerable due to development pressures in the city centre and in areas surrounding the property and its buffer zones.

Authenticity

Although the functions of the Fortress and gardens have changed over time, it has survived for many centuries and still clearly encircles the innermost core of the historic city. It is still possible to read the importance of these walls, and to recognise their materials, form and design. A substantial part of the 5.8km-long ring consisting of bastion walls, gates and towers of the old city remain, and meet the requirements for authenticity. The Hevsel Gardens have also maintained their historical and functional links to the city. While the authenticity of the attributes of the property is clear, the documentation of restoration work needs to be improved to continue to demonstrate the authenticity of restored sections.

Protection and Management Requirements

The Fortress walls and towers are protected through designation as an “Urban Site” in accordance with the decision of Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation and the Law No. 2863 on Code of Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties. The Amida Mound in the Inner Castle is designated as a “1st degree Archaeological Site”, requiring permission from the Diyarbakır Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation before any new construction or physical intervention. Special provisions for the historical City Walls, towers and wall gates are provided in the Suriçi Urban Site Conservation Plan; and permission from the responsible municipality is required before any new constructions or physical interventions occur in the settlements outside of the City Walls and in Hevsel Gardens. All archaeological studies and excavations in these areas are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakır Museum Directorate. The Law No. 2872 of Environmental Law controls and administers the agricultural activities in the Tigris Valley and Hevsel Gardens. Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs Diyarbakır Provincial Directorate and State Hydraulic Works are also the responsible institutions. Moreover, the Soil Conservation Board, which is included in decisions about Hevsel Gardens and Tigris Valley, conducts its works in accordance with the “Application Regulations on Soil Conservation and Land Use Law”.

In relation to the buffer zone, protection is provided through permit mechanisms administered by the Diyarbakır Regional Board of Cultural Heritage Conservation before any new construction or physical intervention for registered assets in Historical Suriçi District. All archaeological studies or excavations carried out in Buffer Zone are monitored and controlled by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Diyarbakır Museum Directorate. Within the buffer zones, legal permission is required from the responsible municipality before any new constructions and/or physical interventions are carried out. These should be given in accordance with the provisions of Conservation Plan in Suriçi District, although the town planning regulations are advisory provisions for private

owners, and the coordination with the management of the proposed World Heritage property is not evident.

Legal protection is in place for the key attributes of the property, although the coordination of these provisions could be improved, and the protection of the buffer zone could be strengthened.

Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape is divided into two major management components, namely, the Diyarbakır Fortress and the Hevsel Gardens. In order to develop suitable policies for these, seven implementation zones have been established – three of these concern the Diyarbakır Fortress, and the remaining four zones are associated with the Hevsel Gardens. The Buffer Zone inside the city walls (Suriçi) has three planning zones based on conservation issues, and the ability to directly affect the condition/views to the City Walls. The Buffer Zone encircling the property is divided into nine zones based on the area's social and economic functions.

Most of the proposed management structures are yet to be implemented. The property will be managed by Management Directorate that is led by a site manager, appointed by the Municipality. Supervision of the implementation of the Management Plan will be done by the Supervision Unit. The Site Manager will be supported by the Advisory Board and the Coordination and Supervision Board. The Advisory Board will be charged with reviewing the plan and making suggestions on the revision of the mid-term strategy and revision of the Management Plan every 5 years. The Coordination and Supervision Board has the authority to make decisions about site management and is responsible for the implementation of the Management Plan in relation to Regulations established in 2005 in accordance with the Protection of Cultural and Natural Properties Law. The Coordination and Supervision Board is supported by the Education Board – responsible for training of personnel; and the Science Board – responsible for all scientific activities arising from the Management Plan.

The management system is not yet fully operating, and a complex range of organisations are involved. As a result, the overall functioning of the management systems is complex and might need further improvement to clarify responsibilities. The Management Plan for the property consists of 6 themes that focus on restructuring economic activities, conservation processes (for tangible and intangible heritage), planning activities, administrative improvements and risk management. The management of the buffer zones (particularly in relation to the Suriçi District) is not yet well coordinated with the management of the property.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Strengthening the legal protection of the buffer zone, through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in Suriçi District to protect the urban fabric and strengthening mechanisms for consideration of heritage impacts in development approvals processes;

   b) Reinforcing the coordination of the legal protection for the property and the two buffer zones;

   c) Fully implementing the proposed management system, including the management structures and advisory mechanisms and provisions for community involvement;

   d) Improving the presentation of the property;

   e) Improving the scientific basis and procedures for planning the restoration and maintenance of the City Walls, including documentation of the walls and the work undertaken;

   f) Improving the management of vegetation and water drainage near the walls, taking care to record archaeological evidence in these areas when new works occur;

g) Further improving the study and documentation of the Hevsel Gardens, and the agricultural and water management systems that support the continuing use and significance of the property;

h) Improving the monitoring indicators;

i) Conducting a detailed Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties for future development projects to allow the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to be recognised at an early stage; and submitting all proposals for development projects to the World Heritage Committee for examination, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2017**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes **The Forth Bridge, United Kingdom**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Forth Bridge, which spans the estuary (Firth) of the River Forth in eastern Scotland to link Fife to Edinburgh by railway, was the world's earliest great multispan cantilever bridge, and at 2,529 m remains one of the longest. It opened in 1890 and continues to operate as an important passenger and freight rail bridge. This enormous structure, with its distinctive industrial aesthetic and striking red colour, was conceived and built using advanced civil engineering design principles and construction methods. Innovative in design, materials, and scale, the Forth Bridge is an extraordinary and impressive milestone in bridge design and construction during the period when railways came to dominate long-distance land travel.

This large-scale engineering work's appearance is the result of a forthright, unadorned display of its structural elements. It is comprised of about 54,000 tons of mild steel plate rolled and riveted into 4m diameter tubes used in compression, and lighter steel spans used in tension. The use of mild steel, a relatively new material in the 1880s, on such a large-scale project was innovative, and helped to bolster its reputation. The superstructure of the bridge takes the form of three double-cantilever towers rising 110 m above their granite pier foundations, with cantilever arms to each side. The cantilever arms each project 207 m from the towers and are linked together by two suspended spans, each 107 m long. The resulting 521-m spans formed by the three towers were individually the longest in the world for 28 years, and remain collectively the longest in a multi-span cantilever bridge. The Forth Bridge is the culmination of its typology, scarcely repeated but widely admired as an engineering wonder of the world.

Criterion (i): The Forth Bridge is a masterpiece of creative genius because of its distinctive industrial aesthetic, which is the result of a forthright, unadorned display of its massive, functional structural elements.

Criterion (iv): The Forth Bridge is an extraordinary and impressive milestone in the evolution of bridge design and construction during the period when railways came to dominate long-distance land travel, innovative in its concept, its use of mild steel, and its enormous scale.

Integrity

The property contains all the elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of The Forth Bridge, including granite piers and steel superstructure. The 7.5-ha property is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance, and it does not suffer from adverse effects of development or neglect.

Authenticity

The Forth Bridge is fully authentic in form and design, which are virtually unaltered; materials and substance, which have undergone only minimal changes; and use and function, which have continued as originally intended. The links between the Outstanding Universal Value of the bridge and its attributes are therefore truthfully expressed, and the attributes fully convey the value of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The Forth Bridge is listed at Category 'A' as a building of special architectural or historic interest, giving the property the highest level of statutory protection. Its immediate surroundings are also protected by means of a suite of cultural and natural heritage designations. Owned by Network Rail Limited, the property will be managed in accordance with a Property Management Plan by the bodies that have a statutory planning function. The Forth Bridges Forum partnership has been established to ensure that local stakeholders' interests remain at the core of the management of the Forth bridges.

Specific long-term expectations related to key issues include maintenance of strong community support, broadening understanding in the context of world bridges, attention to developments within key views, risk management, and inspiring others.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Creating key indicators that are more specific and relate more directly to the attributes that convey potential Outstanding Universal Value;

   b) Extending the Property Management Plan to include an interpretation and tourism plan;

   c) Submitting plans for any proposed visitor centre at the earliest possibility to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2016**, a report on the selection of key viewsheds and views of the bridge for inclusion in the appropriate planning instruments and management plan, along with an analysis of their effectiveness in ensuring the protection of these key viewsheds and views, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Inscribes the **San Antonio Missions, United States of America**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The San Antonio Missions are a group of five frontier mission complexes situated along a 12.4-kilometer (7.7-mile) stretch of the San Antonio River basin in southern Texas. The complexes were built in the early eighteenth century and as a group they illustrate the Spanish Crown's efforts to colonize, evangelize and defend the northern frontier of New Spain. In addition to evangelizing the area's indigenous population into converts loyal to the Catholic Church, the missions also included all the components required to establish self-sustaining, socio-economic communities loyal to the Spanish Crown.

The missions' physical remains comprise a range of architectural and archaeological structures including farmlands (labores), cattle grounds (ranchos), residences, churches, granaries, workshops, kilns, wells, perimeter walls and water distribution systems. These can be seen as a demonstration of the exceptionally inventive interchange that occurred between indigenous peoples, missionaries, and colonizers that contributed to a fundamental and permanent change in the cultures and values of all involved, but most dramatically in those of the Coahuiltecans and other indigenous hunter-gatherers who, in a matter of one generation, became successful settled agriculturists. The enclosed layout of each mission complex and their proximity to each other, the widespread sharing of knowledge and skills among their inhabitants, and the early adoption of a common language and religion resulted in a people and culture with an identity neither wholly indigenous nor wholly Spanish that has proven exceptionally persistent and pervasive.

Criterion (ii): The San Antonio Missions are an example of the interweaving of the cultures of the Spanish and the Coahuiltecan and other indigenous peoples, illustrated in a variety of elements, including the integration of the indigenous settlements towards the central plaza, the decorative elements of the churches which combine Catholic symbols with indigenous natural designs, and the post-secularization evidence which remains in several of the missions and illustrates the loyalty to the shared values beyond missionary rule. The substantial remains of the water distribution systems are yet another expression of this interchange between indigenous peoples, missionaries, and colonizers that contributed to a fundamental and permanent change in the cultures and values of those involved.

Integrity

The five missions were selected based on their geographical and functional relationship in the San Antonio River Basin. Although founded independently, the missions are located at a distance of less than five kilometres from each other and shared a common approach to defence against attacks. The missions as a group, and not individually, combine all functional elements needed to understand their purpose and role in colonization, evangelization and eventual secularization. The property is of sufficient size to adequately ensure the representation of the Outstanding Universal Value. Several serial components are affected by development pressures and past changes to their setting have had negative impacts on integrity. Especially in Mission Valero (the Alamo)

considerable urban development in downtown San Antonio has obscured the visual connection to the river setting. However, development threats are reduced by urban planning restrictions and the property is free of immediate threats at present.

Authenticity

The missions have evolved over time and not all remains which characterize the missions today date back to the time before secularization. Especially in the 19th century, structures were added to the complexes and these were even extended or modernized in the 20th century. However, the stratigraphy of the different consecutive additions is clearly legible in most sites and early physical remains can be easily identified. The churches with the exception of Mission San José retain authenticity of material, design and workmanship in relation to their original construction. Four of the serial components have retained some authenticity in use and function as their church complexes are still used for church services. Missions Espada, San Juan and the Rancho de las Cabras illustrate a very high degree of authenticity in setting. Mission Valero is the only serial component in which authenticity is limited in a number of aspects. However, it contributes an important element to the series as the foundation of the San Antonio Missions, the first one to be created by the Franciscan Order and the first enclave that acted as a pole of attraction to the rest

Protection and management requirements

The Missions of San Antonio are protected by federal laws and designations, Texas State laws and designations, City of San Antonio ordinances, and cooperative agreements, easements, and deed restrictions. Mission Valero (the Alamo), Mission Espada and Mission Concepción have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. Mission San José is a National Historic Site and the other components are on the National Register of Historic Places. At the federal level, Mission San José is also designated as a Texas State Historical Site and all five missions are Texas State Antiquities Landmarks as well as on a local level City of San Antonio Local Landmarks. The Texas Historical Commission must review in advance any modifications proposed for the structural elements located in the property.

The United States National Park Service manages all the property within the boundaries of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, which was established under Public Law 95-629 (1978) and Public Law 101-628 (1990). The four mission churches within the National Historical Park are owned and operated by the Archdiocese of San Antonio. The State of Texas owns the property of Mission Valero/The Alamo. Management of the series is complex and based on an ownership structure which includes nine different owners. These remain responsible for the day-to-day management of their respective properties. For overarching issues which concern all serial components of the property, an advisory committee was established in 2012 to advise on preservation, interpretation and outreach activities and to make recommendations on frameworks for continued cooperation.

A document of management objectives describes all institutions that partner in the management of the property and broadly defines their contributions and fields of responsibility. This document has been adopted by all nine property owners and provides a general basis for the coordinated management. There is continual monitoring for potential threats to the property to ensure none jeopardize the attributes that sustain the property's Outstanding Universal Value. Perhaps the most significant potential threat is the rapid growth and development of the City of San Antonio. The San Antonio River is an important connecting element of the properties and the buffer zone regulations ensure that this special role is retained.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

a) Defining and formalizing a buffer zone for Rancho de las Cabras;

b) Preparing on the basis of the management document submitted a strategic management plan, integrating also disaster response mechanisms, which provides all property owners guidance on management strategies and actions on the basis of the goals, principles and actions they have agreed upon.

EXTENSIONS OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 39 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 7A.32** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);

3. Refers the major boundary modification of **Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, Georgia,** back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

   a) Clarify management procedures and responsibilities of the various agencies and organisations involved;

   b) Provide details as to how a higher level of commitment might be put in place by the major stakeholders to ensure adequate protection and management of the property;

   c) Submit the revised draft Management Plan for review;

   d) Provide a timetable for when physical and visual protection for the buffer zone will be formalised and when clear guidelines and guidance for management and any development within the buffer zone will be put in place;

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Giving urgent attention to providing adequate resources for long-term programmes of restoration for the fabric of the monastery and its mural paintings;

   b) Avoiding further reconstruction work particularly on the excavated ruins north of the Academy building;

   c) Developing a clear system of documentation for any conservation and restoration work;

   d) Putting in place tri-dimensional measuring and monitoring to help gain a better understanding of the overall stability of the various buildings in the monastery;

   e) Submitting any future proposals for a visitor centre, or new visitor arrangements, or for new accommodation for monks, to the World Heritage Committee for examination, at the earliest opportunity and before any commitments are made, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1**,**

2. Approves the extension of the **Route of Santiago de Compostela** to include the **Routes of Santiago in Northern Spain**, which becomes **Routes of Santiago de Compostela: *Camino Francés* and Routes of Northern Spain**, **Spain**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)**, **(iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Route of Santiago de Compostela is an extensive interconnected network of pilgrimage routes in Spain whose ultimate destination is the tomb of the Apostle James the Greater in Santiago de Compostela, in Galicia. According to Saint Jerome, the apostles were to be interred in the province where each had preached the gospel. The tomb believed to be that of James the Greater was discovered in Galicia in the 9th century, a period when Spain was dominated by Muslims. Its discovery was of immense importance for the Christian world, and Compostela soon became a place of Christian pilgrimage comparable in importance to Jerusalem and Rome.

The almost 1500-km-long network of four Northern Routes (Primitive, Coastal, Interior of the Basque Country-La Rioja, and Liébana) are at the origin of the Jacobean pilgrimage. They are directly linked to the discovery of the Apostle's tomb, and to its promotion by the Kingdom of Asturias. It was not until the 11th century that the Northern Routes were surpassed by the 738-km-long French Route, which was less difficult to traverse and became the primary Way of Saint James across the Iberian peninsula to Compostela.

The Route of Santiago has been a meeting place for its pilgrims ever since it emerged some eleven centuries ago. It has facilitated a constant cultural dialogue between the pilgrims and the communities through which they pass. It was also an important commercial axis and conduit for the dissemination of knowledge, supporting economic and social development along its itineraries. Constantly evolving, this serial property includes a magnificent ensemble of built heritage of historical importance created to fill the needs of pilgrims, including churches, hospitals, hostels, monasteries, calvaries, bridges, and other structures, many of which testify to the artistic and architectural evolution that occurred between the Romanesque and Baroque periods. Outstanding natural landscapes as well as a rich intangible cultural heritage also survive to the present day.

Criterion (ii): The Route of Santiago de Compostela played a crucial role in the two-way exchange of cultural advances between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe, especially during the Middle Ages, but also in subsequent centuries. The wealth of cultural heritage that has emerged in association with the Camino is vast, marking the birth of Romanesque art and featuring extraordinary examples of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque art. Moreover, in contrast with the waning of urban life in the rest of the Iberian Peninsula during the Middle Ages, the reception and commercial activities emanating from the Camino de Santiago led to the growth of cities in the north of the Peninsula and gave rise to the founding of new ones.

Criterion (iv): The Route of Santiago de Compostela has preserved the most complete material registry of all Christian pilgrimage routes, featuring ecclesiastical and secular buildings, large and small enclaves, and civil engineering structures.

Criterion (vi): The Route of Santiago de Compostela bears outstanding witness to the power and influence of faith among people of all social classes and origins in medieval Europe and later.

Integrity

The property contains all the key elements necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value of Route of Santiago de Compostela: French Route and Routes of

Northern Spain, including the routes themselves and the ecclesiastical and secular buildings, large and small enclaves, and civil engineering structures necessary to sustain the act of pilgrimage. The serial property is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance, and it does not suffer unduly from adverse effects of development or neglect. An added layer of protection for this extensive serial property is provided by buffer zones.

Authenticity

Route of Santiago de Compostela: French Route and Routes of Northern Spain is substantially authentic in its forms and designs, materials and substances, and use and function. The majority of the routes themselves follow their historic trajectories, and many retain their historical characteristics; along the five itineraries, the various built components included in this serial property are characterized by a high level of conservation. The property's function and use as a pilgrimage route has continued for more than a millennium. The links between the Outstanding Universal Value of the routes and their attributes are therefore truthfully expressed, and the attributes fully convey the value of the property.

Protection and management requirements

Pursuant to the First Additional Provision of the Spanish Historical Heritage Act, Law 16/1985 of 25 June 1985, the Camino de Santiago was registered in the category of Historical Complex as a Property of Cultural Interest (Bien de Interés Cultural), the highest level of cultural heritage protection in Spain. In exercise of their competences, the Autonomous Communities through which the routes pass have each defined the protection of this serial property in their respective territories. The routes are Crown property, and the built components are under a mixture of private, institutional, and public sector ownership, as are the buffer zones. The serial property is managed by the Jacobean Council (Consejo Jacobeo), which was created for the purpose of collaborating on programmes and actions to protect and conserve it; to further its promotion and cultural dissemination; to conserve and restore its historical-artistic heritage; to regulate and promote tourism; and to assist pilgrims.

