

# Mont Saint-Michel and its Bay (France)

No 80

## 1. BASIC DATA

*State Party:* France

*Name of property:* Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay

*Location:* Departements of La Manche and of  
Ille-et-Vilaine, Regions of Basse-  
Normandie and Bretagne

*Inscription:* 1979

*Brief Description:*

Perched on a rocky islet in the midst of vast sandbanks exposed to powerful tides between Normandy and Brittany stand the 'Wonder of the West', a Gothic-style Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel St Michael, and the village that grew up in the shadow of its great walls. Built between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, the abbey is a technical and artistic *tour de force*, having had to adapt to the problems posed by this unique natural site.

## 2. ISSUES RAISED

*Background*

As part of the Periodic Reporting process for Europe, the State Party identified the need to put in place appropriate buffer zones for eight inscribed properties, of which this is one.

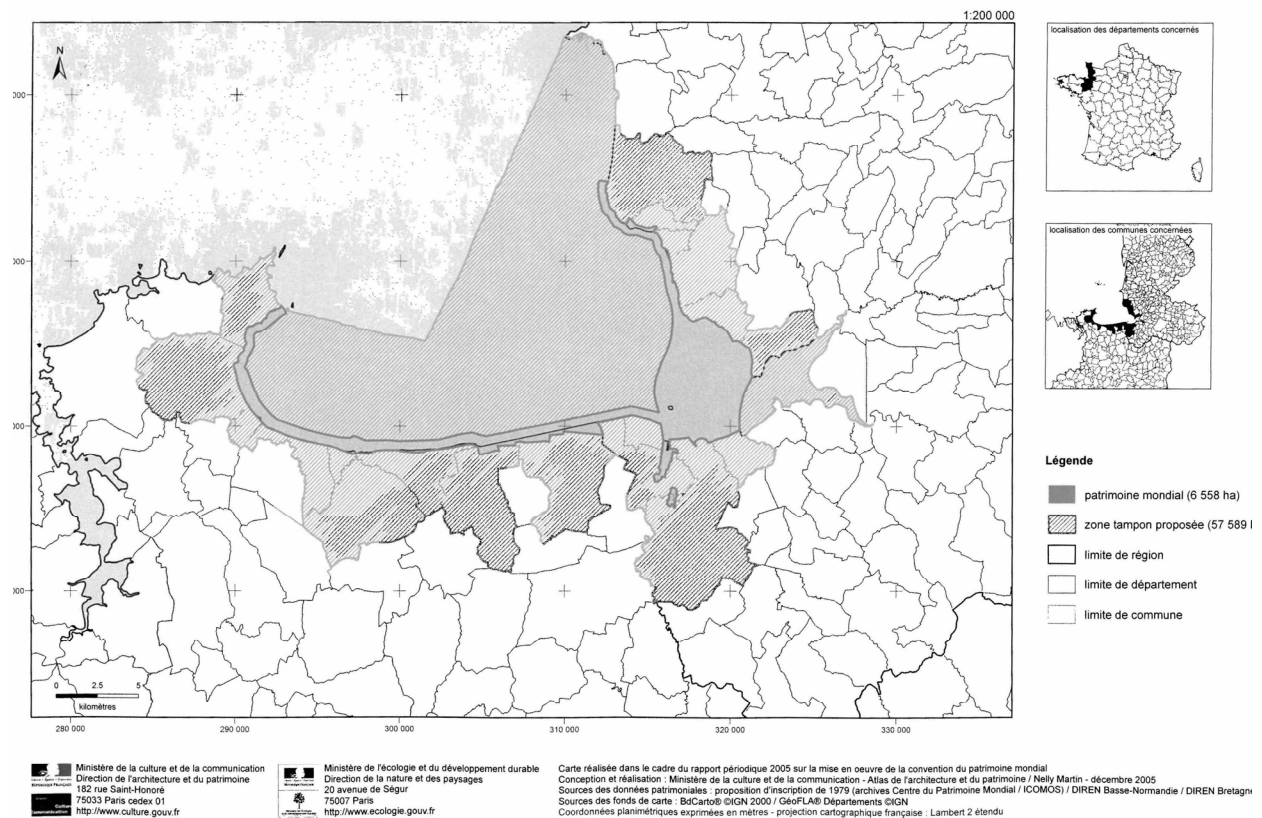
*Modification*

In the Periodic Report the State party acknowledged that the existing buffer zone was inadequate and now proposes a much enlarged zone which includes part of the bay, a Ramsar site, and the communes abutting the inscribed property. Within this buffer zone the areas immediately next to the main part of the inscribed property, that is the island Benedictine abbey, (as opposed to the narrow shore line either side) are either site *classé*, site *inscrit* or part of the Ramsar site.

## 3. ICOMOS RECOMMENDATIONS

ICOMOS recommends that the buffer zone for Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay (France) be approved.

## 080 - Le Mont Saint-Michel et sa baie : proposition d'une zone tampon



Map showing the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone