

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

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

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21-31 July 2024**

DECISIONS ADOPTED

BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

AT ITS 46TH SESSION (NEW DELHI, 2024)

CONTENTS

- 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
- 4. Report of the Rapporteur of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, 2023)**
- 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. Progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa
- 6. Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related category 2 centres**
 - 6A. World Heritage-related Capacity-Building activities and Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy
 - 6B. Progress report on the activities concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the World Heritage-related category 2 centres
- 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
- 8. Nomination process**
 - 8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2024
 - 8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List
 - 8C. Update of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties
 - 8E. Review and approval of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

- 9. Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List**
 - 9A. Upstream Process
- 10. Periodic Reports**
 - 10A. Report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Europe and North America
 - 10B. Mid-Cycle assessment report on the implementation of the Third Cycle Action Plan in Africa and the Arab States
 - 10C. Report on the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and general reflection on Periodic Reporting
- 11. Report of the Open-ended Working Group established by the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee**
- 12. International Assistance**
- 13. Presentation of the final accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2022-2023, Report on the execution of the budget for the biennium 2024-2025, Follow-up to Decision 45 COM 15**
- 14. Other business**
- 15. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee**
- 16. Provisional Agenda of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee**
- 17. Adoption of Decisions**
- 18. Closing session**

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

No Decision.

2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Decision: 46 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/2 and WHC/24/46.COM/2.Add,
2. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
3. Authorizes the participation in the 46th session, as observers, of the international governmental organizations (IGOs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, as listed Part I of the present document

3A. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 46TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (NEW DELHI, 2024)

Decision: 46 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/3A,
2. Adopts the Agenda contained in the above-mentioned document.

3B. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Decision: 46 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/3B and WHC/24/46.COM/3B.Corr,
2. Adopts the Timetable contained in the above-mentioned document.

4. REPORT OF THE RAPPOREUR OF THE EXTENDED 45TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (RIYADH, 2023)

Decision: 46 COM 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee (Riyadh, 2023).

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

Decision: 46 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/5A and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.5A,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 5A** and **45 COM 5A** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of Output 5.CL1 to ensure that "Member States' capacities [are] strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage", and the five Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Notes with appreciation that UNESCO organized, in close cooperation with the government of Italy, the Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st century in November 2023, as the first major event bringing together the 1972 Convention on the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, thanks the government of Italy for its initiative, encourages the reinforcement of synergies between World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, and invites all World Heritage stakeholders to draw inspiration from the Call for Action 'The Spirit of Naples';
5. Commends the government of Norway for its continued substantial contribution to the World Heritage Fund to strengthen management and conservation of severely threatened natural World Heritage properties in Africa, including those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and calls on other States Parties to join this initiative;
6. Welcomes the continued efforts of the World Heritage Centre to collaborate and enhance synergies among UNESCO's Culture conventions and the Biodiversity-related conventions and programmes towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), thanks the government of Switzerland for its funding to strengthen this work, and reiterates its requests to the States Parties to pursue such cooperation also at the national level, including in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

7. Welcomes the proposed organization of an expert meeting on World Heritage and the Kunming-Montreal GBF end of 2024, towards identifying and further developing coordinated actions on World Heritage and the GBF, and invites States Parties to contribute financially for this purpose;
8. Thanks the States Parties that have provided geo-referenced data of World Heritage properties for inclusion in the World Heritage Online Map Platform and encourages all States Parties to submit such data in order to fully benefit from the potential of this tool for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties;
9. Thanks all the States Parties that generously supported financially and/or in kind both the activities towards the implementation of the Convention, as well as the reinforcement of the human resources of the World Heritage Centre, and invites other States Parties to continue providing such support and increase it where possible;
10. Notes with concern that the implementation of the World Heritage Convention faces several significant challenges, including financial and capacity constraints, that impact its effectiveness;
11. Invites the Director General to reinforce the World Heritage Centre notably by allocating more UNESCO financial and human resources to the World Heritage Centre and by supporting its fundraising activities from the private sector, civil society, multilateral funds and institutions in line with UNESCO's financial rules and regulations;
12. Takes note of the discussions held during its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) regarding the UNESCO Mid-term Strategy (C/4) and the draft Programme and Budget (C/5) documents, in conformity with 42 C/Resolution 81, adopted by the General Conference at its 42nd session (UNESCO, 2023);
13. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on its activities, including a result-based report on the Thematic Programmes, under Item 5A, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

Decision: 46 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/5B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 5B** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities in support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
4. Also takes note with appreciation of the continued contributions of the Advisory Bodies, including direct financial and in-kind contribution, to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as well as the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

5. Further takes note of the progress made, as well as of the challenges and gaps identified by the Advisory Bodies, in the framework of the implementation of the Convention, and the range of issues reported by the Advisory Bodies that continue to require action and attention.

5C. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR WORLD HERITAGE IN AFRICA

Decision: 46 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/5C,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 5C**, **44 COM 10A**, **44 COM 10B** and **45 COM 5C** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts of the Member States to support effective and sustainable conservation and management of the unique biodiversity and rich cultural heritage of Africa that must be transmitted to future generations, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063;
4. Expresses its appreciation for the activities undertaken by UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and other committed partners in implementing the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa;
5. Strongly encourages African States Parties to appropriate the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa into their national, subregional and regional heritage strategies, and requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, AWHF and ARC-WH, and with the support of all partners, to support African States Parties in its implementation;
6. Thanks the governments of Australia, China, Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium), France, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, and the Sultanate of Oman for their financial support to implement activities that contribute to meeting the targets of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa and encourages other States Parties to contribute financially to its implementation;
7. Also thanks the governments of Kenya and South Africa for respectively hosting the Tentative Listing Workshop for Somalia and the Mid-Cycle Review Workshop of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Africa;
8. Calls upon the entire international community, including the Group of Friends for Priority Africa as well as regional partners and economic communities in Africa to provide support to African States Parties and the African World Heritage Fund in the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa and of Flagship Programme 3 of the Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022-2029 and to attain its targets, notably:
 - a) to assist 11 African States Parties not yet represented on the World Heritage List in developing a nomination at their request,

- b) to provide support to the States Parties with properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger to implement their costed action plans and to achieve a Desired state of conservation for their removal from this List (DSOCR),
 - c) to increasingly engage African heritage experts to enhance their role and involvement in World Heritage processes in Africa as well as in other regions,
 - d) to support the pan-African network of site managers to foster a strong link between management authorities and communities for sustainable conservation, effective management and entrepreneurship,
 - e) to develop projects focused on entrepreneurship and the adoption of new and innovative technologies;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund, to monitor the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa and prepare a progress report towards this end, in line with the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and Programme and Budget for 2022-2025, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session.

6A. WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY

Decision: 46 COM 6A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/6A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 6** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Recalling the outcomes of the 2023 independent evaluation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) and the evaluators' guidelines for the revision of the WHCBS, and also recalling its request that the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, develop a new WHCBS for the decade 2025-2035 for review at its 47th session, if funding allows,
4. Commends the progress made by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, the States Parties, the Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO related to World Heritage, as well as the UNESCO Chairs with the implementation of the 2011 WHCBS;
5. Takes note of the progress made with the revision of the WHCBS;
6. Takes note of the progress made with the implementation of the regional and thematic capacity-building strategies and initiatives, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders, including the Advisory Bodies, to support and follow up on the implementation of the strategies and initiatives developed for each regional and thematic area;
7. Thanks the governments of Australia, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland for the continued financial support they extended to the WHCBS and the World Heritage Leadership Programme, and also thanks the States Parties of Belgium,

China, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, and Oman for supporting World Heritage capacity-building activities, notably in the Africa region;

8. Encourages States Parties and other stakeholders to continue supporting the implementation of the WHCBS by providing financial support and/or reinforcing the human resources of the institutions involved;
9. Reiterates its call upon all States Parties to provide dedicated voluntary contributions under the World Heritage Fund and/or extra-budgetary support to the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Leadership programme for capacity building;
10. Noting that insufficient funding has been provided for the revision of the WHCBS thus far, reiterates its appeal for States Parties to contribute dedicated financial resources to that effect;
11. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the World Heritage-related capacity-building activities and the WHCBS, for examination at its 47th session.

6B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

Decision: 46 COM 6B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/6B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 6** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Congratulates the World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2Cs) for their contributions to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, especially towards the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Global Priorities;
4. Thanks the governments of Bahrain, Brazil, China, India, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and South Africa for hosting active World Heritage-related C2Cs and thereby supporting the work of UNESCO and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
5. Thanks States Parties that are contributing to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through the C2Cs and further encourages States Parties to support these C2Cs in their regions for the implementation of World Heritage-related activities;
6. Encourages States Parties to make full use of the capacities of the different C2Cs, based on their specialist areas, and to support and participate in their activities whenever possible;
7. Also encourages C2Cs to continue organising activities that are international or regional in scope and contribute to the global development agendas, the strategic priorities of the World Heritage Committee and the implementation of the Framework Action Plans developed for each region as part of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

8. Further encourages C2Cs to participate actively in the revision process of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and its subsequent implementation;
9. Requests the World Heritage-related Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 March 2025**, a progress report on all their activities concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention since the present session, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 46 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7**, **43 COM 7.2**, **44 COM 7.2**, **45 COM 7.1** and **45 COM 7.2** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling that all proposed major interventions in and around World Heritage properties should be subject to rigorous impact assessments, as outlined in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, and that both the proposals and the impact assessment-related documentation be submitted, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any interventions for new construction, demolition, modification, recovery or reconstruction commences or decisions made that cannot be reversed;

Improving the perception of the List of World Heritage in Danger

4. Reaffirming that the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger aims to mobilize international support to help States Parties to effectively address the challenges faced by the properties concerned,
5. Also reaffirming the need to promote a better understanding of the implications and benefits of properties being inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, welcomes the Secretariat's information material entitled "Implementing New Visions: a Guidebook for action on the List of World Heritage in Danger (2024)" and thanks the State Party of Norway for its financial support to this end;
6. Encourages the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to disseminate widely this guidebook through appropriate means, including in local languages, to the World Heritage community at large and the broader public, with a view to contributing to a more positive perception of the List of World Heritage in Danger;

Emergency situations resulting from conflicts

7. Expresses utmost concern that conflicts (including armed conflict and civil unrest) continue to represent a major threat to World Heritage properties and remain one of the major reasons for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Regrets the loss of human life and the degradation of humanitarian conditions resulting from the prevailing conflict situations, including threats to the personnel and local communities in and around World Heritage properties;
9. Welcomes protection and conservation efforts being undertaken by the concerned States Parties at World Heritage properties in current and former conflict zones and that some States Parties are progressively proceeding with the development of corrective measures and the definition of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of

properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for some cultural properties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

10. Urges again all parties associated with conflicts to ensure the protection of cultural and natural heritage, including to avoid their use for military purposes and also reiterates its utmost concern at the increase in illicit trafficking of cultural objects, resulting from armed conflicts, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the fight against these threats, and for cultural heritage protection in general, including through the ratification of the 1970 Convention and the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols, as well as the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2347 (2017), and the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations on Museums and Collections (2015);
11. Welcomes the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies' continued actions in responding to emergencies and conflicts threatening cultural and natural heritage, including the Outstanding Universal Value, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) and the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), UNESCO's actions and emergency assistance programme and the First Aid and Resilience for Cultural Heritage of ICCROM;
12. Reiterates its call upon the international community to further support the safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage of countries affected by conflict, through earmarked funds or through contributions to the UNESCO World Heritage Fund, HEF and RRF;

Recovery and Reconstruction

13. Recalls that reconstruction is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances, and should be based on thorough documentation, guided by conservation plans and policies that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and as outlined in Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines;
14. Takes note of the programmes initiated and implemented by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and other international partners to respond to the destruction of heritage through documentation, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction;
15. Welcomes the continued efforts by States Parties in responding to post-conflict and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction, as well as their positive social and community interlinkages and thanks UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies, and all the partners for their generous support of the initiatives and efforts;
16. Reiterates its previous encouragement to all State Parties to prepare comprehensive risk preparedness strategies and emergency response plans for World Heritage properties that are exposed to risk from natural disasters;
17. Reminds State Parties that Recovery Plans and on major reconstruction projects, which extend beyond emergency repair and stabilisation works should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context and that detailed project documentation including HIAs should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Development pressures and the need for management effectiveness

18. Notes with concern the continued and increasing pressures on World Heritage arising from a wide range of development pressures from small scale housing projects to large scale infrastructure development, including for transport and energy, urban development

and expansion, mining and extraction, and the building of border barriers, to the development of tourism infrastructure within World Heritage properties or in their wider setting, resulting in significant potential and ascertained threats to the OUV of these properties;