Notwithstanding these arrangements, systematic actions will be needed to address the potential threats posed by industrial and urban growth and development, new transportation infrastructure such as motorways and railways, pressure from increased tourism and the number of pilgrims, and rural depopulation. Enforcement of regulatory measures and legislation will be crucial, as well as the development of environmental and heritage impact studies for new construction. In addition, urban development schemes of the municipalities along the routes will need to ensure protection of the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Fully documenting the management system for the serial extension and for the already inscribed property, particularly concerning how it preserves the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property and ensures its effective protection for present and future generations;

   b) Revising and augmenting the key monitoring indicators to relate more directly to the proposed Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and adding specific indicators, periodicity, and institutional responsibilities;

   c) Carrying out heritage impact assessments in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties before any developments such as renewals, demolitions, new infrastructure, land-use policy changes, or large-scale urban frameworks are approved and implemented.

PROPERTIES DEFERRED OR REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 39 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Ephesus, Turkey** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)**, **(iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located within what was once the estuary of the river Kaystros, a continuous and complex settlement history can be traced in Ephesus beginning from the 7th millennium BCE at Cukurici Mound till present day at Selcuk. It is distinguished due to its favorable geographical location, but suffered from a continuous shifting of the shore line from the east to the west throughout the history. Caused by anthropogenic activity, this sedimentation led to several relocations of the city site and its harbors. The Neolithic settlement of Cukurici Mound marks the southern edge of the former estuary, now well inland. After a sudden destruction, the Cukurici Mound was abandoned and at least from the Middle Bronze Age onwards people settled on the Ayasuluk Hill. At least in the 2nd millennium BC the sanctuary of the Ephesian Artemis, originally an Anatolian mother goddess, was founded, which grew gradually to one of the largest and most powerful sanctuaries of the ancient world. From 1st millennium BCE onwards increased Greek influence can be observed at site. The Ionian cities that grew up in the wake of the Ionian migrations joined in a confederacy under the leadership of Ephesus. In the 4th century BCE, Lysimachos, one of the twelve generals of Alexander the Great, founded the new city of Ephesus, while leaving the old city around the Artemision. When Asia Minor was incorporated into the Roman Empire in 133 BCE, Ephesus was designated as the capital of the new province Asia and period of prosperity for Ephesus has begun. Excavations and conservation over the past 150 years have revealed grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period lining the old processional way through the ancient city including the Library of Celsus terrace houses. Pilgrimage is one of the most striking phenomena in Ephesus, because of the fact that it outlasted the existence of the city itself and shows continuity until the present days. Little remains of the famous Temple of Artemis, one of the 'seven wonders of the world' which drew pilgrims from all around the Mediterranean until it was eclipsed by Christian pilgrimage to the Church of Mary and the Basilica of St. John in the 5th century AD. The Mosque of Isa Bey and the medieval settlement on Ayasuluk Hill mark the advent of the Selçuk and Ottoman Turks.

Criterion (iii): Ephesus is an exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions of the Hellenistic, Roman Imperial and early Christian periods as reflected in the monuments in the centre of the Ancient City and Ayasuluk. The cultural traditions of the Roman imperial period are reflected in the outstanding representative buildings of the city center including Celsus Library, Hadrian Temple, Serapeion and in Terrace House 2, with its wall paintings, mosaics and marble panelling showing the style of living of the upper levels of society at that time.

Criterion (iv): Ephesus as a whole is an outstanding example of a settlement landscape determined by environmental factors over time. The ancient city is an outstanding example of a Roman harbour city, with sea channel and harbour basin along the Kaystros River. Earlier and subsequent harbours demonstrate the changing river landscape from the Classical Greek to Medieval periods.

Criterion (vi): Stories and deposits of significant traditional and religious intangible cultural heritage of Anatolian cultures beginning with the cult of Cybele/Meter till the modern day's rise of the Christianity are visible and traceable in Ephesus. It especially played a decisive role in the spread of the Christian faith in the Roman Empire. The extensive remains of the Basilica of St. John on Ayasuluk Hil and those of the Church of Mary in Ephesus are testament of the city's importance to Christianity. Two important Councils of the early Church were held at Ephesus in 431 and 449 Ce, initiating the veneration of Mary in Christianity, which can be seen as a reflection of the earlier veneration of Artemis and the Anatolian Cybele. Ephesus was also the leading political and intellectual centre, with the second school of philosophy in the Aegean and Ephesus as a cultural and intellectual center had great influence on philosophy and medicine.

Integrity

The serial components contain sites which demonstrate the long settlement history of the place, each making a significant contribution to the overall Outstanding Universal Value. Together the components include all elements necessary to express Outstanding Universal Value and the property is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance.

Authenticity

The component properties retain authenticity in terms of location and setting, form and design. The remains at Cukurici Mound retain authenticity in terms of materials and substance. The other two component properties have all been subject to stone robbing in the past and subsequently to varying degrees of anastylosis, reconstruction and stabilisation using modern materials. Recent interventions have rectified damage caused by earlier inappropriate materials where possible and now make use of reversible techniques.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by Decisions of the Izmir Regional Conservation Council as empowered by the National Law for the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property no. 2863, 23 July 1983, as amended. The Conservation Council has overall responsibility for the urban and archaeological sites within the property and buffer zone that are declared First Degree Archaeological Sites. Some areas within the buffer zone are protected as a Third Degree Archaeological Site and others are protected as an Urban Conservation Area.

The Supervision and Coordination Council controls the implementation of the management plan for the serial property prepared by Selçuk municipality with input from the Advisory Council. The Management Plan includes an Action Plan covering conservation, visitor management and risk and crisis preparedness among other activities.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Raising the legislative protection of the entire buffer zone to the highest level;

   b) Completing the Management Plan as proposed to include the research programme and conservation programme for the overall property with provision for findings to be

integrated into future management, education and interpretation and the extension of the monitoring system to relate to the inventory/database of the property;

c) Carrying out impact assessments of all new management planning proposals including visitor management, infrastructure, landscaping, and transport/coach park proposals in line with Paragraph 110 of the *Operational Guidelines* and in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

NEW NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Aqueduct of Padre Tembleque Hydraulic System, Mexico,** with exception of the following component parts: 02 Town, Convent, Aqueduct and Water Tank of Tepeapulco and 03 Archaeological Site of Xihuingo, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i), (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The aqueduct of Padre Tembleque, named after the friar Francisco de Tembleque, was constructed between 1555 and 1572 and constitutes a hydraulic system located between the states of Mexico and Hidalgo in the Mexican Central Plateau. The heritage canal system encompasses its water catchment area, springs, main and secondary canals, distribution tanks, arcaded aqueduct bridges, reservoirs and other auxiliary elements, which extend over a maximum distance of 48.22 kilometres. The aqueduct structures were built with supporting structures of earthen adobes in the Mesoamerican construction tradition, but at the same time referencing European models of water conduction developed during the Roman era.

The hydraulic system is an outstanding example of water conduction in the Americas and integrates along its 48 kilometres' extent impressive architectural structures, such as the main arcaded aqueduct at Tepeyahualco, which reaches a total height of 39.65m, with its central arch of 33.84m height. The system was built by Franciscan friars with support from the local communities and as a result is a unique representation of the ingenious fusion of Mesoamerican and European construction traditions, combining the mestizo tradition with the tradition of Roman hydraulics. As an ensemble of canals and auxiliary structures, the system is exceptionally well-preserved and one branch remains operational up until today.

Since it is the complexity of the system and the human exchange which created it which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value, all features of this hydraulic system, including springs, main and secondary canals, distribution tanks, several arcaded aqueduct bridges, reservoirs and other auxiliary elements, are attributes documenting this exceptional construction. The elaborate techniques and cultural exchanges become specifically visible in the mastery of the monumental arcade bridging the Tepeyahualco Ravine and the Papalote River, which is made up of 68 round arches.

Criterion (i): The aqueduct bridge of Tepeyahualco is an architectural masterpiece integrating the highest single-level arcade ever built in aqueducts from Roman times until the middle of the 16th century, achieved as a result of the ingenious use of an adobe formwork as an alternative to scaffolding. Although the use of adobe brick instead of wood was applied elsewhere in Mexico, it was not often and certainly not with the same dramatic effect as in the aqueduct, which bridges the Tepeyahualco Ravine and the Papalote River.

Criterion (ii): The hydraulic system of Padre Tembleque exhibits an important interchange of European tradition in terms of the conjunction of the Roman heritage of masonry aqueducts, hydraulic management techniques inspired by Arab-Andalusian know-how, and pre-Hispanic indigenous tradition as well as Mesoamerican culture, represented by the use of the traditional social organization of collective working, the utilization and adaptation of local methods of adobe construction as well as the presence of glyphs illustrating symbols and cosmology in several arcade structures. It is a monument fusing the humanist ideals of the Franciscan order with the local collective traditions, aimed at promoting common wellbeing through an impressive construction achievement over 17 years.

Criterion (iv): The aqueduct of Padre Tembleque represents an outstanding example of hydraulic water architecture, based on in-depth knowledge of Roman and Renaissance hydraulic engineering which was integrated with local Mesoamerican construction knowledge. The specific techniques and regional materials used in the construction created a unique type of hydraulic system at the time of Mesoamerican-European encounters.

Integrity

The Aqueduct of Padre Templeque Hydraulic Complex retains the complete hydraulic system over a distance of approximately 48 kilometres. Its landscape setting is predominantly rural characterized by distinctive maguey plantations, with the canal system either historically buried or enclosed in stone, either open or covered. The six impressive aqueduct bridges with 137 visible arches represent less than five percent of the total hydraulic system and hence the presence of all auxiliary elements of the system is a key to its integrity.

At present, few threats of development or land-use seem to affect the Aqueduct of Padre Templeque. The rural landscape setting provides a high level of integrity with only occasional interruption by roads or power lines. It is important that this landscape integrity is retained in the future. The historic urban centres of Zempoala and Otumba have been encroached upon by some unsympathetic new constructions but these have fortunately had little impact on the attributes of the hydraulic system. Any future construction in these historic centres should be reviewed in terms of any potential negative impact which may occur.

Authenticity

The physical manifestations of the hydraulic system are well preserved in its various elements, including ojos de agua (springs), apantles (water canals), aljibes (cisterns), arches, fountains, water tanks, and other water features. These retain authenticity in form and design, material and substance as well as location and setting. The hydraulic

system also partially retains authenticity of use and function in the six-kilometre segment of Zempoala, which currently carries water supporting non-potable uses such as washing clothes, irrigation, etc. It is intended to regain completely authenticity of use and function by re-enabling the passage of water through the other branch of the system that connects to the town of Otumba, at a distance of 39 km. However, such reactivation should be carefully supervised by heritage professionals and evaluated in terms of its potential negative impact to the authenticity of the property.

Authenticity in traditions, techniques and management system is illustrated by the continuing maintenance and management by the local communities, during which repairs are undertaken in traditional construction techniques and materials. To a certain extent, the site still evokes feelings which could be related to its original time of construction. This applies in particular where arches of the system exist and where one can see the hundreds of visible glyphs that were incorporated in the aqueduct's construction by the indigenous populations, underscoring that the spectacular engineering work was a collaborative effort between the indigenous population and the Spanish clergy.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected under the Federal Law on Archaeological, Artistic and Historic Monuments and Areas promulgated in 1972 as an Historic Monument. This implies that in order to initiate any changes to the current condition of the property and its immediate setting, permission by the National Coordination of Historic Monuments of the INAH and from the Hidalgo and State of Mexico INAH Centres is required. The immediate setting has been defined as the buffer zone, which aims to preserve the integrity of the characteristic maguey landscape.

The property falls into two states and five municipalities which share the administration of the hydraulic system. A Management Unit for inter-institutional coordination and follow-up of the management plan coordinates federal, state and municipal levels as well as agricultural and citizen associations. The management as well as maintenance of the property builds strongly on the cooperation with the local communities and citizen organizations. Any visitor infrastructure planned to be created for the property needs to be carefully selected, as well as be sensitive to the characteristics of the site and its setting.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

   a) Finalizing the establishment and attribution of mandate to the management unit by September 2015 to guide cooperation between the concerned federal and municipal administrations;

   b) Augmenting the management plan to include operational management procedures and finalize its operational version, integrating the strategies for risk and visitor management;

   c) Ensuring that any future visitor infrastructure be carefully selected, as well as sensitive to the characteristics of the site and its setting and be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment before any approval is granted.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape, Uruguay**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located on land projecting into the Uruguay River west of Fray Bentos town, the industrial complex is marked by the enormous cold storage building and tall brick, boiler chimney which punctuate a range of saw-toothed roofs. Illustrating the whole process of meat sourcing, processing, packing and dispatch, the site includes buildings and equipment of the Liebig Extract of Meat Company which exported meat extract and corned beef to the European market from 1865 and the Anglo Meat Packing Plant which exported frozen meat from 1924. Here German research and technology combined with English enterprise to provide food for a global market including to the armies of two World Wars in the 20th century. Workers' housing and social institutions which accommodated and supported the cosmopolitan workers' community continue in use today.

Criterion (ii): Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape is evidence of the interchange of human values between European society and the South American population of the 19th and 20th century which effected social, cultural and economic changes in both places during that period. This was due the interchange on developments in technology which enabled the production and export of canned and frozen meat on a global scale and to the immigrant workers who arrived from more than 55 nations.

Criterion (iv): The ensemble of cattle pasture and handling facilities, industrial buildings, mechanical facilities, port facilities, residential fabric and green areas linking the river and agricultural areas to the city of Fray Bentos Industrial Landscape stands out as an example of early 20th century industrial development.

Integrity

The property includes all elements related to the history of the site and the period of its operation and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance. The landscape setting is appropriate in size and views form the river and town are maintained. Some buildings are in need of repair and conservation but the site does not suffer from neglect overall.

Authenticity

The property is authentic in terms of location and setting, materials and substance and use/function in terms of the buildings which form part of the Museum of Industrial Revolution. The archive contains historical documents with technical information providing a source for repairs and restoration. Other buildings have been adapted for new uses and workers' housing has been upgraded to provide more modern accommodation for families now living there, many of whom have a connection with the property through family members who worked there. Authenticity is vulnerable to proposed new development within the property including new uses for buildings and sites as well as new construction.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected as a National Historic Landmark under the Heritage Act No. 14.040, August 1971 as amended in 2008 and the Regulatory Decree 536/72. Objects owned by government agencies and non-state corporations are protected under Act No. 17.473, 9 May 2002. The Acts are administered by the National Cultural Heritage Commission.

The property has been managed at site level by the Anglo Management Committee since 2008 with input from representatives of the Ministry of Culture and Educational Affairs; Ministry of Housing, Land Use Planning and Environment and the Municipality of Rio Negro. This body is responsible for the implementation of the Property Management Plan 2012-2015, which was approved by the National Cultural Heritage commission in January 2014.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Raising the legislative protection of the entire buffer zone to the highest level;
   b) Completing arrangements for representation of the volunteers, local industrial enterprises and social organisations on the Anglo Management Committee;

5. Also recommends the State Party to complete the Management Plan as proposed to include:
   a) the inventory of the machinery;
   b) the inventory/database as a basis for monitoring and conservation and maintenance;
   c) the research plan for industrial and underwater archaeology with provision for findings to be integrated into future management, education and interpretation;
   d) the comprehensive conservation plan related to the inventory/database to deal with repair and maintenance needs;
   e) provision for impact assessments of all new management planning proposals including new uses for existing buildings and new buildings within the site in line with Paragraph 110 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
   f) guidelines for interventions to industrial and residential buildings;
   g) extension of the monitoring system to relate to the inventory/database of the property;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2016**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Examination of minor boundary modifications of natural, mixed and cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 39 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2.Add,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 8B.11** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),

3. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Lena Pillars Nature Park, Russian Federation**, to include the Sinsky Plot;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for its positive response to the Committee's previous recommendation to include the Sinyaya component of Lena Pillars Nature Park into the property;

5. Requests that the State Party:
   a) Establish the remaining management bodies foreseen for the property;
   b) Ensure the continued recognition and respect of traditional rights within the property;
   c) Not permit mining and forestry activities outside the property, within the Sinyaya catchment, unless it is demonstrated that these would have no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including its integrity;

6. Also requests IUCN, in consultation with the State Party through the World Heritage Centre, to consider any necessary factual corrections to the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property, to reflect the approval of this minor boundary modification.

LATIN AMERICA / CARIBBEAN

Decision: 39 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B2.Add,

2. Refers the minor boundary modification of **Darien National Park, Panama,** back to the State Party, to allow it to complete the following actions, and invites the State Party to resubmit the proposal when these have been completed:
   a) Provide a topographic map (or multiple maps if necessary) at the largest available scale (1:75000 at least) clearly outlining the proposed minor boundary modification(s) and specifying and visualizing their relationship to the existing boundary of the property;
   b) Reconfirm in a specific and concise statement the key values in each of the new areas proposed for addition to the property and also confirm how the additional areas will be managed, and provide a copy of the management plan indicating how it would apply to the property with its revised boundary;
   c) Confirm that the necessary legal decrees referred to in the proposal, to enable protection of the property, have been formally approved, and provide a copy of the approved and signed decree;
   d) Confirm, and provide supporting information and documentation, on the necessary consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities in support of the proposed addition of the new areas to the property;

3. Encourages the State Party of Panama, with the support of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, to continue to consider options to strengthen the protection and management of the property including, in consultation with the State Party of Colombia, on matters related to transboundary conservation with the adjacent World Heritage property of Los Katios National Park.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE / NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 39 COM 8B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the **Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe, France**.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the **Historic Centre of Rome, the Properties of the Holy See in that City Enjoying Extraterritorial Rights and San Paolo Fuori le Mura, Holy See** and **Italy**;

3. Requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, an amended cadastral map showing clearly that the bridge Regina Margherita is included within the property boundary and clarifying the total area of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The map should also show the boundary of the area protected by the New Town Planning Scheme;

4. Encourages the States Parties to finalise the management plan.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed buffer zone for the **Historic Centre of Florence, Italy**.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of **Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and the Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto), Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

   a) Consider the possibility to extend the boundaries of the marine areas in the South-eastern part of the buffer zone to increase the protection around the Islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto;

   b) Explain in detail how the management system function in practice and clarify the implementation and management of the buffer zone in terms of the responsible agents and in relation to the inscribed property;

   c) Provide a timetable for the official approval and implementation of the Regional Territorial Plan;

   d) Finalize the management plan.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed buffer zones for the **Megalithic Temples of Malta, Malta**;

3. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre when the review of the Local Plans and the Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development are completed, explaining how the UNESCO World Heritage properties and sites on the World Heritage Tentative List and their viewsheds are protected from the adverse impact of future development, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the **Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, Montenegro**;

3. Recommends that the State Party ensure that the Management Plan incorporates the correct property boundary as inscribed in 1979;

4. Also recommends that the Management Plan should integrate the relevant municipalities with responsibilities within the property area and buffer zone and coordinate their

activities in relation to protection mechanisms and local traffic networks which link the main transport corridors.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the **Old Town of Cáceres, Spain**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

   a) Provide further explanation of the rationale chosen for the proposed limits of the buffer zone in relation to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

   b) Provide information on the management arrangements in place for the proposed buffer zone;

   c) Provide a timetable on the preparation of the Management Plan of the Old Town of Cáceres and finalize it.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed buffer zone for the **Old Town of Segovia and its Aqueduct, Spain**;

3. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report outlining in detail how the buffer zone will be protected in terms of height controls and protection of viewsheds for examination by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary of the buffer zone of the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney, United Kingdom**;

3. Recommends that the State Party ensure that the revised buffer zones are included in the revised management plan 2014-2019 as announced and that the supplementary guidance for wind energy is approved.