19. Notes the importance of clearly established governance and legislation protecting the OUV of the property and that effective management systems for World Heritage properties must be integrated into urban, local and regional development plans and processes so that the coherent and coordinated protection of OUV is implemented by all levels of government;
20. Welcomes the launch of the UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas digital tool that also supports the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and encourages States Parties to implement the Atlas for managing World Heritage properties in urban contexts;
21. Invites States Parties to regularly evaluate their World Heritage management systems to ensure that management is effective, and to inform adaptive management approaches by utilizing the 2023 Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0 to ensure that the OUV is conserved and management objectives are achieved;
22. Reminds States Parties that in order to effectively plan, manage and inform decision-making, that they ensure that the potential impacts of developments on the OUV are appropriately assessed, in line with Paragraph 3 above and that no developments proceed that would negatively impact the OUV;
23. Notes furthermore the support of sound information systems for effective management systems, such as the World Heritage Online Map Platform and the UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas, as well as the importance of sharing management practices through the UNESCO World Heritage Canopy platform and the IUCN-ICCROM-ICOMOS Nature-Culture Community of PANORAMA and invites States Parties to continue to contribute to their information and practices;
24. Also welcomes the agreement signed between UNESCO, IUCN and the Kingdom of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) to reinforce capacity building and quality assurance for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for World Heritage properties;

Local Communities, Indigenous Peoples, and Human-Rights

25. Recalling Article 5 of the Convention that each State Party shall adopt for their territory a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community, and the integration of the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes as a means of ensuring effective protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage;
26. Also recalling the obligations of States Parties to ensure that the management of their World Heritage properties should follow a human rights-based approach in line with international human rights standards and norms, including the expectations set out in the 2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in World Heritage Processes, and the UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples in order to ensure the full participation of all right-holders and stakeholders and in particular Indigenous peoples including through the provision of free, prior and informed consent on issues related to World Heritage properties that affect Indigenous Peoples;

27. Further recalling the provisions of the Operational Guidelines that call upon States Parties to adopt a human rights-based approach and to ensure the participation of local communities and/or Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of the Convention;
28. Acknowledges that historically for some World Heritage properties, OUV has been defined without the meaningful or sufficient participation of the Indigenous Peoples concerned and may not have taken into account their perspectives, including their relationship with the land and the interconnectedness of nature and culture and that this may have significant negative impacts on the rights, practices, traditions, livelihoods and heritage of concerned Indigenous Peoples;
29. Expresses its utmost concern and strongly condemns all forms of human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including forced evictions, and reiterates that such violations are unacceptable within the framework of the World Heritage Convention, urges the States Parties concerned to urgently investigate allegations where such violations have been reported, and calls upon States Parties to ensure equitable, inclusive and participatory governance mechanisms ensuring full respect of human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as an integral part of the management of World Heritage properties;
30. Takes note that an international expert workshop on 'Recognising and Respecting Indigenous Peoples' Heritage Values in World Heritage Sites' was organised by the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH) in January 2024 with the participation of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, and invites the IIPFWH to make available the outcome document at the earliest opportunity;
31. Also takes note that the 21st General Assembly and Scientific Symposium of ICOMOS addressed the question of human rights-based approach to heritage management;

Climate Change

32. Notes with concern the increasing impacts of Climate Change on cultural and natural World Heritage properties;
33. Welcomes the adoption of the Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (Policy Document) by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 24th session (UNESCO, 2023), urges States Parties to implement it and encourages States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to disseminate it widely through appropriate means;
34. Takes note of the initiatives taken by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advance work to support implementation of the Policy Document, including on the development of a draft climate action for World Heritage toolkit and through the ongoing revision of the Resource Manual on Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage, as well as the upcoming activities for a Guidance Document and encourages States Parties to support these initiatives through extrabudgetary contributions;
35. Also takes note of the ICOMOS Climate Change Adaptation Guide, proposed online and the pro-active engagement with the threats posed by climate change to Indigenous heritage;

World Heritage contribution to Biodiversity Conventions

36. Reiterates its request to States Parties to fully harness the World Heritage Convention in supporting the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

Framework, including through effective collaboration among convention focal points, and by integrating World Heritage-related objectives within their updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), to ensure synergies between World Heritage and other biodiversity-related Conventions, and that World Heritage properties fully benefit from international biodiversity financing such as the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund;

37. Thanks the States Parties of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Germany for their offer to support the expert meeting on World Heritage and the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a view to elaborating specific guidance on how the World Heritage Convention could be better harnessed to contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework and the aims of the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, and requests that the outcomes and recommendations of the expert meeting be reported to the Committee at its 47th session;
38. Noting the growing concern over the impacts of avian influenza on wildlife in World Heritage properties, encourages management authorities to develop appropriate management strategies in line with international standards and good practice.

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

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) (C 1033)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.71**, **39 COM 7B.94**, **40 COM 7B.49**, **41 COM 7B.42**, **42 COM 7A.5**, **43 COM 7A.45**, **44 COM 7A.32** and **45 COM 7A.55** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party on the progress made in implementing the adopted corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and previous decisions of the Committee, including the amendment of the Viennese Building Code, the extension of the roof cadastre to include historic metal structures, and the forthcoming amendment of the Federal Monuments Protection Act;

4. Notes the findings and recommendations of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission and requests the State Party to consider the recommendations as an essential working tool to ensure further improvement of the new management system and to guide the future revision of the management plan accepted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023);
5. Also notes that the efficacy of the Management Plan has to be demonstrated in practice through regular monitoring, reiterates its previous advice that the revisions to the Management Plan should address issues raised in the 2022 ICOMOS Technical Review, and further notes that other management issues that remain to be addressed include strengthening the role of the site managers, establishing and reporting on a monitoring and evaluation programme, and improving the definition of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property;
6. Acknowledges the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for projects in the Schwarzenberg Garden and also encourages the State Party to implement both the mitigation measures contained in the HIA and the recommendations of the relevant ICOMOS Technical Review, including not proceeding with the current design for the construction of a new hotel wing associated with the reuse of the Schwarzenberg Palace, but to further develop alternatives and to submit further details of the design for this project and for the rehabilitation of the Schwarzenberg Garden, as well as documentation on the Schwarzenberg Palace renovation project, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Appreciates the continued efforts of the State Party and other actors to further revise the design plans for the Heumarkt Neu project, including the submission of a fourth revision of the original design by further reducing the negative impacts of the proposal on the OUV of the property and the attributes that convey it;
8. Considers the further revised design proposal for refinement of the Heumarkt Neu development should be informed by the four options proposed by the 2024 Advisory mission, in order to achieve the relevant DSOCR element, and urges the State Party to submit detailed plans and designs on the basis of HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Regrets that at an architectural competition for a new underground visitors centre for the Upper Belvedere Palace was awarded without the project being notified to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines or an impact assessment being undertaken in accordance with paragraphs 110 and 118bis, and requests the State Party to submit documentation on this project, including an HIA following the methodology of the 2022 Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are taken on its implementation that may be difficult to reverse;
10. Also regrets that the project for the extension of the metro system with new stations in the property was not communicated to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies with details of the project, its current status and any impact assessments on the OUV of the property, in accordance with paragraphs 110 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Notes furthermore that a number of the adopted corrective measures remain to be implemented and therefore encourages furthermore the State Party to continue their implementation in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, with a view to achieving the DSOCR;