Decision: 39 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the proposed minor modification to the boundary of **Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, United States of America**.

Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of 12 properties inscribed at the 38th session (Doha, 2014) and not adopted by the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 39 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add,

2. Adopts the following Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014):
   - Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador , Peru, Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System;
   - China, The Grand Canal;
   - Germany, Carolingian Westwork and Civitas Corvey;
   - Iran (Islamic Republic of), Shahr-i Sokhta;
   - Iraq, Erbil Citadel;
   - Mexico , Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche;
   - Myanmar , Pyu Ancient Cities;
   - Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir;
   - Saudi Arabia, Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah;
   - Turkey, Bursa and Cumalıkızık: the Birth of the Ottoman Empire;
   - Turkey, Pergamon and its Multi-Layered Cultural Landscape;
   - United States of America, Monumental Earthworks of Poverty Point.

8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Decision: 39 COM 8C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC-15/39.COM/7B and WHC-15/39.COM/7B.Add) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World Heritage List (WHC-15/39.COM/8B and WHC-15/39.COM/8B.Add),

2. Decides to **inscribe** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
   - Iraq, Hatra (Decision **39 COM 7B.51**)
   - Yemen, Old City of Sana'a (Decision **39 COM 7B.59**)
   - Yemen, Old Walled City of Shibam (Decision **39 COM 7B.60**)

Decision: 39 COM 8C.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-15/39.COM/7A and WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add),

2. Decides to **retain** the following properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
   - Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Decision **39 COM 7A.38**)
   - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Decision **39 COM 7A.39**)
   - Belize, Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Decision **39 COM 7A.18**)
   - Bolivia (Plurinational State of), City of Potosi (Decision **39 COM 7A.44**)
   - Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.1)**
   - Chile, Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Decision **39 COM 7A.45**)
   - Côte d'Ivoire, Comoé National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.2**)
   - Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Decision **39 COM 7A.3**)
   - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.4**)
   - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.5**)
   - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Garamba National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.6**)
   - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Salonga National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.7**)
   - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Decision **39 COM 7A.8**)
   - Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **39 COM 7A.24**)
   - Ethiopia, Simien National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.10)**

- Georgia, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Decision **39 COM 7A.40**)
- Georgia, Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Decision **39 COM 7A.41**)
- Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Decision **39 COM 7A.20**)
- Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Decision **39 COM 7A.15**)
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Decision **39 COM 7A.25**)
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City (Decision **39 COM 7A.26**)
- Jerusalem, Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (Decision **39 COM 7A.27**)
- Madagascar, Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Decision **39 COM 7A.11**)
- Mali, Timbuktu (Decision **39 COM 7A.21**)
- Mali, Tomb of Askia (Decision **39 COM 7A.22**)
- Niger, Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Decision **39 COM 7A.12**)
- Palestine, Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Decision **39 COM 7A.28**)
- Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (Decision **39 COM 7A.29**)
- Panama, Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Decision **39 COM 7A.46**)
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaelogical Zone (Decision **39 COM 7A.47**)
- Senegal, Niokolo-Koba National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.13**)
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Decision **39 COM 7A.42**)
- Solomon Islands, East Rennell (Decision **38 COM 7B.16**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Damascus (Decision **39 COM 7A.30**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra (Decision **39 COM 7A.31**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Site of Palmyra (Decision **39 COM 7A.32**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Aleppo (Decision **39 COM 7A.33**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Crac des Chevaliers and Qal’at Salah El-Din (Decision **39 COM 7A.34**)
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Decision **39 COM 7A.35**)
- Uganda, Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Decision **39 COM 7A.23**)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (Decision **39 COM 7A.43**)
- United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve (Decision **39 COM 7A.14**)
- United States of America, Everglades National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.17**)
- Venezuela, Coro and its Port (Decision **39 COM 7A.48**)
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid (Decision **39 COM 7A.37**)

Decision: 39 COM 8C.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC-15/39.COM/7A and WHC-15/39.COM/7A.Add),

2. Decides to **remove** the following property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
   - Colombia, Los Katíos National Park (Decision **39 COM 7A.19**)

8D. CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND AREAS BY STATES PARTIES IN RESPONSE TO THE RETROSPECTIVE INVENTORY

Decision: 39 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8D,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 8D**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the boundaries of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;

4. Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear;

5. Takes note of the clarifications of property boundaries and areas provided by the States Parties as presented in the annexes of Document WHC-15/39.COM/8D:

   ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

   - Australia: Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte);
   - India: Humayun's Tomb, Delhi;

   EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA:

   - Azerbaijan: Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower;
   - Canada: Historic District of Old Québec;
   - Czech Republic: Tugendhat Villa in Brno;
   - France: Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve;
   - Germany / United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Frontiers of the Roman Empire;
   - Italy: City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto; Costiera Amalfitana;
   - Netherlands: Droogmakerij de Beemster (Beemster Polder); Mill Network at Kinderdijk-Elshout; Rietveld Schröderhuis (Rietveld Schröder House); Schokland and Surroundings;

- Spain: Historic Centre of Cordoba; Rock Art of the Mediterranean Basin on the Iberian Peninsula; University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares;
- United States of America: Monticello and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville;

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

- Brazil: Iguaçu National Park;
- Mexico: Agave Landscape and Ancient Industrial Facilities of Tequila; Luis Barragán House and Studio;

6. Requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible, and by **1 December 2015** at the latest, for their subsequent examination, if satisfactory, by the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016.

8E. ADOPTION OF RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Decision: 39 COM 8E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/8E.Rev,

2. Congratulates the States Parties for the excellent work accomplished in the elaboration of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties located within their territories;

3. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC-15/39.COM/8E.Rev, for the following World Heritage properties:

AFRICA

- Mozambique: Island of Mozambique;
- Senegal: Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary;
- United Republic of Tanzania: Stone Town of Zanzibar;

ARAB STATES

- Oman: Land of Frankincense;

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- India: Humayun's Tomb, Delhi; Kaziranga National Park;
- Iran (Islamic Republic of): Bisotun; Meidan Emam, Esfahan; Persepolis; Soltaniyeh; Tchogha Zanbil;
- EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
- Belarus: Architectural, Residential and Cultural Complex of the Radziwill Family at Nesvizh;

- Belgium: Flemish Béguinages; Historic Centre of Brugge; The Four Lifts on the Canal du Centre and their Environs, La Louvière and Le Roeulx (Hainault);
- Canada / United States of America: Waterton Glacier International Peace Park;
- Canada: Dinosaur Provincial Park; Gros Morne National Park; Historic District of Old Québec; Miguasha National Park; Old Town Lunenburg; Sgang Gwaay; Wood Buffalo National Park;
- France / Spain : Pyrénées – Mont Perdu ;
- Greece: Acropolis, Athens; Archaeological Site of Olympia; Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns; Delos; Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus;
- Italy: 18th-Century Royal Palace at Caserta with the Park, the Aqueduct of Vanvitelli, and the San Leucio Complex; Archaeological Area of Agrigento; Castel del Monte; Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci; Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park with the Archeological sites of Paestum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula; City of Verona; City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto; Crespi d'Adda; Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna; Genoa: Le Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli; Historic Centre of San Gimignano; Historic Centre of Siena; Historic Centre of the City of Pienza; Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto (South-Eastern Sicily); Rock Drawings in Valcamonica; Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy; Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica; The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera;
- Montenegro: Durmitor National Park;
- Russian Federation: Architectural Ensemble of the Trinity Sergius Lavra in Sergiev Posad; Ensemble of the Ferrapontov Monastery; Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent; Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments; Historic Monuments of Novgorod and Surroundings; Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow;
- Serbia: Stari Ras and Sopoćani; Studenica Monastery;
- Slovakia: Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity;
- Spain: Aranjuez Cultural Landscape; Archaeological Ensemble of Tárraco; Archaeological site of Atapuerca; Garajonay National Park; Rock Art of the Mediterranean Basin on the Iberian Peninsula;
- Sweden: Engelsberg Ironworks;
- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region;
- Ukraine: L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre;
- United States of America: Pueblo de Taos;

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Brazil: Atlantic Forest South-East Reserves; Brazilian Atlantic Islands: Fernando de Noronha and Atol das Rocas Reserves; Central Amazon Conservation Complex; Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks; Discovery Coast Atlantic Forest Reserves; Pantanal Conservation Area;
- Colombia: Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary;
- Haiti : National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers ;

- Honduras: Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve;
- Peru: Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa; Huascarán National Park; Lines and Geoglyphs of Nasca and Pampas de Jumana; Manú National Park; Río Abiseo National Park;
- Saint Kitts and Nevis: Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park;

4. Decides that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties in Danger will be reviewed in priority by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Takes note that the World Heritage Centre, further to Decision **38 COM 8E**, continues to harmonize all sub-headings in the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and updates names and sizes or buffer zones, as appropriate, following relevant Decisions of the Committee concerning changes of names and Minor Boundary Modifications;

6. Requests the States Parties to provide support to the World Heritage Centre for translation of the adopted Statements of Outstanding Universal Value into English or French respectively, and further requests the World Heritage Centre to upload the two language versions on its web site.