12. Requests that a Reactive Monitoring mission takes place soon after the submission of the detailed plans and designs of the Heumarkt Neu project in its version of April 2024;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain the Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. **Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) (C 1552rev)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.56** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the outcomes that the decision of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of 8 March 2024 to dismiss Gabriel Resources' arbitration claim against the Government of Romania regarding the annulment of mining permits in 2007 may have on the state of conservation of the property;
4. Notes that Gabriel Resources has the right to challenge the decision within 120 days, and requests the State Party to provide an update on this crucial mining issue as soon as it is able;
5. Also welcomes the activation of the Management Committee (corrective measure 3) and progress with all other corrective measures according to the approved timeframe, in particular:
 - a) Revision of the Management Plan, including a reassessment of the Roman archaeological sites in order to establish conservation priorities,
 - b) Development of the General Urban Plan (PUG), a key planning document necessary to prevent mining or any other activities that might impact negatively on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property (corrective measure 2),
 - c) Development of mitigation measures to address polluted underground mine water to be included in the PUG (corrective measure 5),
 - d) Development of an inspection and maintenance regime for header ponds (corrective measure 6);
6. Encourages the State Party to include in the Management Plan, as part of its reassessment of the Roman archaeological sites, an archaeological research plan to guide future work on existing sites and on future survey work to clarify what further surface and underground mining, ore processing and settlement sites of the Roman period remain;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, including information on progress made in implementing corrective measures, and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
8. **Decides to retain Roşia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides to adjourn the debate on this agenda item until its next ordinary session.
4. **Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527ter)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.59** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;
4. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', in particular the various protective measures it has taken, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war;
5. Calls on the Russian Federation to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil its obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Welcomes the various actions undertaken by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in protecting and safeguarding the property and, more generally, of cultural heritage throughout its territory within its internationally recognised borders, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities;
7. Encourages the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage

properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;

8. Calls on the international community to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines, to continue to support the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage in Ukraine, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine;
9. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to prepare a Management Plan for the property under challenging circumstances and requests that the Management Plan is amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Review by ICOMOS, and resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review before it is finalised and implemented;
10. Reiterates its concern that the risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential impacts of nearby missile strikes on the building fabric and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development and urgent implementation of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies can provide, thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, and incorporating the work being done on vibrometric monitoring of buildings and structures;
11. Further acknowledges the scientific studies, repair and restoration work carried out by the State Party on the property, takes note of the State Party's request regarding the urgent need for technical assistance to the National Preserve 'Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra' and National Conservation Area 'Saint-Sophia of Kyiv' for the processing and storage of digital models, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the processing and storage of digital data models undertaken for various components of the property;
12. Notes the detailed regulations already in place to preserve the landscape and urban qualities of the buffer zone, including restrictions on the volume and height of new buildings, but further notes that a review of recent new developments has highlighted the need for these regulations to be better adapted to the specific characteristics of the historic urban landscape, and requests the State Party to fine-tune these regulations to prevent the urbanisation of green areas such as the slopes of the Pechora-Navodnytska hill;
13. Reminds the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments of major projects that may impact the OUV of the property should be undertaken, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and further invites the State Party to follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context in their preparation;
14. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the assistance to be provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, and thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine;

15. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare, 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 (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;
16. Finally requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
17. **Decides to retain Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

5. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.60** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;
4. Commends the State Party for its strong commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', in particular for having taken various protective measures, and reiterates its utmost concern at the potential threats facing the property due to the ongoing war;
5. Calls on the Russian Federation to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil its obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Welcomes the various actions undertaken by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in protecting and safeguarding the property and, more generally, of cultural heritage throughout its territory within its internationally recognised borders, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, and encourages further assistance and support, including to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, as well as a Management Plan for the property, including an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;

7. Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List;
8. Also calls on the international community to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine, to continue to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage, and to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines;
9. Expresses its concern about the potential negative impact of the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square, within the property, on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and requests an immediate halt to the construction works and a redesign of the project to ensure that it does not have a negative impact on the property's OUV;
10. Expresses further concern that the planning and management systems in place at the property have allowed this development to occur, recommends that these systems be strengthened and made consistent with the objective of maintaining the OUV of the property and implementing the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape; reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the 1972 World Heritage Convention and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine, in particular through a legal analysis and systematisation of national normative acts governing the protection of cultural property, to ensure alignment with relevant international standard-setting instruments;
11. Takes note of the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of L'viv approved by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy and requests the State Party to submit this documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

6. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) (C 1703)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.2** adopted at its 18th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023),

3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing ascertained and potential threats facing the property;
4. Appreciates the commitment of the State Party to the protection of the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa', in particular through the various protective measures taken, including the documentation, stabilisation, repair and restoration work of damaged cultural heritage buildings, and invites the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect the property and, in general, its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as the sites included in the Tentative List;
5. Calls on the Russian Federation to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil its obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the Committee's previous decision, despite the difficult circumstances, and requests the State Party to continue to implement the remaining recommendations with due diligence, as permitted by the current circumstances, and to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, including under the World Heritage Fund;
7. Takes note of the submission by the State Party of the map of the property, as requested by the Committee in its previous decision, and considers this to be consistent with the boundaries of the property as inscribed;
8. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party, made in its previous decision, to give urgent consideration to extending the buffer zone of the property and setting out how it will be managed to support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further invites the State Party to submit, as soon as possible, a minor boundary modification reflecting the extended buffer zone;
9. Reiterates its call on the international community to continue to support the safeguarding of Ukraine's cultural and natural heritage, and further calls on the international community to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property from Ukraine;
10. Reiterates its concern that the risk preparedness measures for the property are not yet sufficient in terms of analysis of potential impacts of missile strikes on the building fabric and measures to address these impacts, and strongly encourages the State Party to give high priority to the development and urgent implementation of an emergency preparedness and risk mitigation plan, taking full advantage of the support that UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies can provide thanks to the support of the Government of Japan;
11. Notes with appreciation the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and expresses its regret that this mission could not take place due to the ongoing security situation;

12. Also notes with appreciation the project 'Support for the Implementation of the Odesa Cultural Development Strategy' and requests that its outcomes be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
13. Further notes with appreciation the granting of provisional enhanced protection under the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to three buildings in the property, and encourages the State Party to seek enhanced protection under the Second Protocol for other significant cultural heritage buildings in the property;
14. Reminds the State Party that major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property should be notified to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse and that Heritage Impact Assessments of such projects should be undertaken following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines respectively;
15. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of its obligations under the World Heritage Convention, and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are enacted, and invites the State Party to take full advantage of the assistance to be provided by UNESCO, at the request of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, and thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine;
16. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare, 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 (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session, while noting that this process may be hampered by the ongoing war and its unforeseeable consequences;
17. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** 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 47th session;
18. **Decides** to retain The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.66** and **45 COM 7A.18** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to implement the previous Committee decisions and the technical advances made to meet the corrective measures for achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. Also takes note of the “Critical Route to remove Potosí from the World Heritage List in Danger and the preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí,” which declares the Cerro Rico in emergency status, as well as the establishment of the Management Committee focusing on the implementation of the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP) with the participation of various stakeholders, including civil society;
5. Expresses its concern over the insufficient implementation rate of the IPMP and requests again the State Party to ensure its full implementation with adequate resources in place;
6. Notes the process for the legalization of the Minor Boundary Modification proposal for the establishment of the property’s buffer zone, and urges again the State Party to finalize the proposal in accordance with recommendations provided by the Committee in its Decision **44 COM 8B.66**, and to submit the proposal to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, in conformity with paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;
7. Notes with satisfaction the preservation efforts of the Kari Kari water system’s lagoons and encourages the State Party to ensure continuous rigorous monitoring of the lagoons;
8. Further notes the agreement between the Autonomous Municipal Government of Potosí (GAMP) and the Tomás Frías Autonomous University for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the historical areas of the City of Potosí, training programs for future professionals, updating legislation, and establishing a digital database and requests the State Party to provide further information on the initiatives implemented;
9. Also expresses its concern for the lack of significant actions to ensure the consolidation and enforcement of the legal framework and regulations related to the entire property;
10. Welcomes the progress achieved regarding the stabilization and monitoring of the slopes of Cerro Rico, the dry filling of sink holes, and the relocation of minors, and urges again the State Party to prioritize the definitive closure of mining sections above 4,400 meters above sea level;

11. Notes with satisfaction the technical reviews conducted by the GAMP for safeguarding reservoirs and mining facilities, and that 55 mining mills were inventoried and will be regularly inspected;
12. Expresses utmost concern in view of the prolonged inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the proposed extension of the timeframe outlined for the completion of all corrective measures within the IPMP to January 2026;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.19** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Appreciates that the loan of the Inter-American Development Bank has been extended until December 2025;
4. Regrets that the revised timeframe 2019-2023 that was proposed by the State Party for the full implementation of the programme of corrective measures was not implemented, adopts the revised timeframe for implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) for the period of 2024-2026, and urges the State Party to implement the revised workplan that has been established and corrective measures accordingly in order to achieve the DSOCR by the end of 2026;
5. Welcomes the completion of the Land Management Plan of Portobelo and recommends the State Party to consider the eventual recommendations of a technical review of the plan by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes that the integrated Management Plan will be prepared in 2024 and requests the State Party to submit the Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
7. Also welcomes the completion of the conservation works at the San Lorenzo Castle and its Upper Battery, also notes that a great volume of works is still to be executed at the Fortifications of San Jeronimo, San Fernando and Santiago and further welcomes that a special training programme of workers is foreseen;

8. Further notes that the Visitor Centre at San Lorenzo will be concluded in 2024 and regrets that no appropriate assessment of its potential impact on the World Heritage property and its buffer zone was prepared in spite of the Committee's requests expressed in Decisions **44 COM 7A.36** and **45 COM 7A.19** and urges the State Party to prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.20** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to implement the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex 2021-2031 and welcomes the important contribution of the Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Heritage in the fields of research and conservation, and the financial contributions of other government bodies at the national and regional level through special investment projects, and the support to develop and improve tourism facilities;
4. Also commends the State Party for its continued commitment to implement the Committee's decisions and programme of corrective measures, as adopted in Decision **36 COM 7A.34**, with the aim of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Appreciates that progress is being made in the amendment of Law 28261 and that the Ministry of Culture, through the Directorate of World Heritage Sites and the Decentralized Directorate of Culture of La Libertad (DDC-LIB), is actively engaging with the newly elected administration of the Provincial Municipality of Trujillo concerning the approval of the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan that incorporates the Regulation of the Buffer Zone of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex;
6. Notes again with regret that these two essential components of the programme of corrective measures have remained pending for several years, and urges once again the State Party to take the necessary measures for enhanced coordination, commitment and a strict timeframe for:
 - a) The delimitation and regulations of the proposed buffer zone,

- b) The implementation of the amended Law 28261 that would address the matter of illegal occupation;
7. Notes furthermore that construction of the El Sol Highway through the property is currently halted and recalls Decision **44 COM 7A.37** in which it is stated that the proposal to widen the existing Trujillo ring road that passes through the property and the buffer zone endangers the property's integrity and Outstanding Universal Value;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
9. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**
- 10. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (C 658)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.21** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyad, 2023),
3. Welcomes the implementation of the conservation measures carried out in the last year following a very inclusive approach;
4. Notes the important work accomplished in view of the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) proposal and reiterates its request that the final MBM proposal be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;
5. Welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.23** and requests that a full and detailed account on the effective operationalization of all the 11 corrective measures be provided in the next state of conservation report;
6. Commends the State Party for the completion of a comprehensive management plan, along with the establishment of regulatory measures for the proposed Buffer Zone and Disaster Risk Plans for the Historic Center of Coro and Historic Center of La Vela, the development of a conservation strategy and the development of an action plan, including a prioritized and budgeted intervention programme, based on solid surveys and guidelines duly integrating traditional know-how;
7. Takes note with satisfaction of the numerous, comprehensive and inclusive restoration, rehabilitation, and stabilization measures carried out in favor of the traditional buildings damaged by the rains in October and November 2022, and requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the activities further implemented;