9A. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE UPSTREAM PROCESSES

Decision: 39 COM 9A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/9A,

2. Recalling Decision **34 COM 13.III** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), Decision **35 COM 12C** at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), Decision **36 COM 12C** at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012) and Decision **37 COM 9** at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Welcomes all the actions undertaken to improve the processes and practices prior to consideration by the World Heritage Committee of a nomination (the 'Upstream Processes') and commends the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for the pilot projects in which progress was made;

4. Acknowledges that outside of the referenced pilot projects, in order to be effective, the upstream support should ideally intervene at an early stage, more precisely at the moment of the revision or preparation of States Parties Tentative Lists;

5. Also commends Saudi Arabia and Uruguay for submission of their nominations, the Rock Drawings in the Hail region and the Cultural and Industrial Landscape of Fray Bentos respectively;

6. Urges the States Parties concerned that have not yet done so, to fully collaborate providing technical and financial support to implement the required actions to make progress with the pilot projects, and encourages them to seek assistance, if necessary,

from the World Heritage Centre to identify opportunities to secure resources to advance on the project;

7. Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the States Parties concerned in the implementation of their pilot projects, which were not able to identify and secure adequate resources;

8. Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress in implementing the pilot projects for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

9B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REFLECTION ON PROCESSES FOR MIXED NOMINATIONS

Decision: 39 COM 9B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/9B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 9B** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the report of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on proposals to improve the preparation and evaluation of mixed World Heritage nominations;

4. Reiterates that due to the complexity of mixed site nominations, and their evaluation, States Parties should ideally seek prior advice from IUCN and ICOMOS if possible at least two years before a possible nomination is submitted, in compliance with Paragraph 122 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Takes note of the proposals of IUCN and ICOMOS to improve evaluation processes for mixed sites presented in the above mentioned document, and requests IUCN and ICOMOS to continue to implement those proposals, subject to available time and resources and in coordination with the World Heritage Centre, and to report back on progress at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in 2017.

10A. FINAL REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR THE EUROPE REGION AND ACTION PLAN

Decision: 39 COM 10A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10A,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 10B**, **37 COM 10B** and **38 COM 10A.2**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its sincere appreciation for the considerable efforts made by all States Parties in Europe in submitting the Periodic Reporting questionnaires and thanks all the Focal Points and Site Managers for their participation and commitment;

4. Also thanks the authorities of Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden for their support in organizing regional and sub-regional meetings in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre since the end of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

5. Further thanks the Finnish authorities for successfully organising the final regional meeting (Helsinki, Finland, 1-2 December 2014) to discuss the outcomes of the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and develop, with the active participation of the Focal Points, the Framework Action Plan for Europe;

6. Commends the World Heritage Centre for the production of a number of tools to guide and assist Focal Points and Site Managers (online Periodic Reporting platform, handbook, video tutorials, FAQ); for the technical support provided throughout the exercise; for making the Summary Reports for each property and State Party available publically on its website as soon as possible after submission, in agreement with the States Parties; and for sharing the national Periodic Reporting datasets with the relevant national authorities;

7. Welcomes with satisfaction the Final Report on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe and encourages the States Parties to widely disseminate the Report among all relevant stakeholders in the region;

8. Acknowledges and endorses the Second Cycle Framework Action Plan for Europe ("Helsinki Action Plan") and its three core objectives (Identification and Protection of Outstanding Universal Value; Effective Management of World Heritage Properties; Increased Awareness of the *Convention*), and takes note with appreciation of the joint efforts by the World Heritage Centre, the Focal Points and the Advisory Bodies to produce a Framework Action Plan in an innovative format, in order to facilitate its appropriation and integration into national, sub-regional and regional strategies;

9. Strongly encourages the States Parties to integrate all relevant elements of the Helsinki Action Plan into to their national strategies for World Heritage;

10. Also encourages the States Parties to make use of all the data and information provided to them during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting to implement the Action Plan at all levels, in particular with regard to the management of World Heritage properties (including management plans, sustainable tourism strategies, disaster and risk preparedness strategies, etc.);

11. Further encourages the States Parties to collaborate at regional and/or sub-regional level to ensure the implementation of this Action Plan, for instance by organising regular (sub-) regional meetings;

12. Requests the States Parties to devote the necessary technical and financial resources to implementing the Action Plan at all levels, and also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to provide technical support at the request of States Parties;

13. Welcomes the World Heritage Centre's initiative to share the results of a short monitoring survey with the States Parties every two years, in order to assist them in the implementation of the Action Plan, and further encourages the States Parties to actively support this pilot follow-up initiative;

14. Decides that the significant modifications to boundaries and changes to criteria (re-nominations) requested by the States Parties in Europe as a follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting will not fall within the limit of two nominations per State Party per year imposed by Paragraph 61 of the *Operational Guidelines*, while they will still fall within the overall yearly limit for complete nominations established by the *Operational Guidelines*. This decision shall apply for the **1 February 2016** and **1 February 2017** deadlines for Europe, after which the normal limits established in Paragraph 61 will be resumed;

15. Further notes that the follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting has considerable resource and workload implications for the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the States Parties, and further encourages the States Parties not only to make all the resources necessary for this follow-up available at national level, but also to support the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

16. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to prepare a progress report on the follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for examination at its 40th session in 2016.

Decision: 39 COM 10A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10A,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 10A.1**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),

3. Welcomes the preparation of the Action Plan by the World Heritage Focal Points from North America, illustrating the close cooperation between the two States Parties of Canada and the United States of America, and takes note of the efforts to further strengthen the cooperation with the State Party of Mexico for a number of the proposed actions taking into consideration the shared natural and cultural heritage of the three States Parties;

4. Acknowledges and endorses the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America and its five result areas (Future Tentative Lists; Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage; Increased communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers throughout the sub-region; International Assistance to World Heritage properties; Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation);

5. Commends the States Parties for their efforts to continue the work undertaken in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory and the preparation of the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and encourages the States Parties to finalise this important work in the best of time;

6. Takes note of the proposed timeframe of five years for the implementation of the Periodic Reporting Action Plan for North America, and requests the States Parties of Canada and United States of America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for presentation to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

10B. FOLLOW-UP OF THE SECOND CYCLE OF THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE FOR THE OTHER REGIONS AND GENERAL REFLECTION ON PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 39 COM 10B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 10A, 37 COM 10C.1** and **38 COM 10B.1** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th session (Doha, 2014) respectively;

3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;

4. Thanks the governments of Japan, Korea and the Netherlands for their contributions to supporting World Heritage follow-up activities on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region;

5. Also thanks the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, for its contribution to the implementation of activities concluded in the Capacity-Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific (CBSAP-AP) for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting; and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST, China) for its initiative in promoting regional cooperation on World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific;

6. Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, that includes fruitful cooperation between national institutions from various Asian States Parties resulting in an example of best practice for other serial transnational nominations, and developing a tool for international cooperation, shared approaches, better management and conservation practice, as well as sustainable tourism management of the Silk Road heritage corridors;

7. Reiterates its invitation to Asia and the Pacific States Parties to actively implement the respective sub-Regional Action Plans and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the implementation of follow-up activities while working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the follow-up activities to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting at its 40th session in 2016.

Decision: 39 COM 10B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/10B,

2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10A,** Decision **37 COM 10C.2** and Decision **38 COM 10B.2** adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th session (Phnom-Penh, 2013) and 38th session (Doha, 2014) respectively;

3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region, while expressing its concerns regarding the weak implementation rate of the regional Action Plan by African States Parties;

4. Notes with appreciation the financial contribution of the Governments of Norway, Flanders (Belgium), Spain, South Africa and the Netherlands, IUCN, the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme, the MAVA Foundation, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) as well as the host countries of all capacity-building workshops to activities carried out in the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa Region and its regional capacity-building programme;

5. Calls upon States Parties to financially and technically support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Africa Region through follow-up activities with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund;

6. Commends the States Parties of the Africa Region who have been actively implementing the Action Plan; and requests States Parties, who have not already done so, to establish their National World Heritage Committees and to develop their National Action Plans and Budgets, as well as to inform the World Heritage Centre when they are operational;

7. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2016** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2015** at the latest;

8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity-Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012 – 2017;

9. Further requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to pay special attention to the management of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

10. Furthermore requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa Region at its 40th session in 2016.

Decision: 39 COM 10B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/39.COM/10B,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 10C.3** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),

3. Acknowledges the progress accomplished in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States and encourages them to continue their efforts in the implementation of recommendations;

4. Notes with concern the decrease in the number of focal points and strongly encourages States Parties concerned to designate one focal point for cultural heritage and another one for natural heritage;

5. Further encourages States Parties to follow the recommendation of the Chairperson of the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (Paris, UNESCO, 2011), contained in her letter addressed to all the Arab countries on the establishment of national entities for World Heritage;

6. Also encourages States Parties to continue the implementation of the Recommendation regarding the Historic Urban Landscape in order to enhance the conservation of urban heritage sites inscribed on the World Heritage List;

7. Notes with satisfaction the commitment and important financial contribution of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, and invites Arab States to strengthen their cooperation with the ARC-WH;

8. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2016** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2015** at the latest.

Decision: 39 COM 10B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/39.COM/10B,

2. Recalling Decision **38 COM 10B.4** adopted at the 38th session (Doha, 2014);

3. Takes note of the progress accomplished in the follow-up activities of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the States Parties of the region to continue their efforts in the implementation of its recommendations;

4. Notes with appreciation the elaboration of the two sub-regional Action Plans for the Caribbean and for South America;

5. Further notes with appreciation the support of the Government of Peru for the organization of the sub-regional meeting for the elaboration of the World Heritage Action Plan for South America (Cuzco, 5 to 7 May 2015);

6. Encourages Central American States Parties to work in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre to organize a meeting for the establishment of a sub-regional Action Plan with the participation of all stakeholders;

7. Encourages Mexico and Brazil to continue their efforts in view to consolidate the establishment of the UNESCO category 2 centres for World Heritage in Zacatecas (Mexico) and in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil);

8. Reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2016** at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2015** at the latest;

9. Takes note that, in conformity with Decision **38 COM 10B.4**, the World Heritage Centre will provide a report on the progress made in the implementation of the regional and sub-regional Action Plans at its 40th session in 2016.