8. Further notes the role of the Joint Commission and the reinforcement of management structures and requests the State Party to provide specific and complete information on the harmonization of legal tools for the protection of the property;
9. Further takes note with satisfaction of the important drainage measures implemented during the period concerned but noting that the establishment of a durable drainage strategy and plan – underpinned by all necessary financial resources – remains to be completed, reiterates its request that a complete, durable drainage system, duly resourced, be put in place;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess achievements in addressing the factors affecting the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of all corrective measures adopted to reach the Desired state of conservation together with a clear timeframe, in view of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

11. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.22** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party on its efforts to maintain constant management and conservation of the property, in particular through the adoption of Law No. 2022-034 of 28 July 2022, establishing the system for the protection and promotion of national cultural heritage;
4. Appreciates the sustained efforts of the Cultural Mission in the census and inventory of houses in the old urban fabric, and reiterates its request to the State Party to present a sample of this inventory and to clarify its scope;
5. Notes with satisfaction all the efforts made by the community to engage in the maintenance of the property, in particular the mobilization in favour of better sanitation of the town, as well as by the Cultural Mission to support the maintenance of houses and in particular for the emergency work carried out on the Gartahou, the village chief's house, but expresses its concern about the persistent problem of insufficient technical

and financial resources for the Cultural Mission and the Municipality of Djenné, and requests the State Party to increase budgetary allocations to better meet all the management and conservation needs of the property;

6. Thanks the State Party for having submitted an International Assistance request for the updating of the Management and Conservation Plan (Plan de gestion et de conservation) for the property, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022, and requests the State Party to reactivate the operation of the Management Committee for the property set up in 2014;
7. Also thanks the State Party for having successfully mobilized International Assistance to address the illegal occupation of the riverbanks, and requests the State Party to pay special and sensitive attention to the adherence and involvement of the local community in this initiative;
8. Expresses its concern about the stagnation of activities foreseen under the corrective measures to be implemented in 2023, such as the installation of bollards in areas where artefacts are concentrated and the strengthening of monitoring to prevent looting, and strongly encourages the State Party to regain momentum in the implementation of activities in order to put in place the necessary corrective measures;
9. Encourages the State party to draw up a guide for the maintenance of houses and to ensure that rehabilitation works comply with standards in terms of techniques, compatibility of materials and suitability for the use of the dwelling, with the aim of preserving the authenticity of the property while promoting the documentation of each intervention;
10. Expresses its appreciation for the progress made in the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. Timbuktu (Mali) (C 119rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.23** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the continuation of conservation measures, in particular the emphasis placed on participatory management and awareness-raising, carried out in partnership with traditional stakeholders such as mosque management committees, the masons' guild and civil society, and mobilisation efforts aimed in particular at the creation of

management committees for each cemetery housing mausoleums of saints with a view to supporting rehabilitation and maintenance work;

4. Notes with satisfaction the commitment made by the State Party with regard to the tree-planting works on the property to counter silting through a selected company, but in order to remedy the silting up of the Niger River which leads to the silting up of the mosques, reiterates its request to the State Party to broaden the scope of this initiative through strategic actions adapted at a regional level;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to create plantations with a view to ensuring a sustainable supply of appropriate construction timber, particularly in the context of the significant impacts of climate change;
6. Welcomes the rehabilitation and regular maintenance work carried out on the property, in particular the recent rough plastering of the Djingareyber Mosque including the repair of the façades, ensuring that traditional building techniques and know-how are maintained, as well as the selection of compatible materials respecting authenticity, and strongly encourages the State Party to further document this work in order to better promote the intangible dimension of this heritage and to encourage the preservation of the authenticity of the property through the transmission of this knowledge as well as its cultural and customary functions and meanings;
7. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to raise funds for the updating of the property's conservation and management plan, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022, and requests the State Party to submit the draft updated management plan to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Notes with concern the persistent lack of technical and financial resources of the Cultural Mission and traditional actors, which may compromise the conservation and management of the site, as well as the even more precarious security situation since the withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and requests the State Party to pay particular attention to strengthening the human and financial resources necessary for the proper functioning of its Cultural Missions;
9. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made in establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. **Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**
12. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

13. Tomb of Askia (Mali) (C 1139)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/23/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.24** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Congratulates the State Party on the operational launch, in March 2024, of the project to rehabilitate the Tomb of Askia and thanks the International alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) for providing funding for activities that take into account all the corrective measures;
4. Expresses its concern, however, about the cumulative delays since the initial launch of this project in January 2020, particularly with regard to capacities for managing and implementing large-scale projects, and requests that the State Party submit an updated work plan for this project to the World Heritage Centre, as well as detailed documentation for each stage of the project, in order to establish archives of the work to be carried out;
5. Takes note of the various interventions in progress or planned; notably removal of the remaining eucalyptus poles on the east wall of the men's mosque, the presence of bats in the men's mosque and work to spread fine sand in the prayer area to counter water erosion;
6. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party to resolve the problem of illegal dwellings occupying the buffer zone of the property – by means of awareness-raising actions aimed at the population concerned – and requests that the State Party provide further information, in its next report, on the effectiveness of these actions and other mitigation measures taken or proposed in this regard;
7. Expresses its satisfaction at the strengthened attachment of the local communities to their cultural heritage and the importance given to the involvement of all stakeholders in the rehabilitation project, thanks the State party, in particular through the Cultural Mission for its community engagement and awareness-raising efforts, including the celebrations of African World Heritage Day on 5 May 2023, and requests that the State Party provide the World Heritage Centre with the Communication Plan, developed in 2022, so that these efforts can be assessed more effectively;
8. Welcomes the submission by the State Party of an international assistance request for updating of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, following the expiry of the previous plan in 2022, and requests that the State Party submit the draft updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Expresses its appreciation of the progress made in developing the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that it be submitted for adoption at its next session in 2025;
10. Requests in this regard that the State Party also develop a costed action plan to support, in particular, the mobilization of technical and financial partners for implementation of the corrective measures necessary to achieve DSOCR;

11. Considering that insecurity continues to be the main threat to the property, requests that the State Party provide a more in-depth and up-to-date analysis enabling it to better understand the broader context and the precise impact that insecurity actually has on the property;
12. Finally requests that, by **1 February 2025**, the State Party submit an updated report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
13. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**
14. **Decides to keep the Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

14. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.26** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party towards improving the state of conservation of the property, including the submission of a revised Management Plan, and urges the completion of final steps regarding the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), with the submission of the draft Conservation Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Reiterates its request that a strategic plan is developed for visitor management and sustainable development, which respects the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its role as a place of pilgrimage, while also tying into sustainable development objectives and including community participation;
5. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in particular, related to plans to improve the infrastructure for visitor management;
6. Notes the invitation from the State Party to host a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which may be undertaken once the above-mentioned draft Conservation Plan has been submitted;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;

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

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.27** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges with appreciation the efforts of the State Party to establish a partnership for the preparation of the previously requested Conservation and Site Management Plans, as also recommended by the 2022 joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the initiation of these activities as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Recalling that the property has been suffering from water seepage and environmental degradation for some time, continues to encourage the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilisation actions for damaged and deteriorated components, while also recalling that emergency stabilisation work should only be undertaken in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent and according to the principle of minimal intervention;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, with particular regard to:
 - a) Carrying out regular maintenance activities, following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period,
 - b) Submitting a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all interventions must be integrated into the comprehensive conservation plan for the property,
 - c) Undertaking site protection measures, including the prevention of uncontrolled access, as well as installing a fence and proper signage that does not negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party that all interventions be addressed within the framework of the overall comprehensive Conservation Plan for the property to be prepared as a matter of priority;
7. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the permanent cancellation or relocation of the Makhool Dam project, given its potential impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Encourages the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the necessary corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
10. Reiterates its call on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
11. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

16. **Hatra (Iraq) (C 277rev)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.28** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the efforts undertaken in the implementation of previous Committee Decisions and corrective measures for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.28**;
4. Encourages the State Party to pursue the implementation and completion of other corrective measures as a priority, and to seek any necessary further support, in particular for:
 - a) Reinforcing site security (installation of surveillance cameras),
 - b) Repairing damage resulting from conflict (completing the temporary transport of archaeological finds to be photographed and catalogued, as well as ensuring their adequate storage and protection),
 - c) Assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and addressing vulnerabilities, including through assessment, studies and urgent stabilization (diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and Allat; priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat; preparation of a Conservation Plan for the central Temenos area);
5. Acknowledges with appreciation the efforts undertaken in addressing the recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request to further implement the mission's recommendations, in particular addressing the following:

- a) Elaboration of a monitoring programme, coupled with a capacity building programme to implement it,
 - b) Preparation of the Conservation Plan for the central Temenos area, and subsequent selection of pilot interventions and monitoring them over time to assess their efficacy;
 - c) Further assessment of potential threats, such as those that may be related to archaeological remains, in the area between the inner and outer city walls as necessary, and accordingly elaboration of additional possible protection measures,
 - d) Initiating the preparation of a site Management Plan that includes consideration requirements related to management and conservation, and a Visitor Management Plan,
 - e) Preparation of a strategy and allocation of resources for documentation management;
6. Taking note of the State Party's intention to submit a boundary clarification for the property, also encourages the State Party to consider the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal for the designation of a buffer zone, for added protection of the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
 7. Recalls the need for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
 8. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
 9. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
 10. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.29** and **45 COM 7A.30** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the establishment of a framework for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive

Monitoring mission, comprising a strategic approach in three phases, and encourages the State Party to pursue its implementation as soon as possible, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments, conservation planning, and the establishment of an on-site management unit;

4. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee;
5. Reiterating its concern for the condition of the property, particularly with regard to its damaged and deteriorated state arising from the impact of encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities, in addition to natural deterioration and weathering, acknowledges the proposed actions outlined by the State Party and, consistent with Decision **45 COM 7A.29**, urges again the State Party to give priority to actions related to detailed documentation and assessment of threats and damage incurred at the property, along with photographic documentation of all affected monuments, including a detailed report on bulldozed areas and encroachments, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party that interventions be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks, and that a comprehensive Conservation Plan be prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while in the meantime, any emergency stabilization or conservation work should adhere to the principles of minimal intervention and only be undertaken in critical cases where there is threat of further accelerated damage and collapse;
7. Requests the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the establishment of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with the related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation;
8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to proceed according to the technical reviews undertaken for works carried out in the Great Mosque, the Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and the Bab al'Amma, and the possible construction of two primary schools within the buffer zone of the property;
9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue submitting to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having considered Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4 and the Annex attached to this decision,
2. Recalling its previous decisions concerning the **Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls**,
3. Decides that the status of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decisions **45 COM 7A.31** and **45 COM 8C.2** of its last session.

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ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

46th session of the Committee (46 COM)

Item 18: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,
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 (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 (1972), the New 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, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),
4. Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,
5. Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of

the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,

6. Further recalling the 26 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Decision 19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/Decision 30, 202 EX/Decision 38, 204 EX/Decision 25, 205 EX/Decision 28, 206 EX/Decision 32, 207 EX/Decision 38, 209 EX/Decision 24, 210 EX/Decision 36, 211 EX/Decision 33, 212 EX/Decision 43, 214 EX/Decision 22, 215 EX/Decision 36, 216 EX/Decision 33, 217 EX/Decision 33 and 219 EX/Decision 22, and the 12 decisions World Heritage Committee decisions: **34 COM 7A.20**, **35 COM 7A.22**, **36 COM 7A.23**, **37 COM 7A.26**, **38 COM 7A.4**, **39 COM 7A.27**, **40 COM 7A.13**, **41 COM 7A.36**, **42 COM 7A.21**, **43 COM 7A.22**, **44 COM 7A.10** and **45 COM 7A.31**,
7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent excavations, tunnelling, works, projects, including the construction plan for a cable car, and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;
8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;
9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;
10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

19. Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) (C 1702)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **18 EXT.COM 5.1** and **45 COM 8C.2** adopted at its 18th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2023) and its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
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 extended 18th extraordinary session, and

however notes that some information was gathered during an online meeting with the State Party;