Decision: 39 COM 10B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC-15/39.COM 10B,

2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 10A**, **35 COM 10A**, **36 COM 10A**, **37 COM 10A** and **38 COM 5F** adopted respectively at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions,

3. Congratulates the States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* for having actively participated and completed the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting Exercise and takes note of their efforts to ensure relevant follow-up at the regional, national and site levels;

4. Notes with appreciation that the outcomes of the Second Cycle relate fully to the main purposes of the Periodic Reporting exercise as defined by Paragraph 201 of the *Operational Guidelines*;

5. Also notes that valuable feedback has been received from States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders with regard to the process, format, relevance, use and analysis of data derived from the Periodic Reporting;

6. Further notes that the existing results reporting framework, which includes the Periodic Reports, should be strengthened through the development of comprehensive indicators and benchmarks to improve follow-up on progress made by State Parties with the implementation of both the 1972 *Convention* and the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, further to Recommendation 1 of the Evaluation of UNESCO's Standard-Setting Work of the Culture Sector, 1972 *Convention*, acknowledged by Decision **38 COM 5F.2** of the Committee, according to which the matter will be addressed during the Reflection Period on Periodic Reporting;

7. Decides to suspend the third cycle of Periodic Reporting and launch a two-year Periodic Reporting Reflection Period from 2015-2017;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to bring this matter to the attention of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the *Convention*, at its 20th session (Paris, 2015), in an information document and also requests that the comments of the States Parties be sought on the matters of reviewing the process, format, relevance, use and analysis of data and efficiency of the Periodic Reporting exercise as well as synergies with other UNESCO culture conventions, preferably by means of a questionnaire;

9. Calls upon States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary resources to ensure a proper reflection, including through hosting at least two Periodic Reporting reflection meetings with the participation of selected representatives of States Parties from all regions, Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field offices, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, category 2 centres as well as experts that have been involved in the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;

10. Further decides that a small expert working group will be entrusted with drafting an updated format of the questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis and use of data, further to feedback of States Parties and outcomes of Reflection meetings, in accordance with Terms of Reference which will be included in the progress report to be presented to the World Heritage Committee at the 40th session in 2016;

11. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre to present for examination by the World Heritage Committee an updated format of the questionnaire and proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis and use of data, as well as a proposal of a revised version of Chapter V of the *Operational Guidelines* (Periodic Reporting on the Implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*) and Annex 7 (Format for the Periodic Reporting of the application of the *World Heritage Convention*), at its 41st session in 2017.

11. REVISION OF THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 39 COM 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/11**,** WHC-15/39.COM/10.B, WHC-15/39.COM/13A and WHC-15/39.COM/INF.13A,

2. Recalling Decision **37 COM 12.II**, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013),

3. Decides to establish a Consultative Body under Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure during its 39th session;

4. Adopts the proposed revisions of the *Operational Guidelines*, as presented in the marked-up version attached to this Decision[2], namely concerning paragraphs 28, 31, 38, 40, 44, 62, 66, 71, 80, 98, 99, 102, 111, 112, 115, 116, 122, 123, 128, 132, 140, 141, 143, 148, 149, 155, 159, 160, 164, 165, 166, 168, 169, 176, 180, 181, 184, 192, 232, 241, 252, 260, 262, 263, 265, 266, 275, 276, 278, Annex 2B, 5, 6, 13 and 14 as well as the Bibliography;

5. Decides to extend the mandate of the ad hoc working group extended by one extra regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee, established at the 38th session (Doha, 2014) to be convened by Turkey, to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;

6. Further decides to suggest that the 20th General Assembly of States Parties in November 2015 discuss the recommendations of the ad hoc working group in order for the latter to submit its final recommendations to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016 for a decision;

[2] The adopted version, dated 8 July 2015, is available in PDF format at the following web address: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/39COM/decisions

7. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to produce, subject to extra-budgetary funding, a guidance document on urban heritage, including its definition, identification, conservation and management, based on the Historic Urban Landscape approach;

8. Also decides that Annex 3 to the *Operational Guidelines* should be reviewed entirely so as to include definitions and relevant guidance for States Parties in the preparation of Tentative Lists, nominations, management and reporting systems and also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to organise an Experts meeting, subject to extra-budgetary funding, to provide recommendations for the revision of Annex 3;

9. Welcomes the reflections on the interaction between the *World Heritage Convention* and the 1954 Hague Convention and its Second Protocol (1999) and further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Hague Convention (1954), to consider options for further developing concrete synergies and coordinating reporting mechanisms between the *World Heritage Convention* and the Second Protocol (1999) of the Hague Convention (1954) for the next revision of the *Operational Guidelines* in 2017 and while revising the Periodic Reporting Format during the Reflection Period towards the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

10. Also welcomes the inclusion of paragraphs which address issues related to indigenous peoples and World Heritage and reiterates its decision to re-examine the recommendations of the International Expert Workshop on the *World Heritage Convention* and Indigenous Peoples (Copenhagen, 2012) following the results of the discussions to be held by the Executive Board on the UNESCO policy on indigenous peoples;

11. Also decides, on an exceptional basis, to re-examine Paragraphs 61 and 68 as well as Annex 2A at its 40th session in 2016;

12. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to propose a revised version of Chapter V and Annex 7 of the *Operational Guidelines* to be examined by the Committee at its 41th session in 2017;

13. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to undertake consultations on Paragraph 108 and subsequent paragraphs where references are made to management plans and management systems in order to address inconsistencies and ambiguities, and to provide further clarifications based on current thinking and the contents of the Resource Manuals, for consideration during the next revision of the *Operational Guidelines* in 2019;

14. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre to proceed with the corrections of language inconsistencies between the English and French versions of the *Operational Guidelines*.

12. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DRAFT POLICY GUIDELINES

Decision: 39 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/12,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 12B** and Decision **37 COM 13** adopted respectively at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011) and its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013);

3. Thanks the Government of Australia for their commitment and financial contribution in view of the development of a Policy Guidelines document for a better implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*;

4. Takes note of the status report prepared by the World Heritage Centre on the progress made so far;

5. Thanks ICCROM for taking the lead for undertaking the scoping study in close consultation with ICOMOS and IUCN and the World Heritage Centre;

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to make additional progress beyond the scoping study over the next year;

7. Requests ICCROM and other stakeholders involved in the preparation of the scoping study to take into account the Policy Document on sustainable development – once the Policy Document is adopted by the General Assembly of the States Parties – as one of the essential elements to be inserted in the future Policy Guidelines;

8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present the scoping study along with additional progress report to the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

13A. WORKING METHODS OF THE EVALUATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF NOMINATION: REPORT OF THE AD-HOC WORKING GROUP

Decision: 39 COM 13A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/13A which contains the outcomes of the ad-hoc working group that examined the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination,

2. Reaffirming Decision **38 COM 13** which called on the Advisory Bodies to consult and have a dialogue with all concerned States Parties during the course of the evaluation of nominations in order to enhance overall transparency and to optimize future decision-making by the World Heritage Committee;

3. Recalling that Decision **38 COM 13** established an ad-hoc working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, at the invitation of Germany, to

meet inter-sessionally to examine the issues related to working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination and to formulate its recommendations thereon;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the German leadership and the delegates of Algeria, Finland, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Serbia, and the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the representatives of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for their work;

5. Welcomes the reflections and recommendations of the ad hoc working group with regard to the working methods of the evaluation and decision-making process of nomination;

6. Conveys its appreciation to ICOMOS for introducing new evaluation procedures, especially for enhancing the consultation and dialogue with the States Parties as requested in Decision **38 COM 13**, and welcomes the responsiveness of ICOMOS and IUCN to further strengthen dialogue and consultation with nominating States Parties while respecting the independence of the Advisory Bodies;

7. Thanks the established Working Group on the Revision of the *Operational Guidelines* for taking into account the reflections and recommendations of the ad hoc working group related to the evaluation and decision-making process of the World Heritage Committee, and welcomes the revisions of the *Operational Guidelines* which reflect the recommendations of the ad hoc working group;

8. Also thanks the established budget group for taking into account the reflections and recommendations related to the budget;

9. Decides to further study the feasibility of ICCROM being more involved in the evaluation process in the future;

10. Decides to extend the mandate of the ad hoc working group composed of, in principle, two members from each regional group, and one extra regional group representative who is not a member of the World Heritage Committee, established at the 38th session (Doha, 2014) to be convened by Turkey, to further discuss and make recommendations on Paragraph 61 as well as on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;

11. Also decides to amend its Rules of Procedure to reflect the following:

> "Rule 23.3: New draft decisions/proposals and amendments thereto should, whenever possible, be submitted to the Secretariat at least 24 hours before the discussion of the agenda item concerned. The Rapporteur shall work with the Secretariat to distribute such draft decisions/proposals and amendments to all Committee Members in a timely manner."

13B. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON AN ADDITIONAL ORDINARY SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 39 COM 13B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/13B,

2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 12B** as well as **37 COM 18B**, adopted at its 36th and 37th sessions respectively;

3. Considering the costs inherent to the holding of an additional ordinary session and the financial situation that UNESCO, including its World Heritage Centre, is facing;

4. Recalling furthermore Decision **38 COM 5F.1**, by which it considered that the annual frequency of its sessions is appropriate;

5. Decides not to hold an additional ordinary session in 2015.

14. EXAMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Decision: 39 COM 14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/14,

2. Notes with concern the low level of the International Assistance budget;

3. Warmly thanks the States Parties of Italy, Finland, India, and the Republic of Korea for their generous contribution which made possible the approval of several International Assistance requests since 2010;

4. Recalling Decision **38 COM 12**, paragraph 13, strongly appeals to all States Parties to contribute to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund for International Assistance by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8**.

15. REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015 AND PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017

Decision: 39 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/15,

2. Recalling its decision **35 COM 12 B** adopted at its 35th session to establish a Budget Working Group as a Standing Consultative Body of the Committee,

3. Takes note of the statement of accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2014-2015 and the situation of the reserves and contributions as at 31 December 2014;

4. Recalls that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, as per Article 16 of the *World Heritage Convention*, an obligation incumbent on States Parties having ratified the *Convention*;

5. Thanks the States Parties, who have already made their contributions, and with deep concern for the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund strongly calls upon the other States Parties, who have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the *Convention*, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible, bearing in mind the repercussions for non-payment which include the inability to access International Assistance;

6. Also recognizes that States Parties have an obligation to fulfil the objectives of the *Convention* and have a responsibility to provide sufficient funding for statutory processes and International Assistance;

7. Notes with concern the impact of the budget reduction of the UNESCO regular budget on programme activities, and appreciates the continuing efforts undertaken to manage and mitigate the challenges brought about by this situation;

8. Also recalls with deep concern the current financial situation of the World Heritage Fund which has hampered its ability to provide for activities related to the *Convention*, including conservation and management of properties which are a top priority, as well as nominations, and further recognizes the necessity to urgently achieve the sustainability of the Fund, is required to underpin the *Convention* as a flagship of UNESCO;

9. Notes that the World Heritage Fund will not increase significantly in future due to the universality of the *Convention*, as well as the provisions of the *Convention* that determine the statutory funding of the World Heritage Fund, while at the same time the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and, subsequently, the workload of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies will continue to increase;

10. Recognizing the urgent need to ensure the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and having considered the options for voluntary contributions to this end, again calls upon all States Parties to allocate voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund, especially to the sub-accounts for International Assistance and Human Capacities, and making voluntary contributions, including by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8** as follows:

    - Option 1: Increasing the standard percentage used in the calculation of the contributions to the World Heritage Fund from 1% to 2%,

    - Option 3.1: Increasing the contributions by a flat rate of US$3,300 per property inscribed,

    - Option 3.2: Increasing the contributions by an additional 4% of the current assessed contribution per property inscribed,

- Option 3.3: Increasing the contributions by an additional amount per property inscribed, according to a percentage increasing with the number of properties inscribed,

- Option 3.4: Increasing the contributions by an additional amount per property inscribed, according to a percentage decreasing with the number of properties inscribed,

- Option 4: Increasing the contributions on the basis of the number of tourists arrivals at World Heritage Sites,

- Option 5: Contributing per activity;

11. Noting that without additional contributions being made to the World Heritage Fund, the financial resources will not be sufficient to provide for the statutory processes as well as International Assistance and its delivery through the reduced staff of the World Heritage Centre, thereby threatening the credibility of the *Convention* and the fulfilment of its mandate,

12. Expressing its deep concern that the resources available to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not sufficient to implement the statutory activities required by the *Convention* and recommending the workload requested of the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies be reduced and prioritized more systematically to align with the financial and human resources available,

13. Approves the budget adjustments within the World Heritage Fund to fund International Assistance requests in an amount of US$ 60,000, to be covered by the budget lines of Information Management and Retrospective Inventory (US$ 30,000 each);

14. Accepts that the Operating Reserve of the World Heritage Fund cover the request from ICOMOS for additional funding in the amount of US$ 57,180;

15. Also approves the budget for the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2016-2017 and its corresponding breakdown as shown in Annex V;

16. Authorizes the Director-General to make transfers between Action lines and reserves up to an amount of 20% of the initial budget/Expenditure Plan approved, to a maximum amount of US$ 250,000, each biennium in order to allow the execution of the Committee's decisions and to respond to emergency needs, informing the Members of World Heritage Committee in writing, at the session following such action, of the details and reasons for these transfers;

17. Notes with appreciation the supplementary costs covered by the German Authorities as host of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, in addition to those listed in the Statement of Requirements;

18. Considers that without additional contributions being made to the World Heritage Fund, financial resources will not be sufficient to provide for statutory processes, and also notes that there have already been significant cuts to key *Convention* processes and activities, which affect the delivery of International Assistance and capacity building, as well as cuts in implementation of the Periodic Reporting, development of thematic studies, Information Management and Retrospective Inventory;

19. Decides to continue to explore appropriate ways to ensure the sustainability of the Fund, including through extrabudgetary resource mobilization opportunities and

additional fundraising possibilities, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, other UNESCO competent services, the Advisory Bodies and States Parties, and to develop recommendations in this regard;

20. Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to hold a budget briefing as part of the information session prior to each session of the Committee;

21. Also recalling its welcome of the suggestion to reduce the duration and agenda of the sessions as stated in decision 38 COM 5F1,

22. Taking note of the emphasis placed by the World Heritage Committee on conservation and management which are top priorities, and considering that the actual stand of expenses/budgeting does not reflect this prioritization, recommends that the World Heritage Centre, in its implementation of the budget for the next biennium (2016-2017), gives priority to conservation and monitoring activities, and therefore calls for increasing the proportion of the World Heritage Fund dedicated to conservation and decides to keep the number of 150 SOC reports per annum;

23. Having taken note of the dire budgetary situation of the World Heritage Fund, and the fact that the biggest savings could be achieved through combined efforts to reduce the number of nominations (25/year), through considering opportunities to have different state of conservation (SOC) reporting cycles depending on urgency of situation at site and through considering the frequency of the annual cycle of the World Heritage Committee meetings,

24. Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to prepare an annual decision document on the number of new nominations to be examined in the following year according to Document INF.8B3 including cost estimates for each nomination and – if necessary – a prioritization according to *Operational Guidelines* para. 61 c;

25. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to:

    a) explore and report on options to extend the reporting cycle for SOC sites depending on the degree of urgency at the site; and

    b) prepare an analysis on the financial and operational implications of transferring to a 2-year meeting cycle, to be presented in the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in order to provide basis for the World Heritage Committee to have an informed discussion on the merits of changing the frequency of the meeting cycle;

26. Emphasizes that under any option to change to a two-year meeting cycle, it is important to maintain the premise of the Global Strategy;

27. Decides that cost savings will be reallocated to International Assistance directed towards the conservation and management of World Heritage properties and capacity building, given the number of countries which need support to establish/maintain a presence on the World Heritage List;

28. Also thanks the Secretariat for providing the comparative analysis of options for further efficiency and cost saving measures and resource mobilisation that could contribute to the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund;

29. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the implementation of this Decision at the 40th session in 2016.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

No Decision

17. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 40th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2016)

Decision: 39 COM 17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its Decision **38 COM 15**, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), which elected its Bureau whose mandate will be until the end of its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),

2. Also recalling its Decision **39 COM 18** according to which its 40th session will take place in **Istanbul, Turkey**, from 10 to 20 July 2016,

3. Recalls that the hosting of a World Heritage Committee session by a Committee member is subject to the host country signing a host country agreement in conformity with UNESCO's rules and regulations and that host country agreements for category II meetings must be signed eight months in advance of the meeting;

4. Also recalls that, pursuant to Rule 44.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, arrangements by the host country to provide interpretation in another language than the working languages of the Committee (English and French), or another official working languages recognized by the United Nations, should be in compliance with UNESCO's rules, regulations and procedures;

5. Decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, its Bureau with the following composition:

   a) **H.E. Ambassador Gürcan TÜRKOĞLU (Turkey)** as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 39th session of the Committee (Bonn, 2015) until the end of the 40th session of the Committee (2016),

   b) **Lebanon**,

      Peru,

      Philippines,

      Poland and

Senegal (until the 20th session of the General Assembly)

as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 39th session of the Committee (Bonn, 2015) until the end of the 40th session of the Committee (2016),

c) **Mrs Eugene JO (Republic of Korea)** as the Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee whose mandates will begin at the end of the 39th session of the Committee (Bonn, 2015) until the end of the 40th session of the Committee (2016);

6. Also decides that the Bureau of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (2017) will be elected at the end of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (2016) in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee;

18. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 40th SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (2016)

Decision: 39 COM 18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/18,

2. Decides that its 40th session will take place in **Istanbul, Turkey**, from 10 to 20 July 2016;

3. Requests the World Heritage Centre to consult with the incoming Chairperson regarding the Provisional Agenda and a detailed timetable;

4. Adopts the following Provisional Agenda for the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2016:

OPENING SESSION

1. Opening session

2. Admission of Observers

3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable

   3A. Adoption of the Agenda

   3B. Adoption of the Timetable

REPORTS

4. Report of the Rapporteur of the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015)

5. Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5A. Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions

5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies

5C. *World Heritage Convention* and sustainable development

5D. Report on the World Heritage Thematic Programmes

6. Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage related category 2 centres

EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

7. State of conservation of World Heritage properties

7A. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

7B. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger:

8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2016

8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List

8C. Update of the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger

8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and sizes by States Parties in response to the Retrospective Inventory

8E. Review and approval of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9. Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

9A. Progress report on the reflection concerning the upstream processes

9B. Progress report on the reflection on the processes for mixed nominations

PERIODIC REPORTS

10. Periodic Reports

    10A. Progress report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017)

    10B. Follow-up of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for all regions

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

11. Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*

12. Progress report on the Policy Guidelines Document

13. Follow-up to Recommendations of Evaluations and Audits on Working Methods

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

14. International Assistance

15. Presentation of the final accounts of the World Heritage Fund for 2014-2015 and implementation of the World Heritage Fund under the biennium 2016-2017

16. Other business

CLOSING SESSION

17. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 41th session of the World Heritage Committee (2017)

18. Provisional Agenda of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (2017)

19. Adoption of Decisions

20. Closing ceremony