4. Welcomes the holding of a capacity building workshop on impact assessments in a World Heritage Context, to be organized by UNESCO in collaboration with ICOMOS and ICCROM;
5. Notes that the Conservation Management Plan for the property has been prepared and submitted, and includes a management framework, conservation policies and recommendations for future planning;
6. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) Provide the exact geographical coordinates of the boundaries of the property,
 - b) Develop detailed land-use and zoning guidelines for the planning of the immediate setting of the Rachid Karimi International Fair-Tripoli and of the portion of the oval within the property outside the nationally relevant “core zone”,
 - c) Set up a management structure for the property that also includes among its members representatives of the cultural heritage protection institutions, professionals and academic organisations and the civil society,
 - d) Carry out a geometric and architectural survey and a detailed condition assessment of Niemeyer’s structures as a knowledge basis for emergency stabilisation measures, conservation and structural rehabilitation interventions,
 - e) Consider a digital project of the documentation preserved at the various publicly accessible archives, to promote research and ensure that the original project documentation is not lost due to disasters or accidents,
 - f) Inform the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise any major projects, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - g) Develop and implement a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any project proposals that may have an impact on the OUV of the property (including the “Knowledge and Innovation Centre” project) and for the revision of the master plans of El-Mina and Tripoli;
7. Also requests the State Party to structurally embed HIA mechanisms into its planning processes to guarantee that planning provisions are consistent with the protection of the property’s OUV;
8. Notes with appreciation the invitation from the State Party for the requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and also notes that the mission will also serve to provide advice on the delineation of the buffer zone for the property and on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

20. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) (C 190)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.33** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with appreciation the cancellation of the Cyrene Grand Hotel project and requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed through the World Heritage Centre on any ongoing and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Expresses serious concerns about the damage inflicted to the property as a result of inundation caused by Storm Daniel, takes note of the assessment carried out by the State Party in collaboration with the Italian archaeological missions, welcomes the efforts of the State Party in implementing conservation and protection measures, including those in response to the impact of flooding on the property, and urges the State Party to continue these efforts in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, including concerning the choice of restoration materials and techniques planned at the property before their implementation;
5. Also welcomes the efforts undertaken to decontaminate Wadi Belghader and the Spring of Apollo, as well as the temporary diversion of sewage piping away from the property, and also requests the State Party to seek a permanent solution in this regard;
6. Also takes note with appreciation of the UNESCO mission of November 2023 following the occurrence of Storm Daniel, and its findings, as well as actions outlined for the short and medium-term;
7. Further requests the State Party to pursue the development of a conservation strategy reflecting the priority areas that have been identified, including:
 - a) Urgent assessment and stabilisation studies for exposed or weakened foundations and structures,
 - b) Comprehensive study tackling the stability and stabilisation of the rock escarpment in the lower north-west area of the property,
 - c) Geotechnical and soil studies to address issues of soil erosion,
 - d) Studies for a comprehensive water drainage solution,
 - e) Disaster risk management with an early warning system;
8. Strongly encourages the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property as a priority and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support;
9. Urges the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft retrospective Statement of OUV for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

10. Also urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
11. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue the close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Requests furthermore that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property take place as soon as conditions permit;
13. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party – including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund – for urgent conservation actions, as well as for medium-term planning as outlined in the UNESCO mission recommended action plan;
14. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya, as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
16. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

21. **Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) (C 183)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.34** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;
4. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible and to seek the necessary funds as needed;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to finalize the process of development of a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

6. Reiterates its concern about the alarming state of conservation of the Hunting Baths and its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Pursue the development of a conservation strategy for the Hunting Baths, with urgent conservation measures aiming to preserve and protect the monument, and to seek the necessary technical and financial support in this regard,
 - b) Present the proposed conservation plan for the Hunting Baths to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - c) Continue to consult the Advisory Bodies with regard to restoration materials and techniques planned to be used at the Hunting Baths and the other archaeological remains at the property before their implementation;
7. Reiterates its concern about the issue of tidal flooding and continuous sea encroachment on the circus area and its request to the State Party to develop proposals with mitigation measures to address the issue, and to present the proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Continues to encourage the State Party to initiate the development of a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for the property, and to pursue the development of a Management Plan, while seeking the necessary technical and financial support in this regard;
9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any on-going and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Recalling the previous invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to evaluate its state of conservation, encourages the mission to take place as soon as conditions permit;
12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) (C 184)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.35** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
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 extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible and to seek the necessary funds as needed;
5. Requests the State Party to pursue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies with regard to any conservation projects planned at the property, including in terms of materials and techniques to be used before their application;
6. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any ongoing and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Continues to encourage the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support and allocate the resources required for its implementation;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
11. Recalling the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, encourages that the mission takes place as soon as conditions permit;
12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) (C 362bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.36** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the important efforts made by the State Party in undertaking activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly those directed towards the implementation of corrective measures for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard;
4. Notes with appreciation the finalization of a Management Plan for the property, with a Risk Preparedness Plan, taking into consideration the recommendations of ICOMOS' technical review, as well as incorporating action for the sustainability of green areas within the property and its buffer zone, and also requests the State Party to provide more information about the implementation of these projects in terms of available resources, timeframe and progress achieved;
5. Also notes with appreciation the amendment of land use regulations within the boundaries of the Old Town of Ghadamès, to integrate the modified boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
6. Welcomes the completion of the fully rehabilitated Visitor Centre and capacity-building activities and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the progress in this regard;
7. Further notes with appreciation the investigations undertaken by the State Party in response to the infestation by green scale insects in the palm groves, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement and monitor the proposed remedial actions and to provide further information about their efficacy;
8. Acknowledges the request by the State Party to extend the timeframe for the implementation of corrective measures and adopts a revised timeframe with a two-year extension;
9. Requests moreover that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out as soon as conditions permit in order to assess the

overall state of conservation of the property and progress made in implementing corrective measures;

10. Requests the State Party to regularly inform the Committee on the evolution of the situation at the property, the implementation of corrective measures, and any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, to implement the corrective measures that have been identified;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

24. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) (C 287)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.37** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
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 extended 45th session, and expresses concern about the absence of relevant updated information;
4. Urges again the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in close coordination with local communities and civil society;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the provision of detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Invites again the State Party to continue pursuing the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property, seeking the necessary technical and financial support for its completion, and allocating the necessary resources for its implementation;
7. Recalls the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and encourages it to take place as soon as conditions permit;

8. Also urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
9. Further urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
10. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
11. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. Decides to retain **Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

25. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) (C 1565)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4 and the Annex attached to this decision,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.28**, **43 COM 7A.29**, **44 COM 7A.16** and **45 COM 7A.38**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Decides that the status of **Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town** relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision **41 COM 8B.1** of the World Heritage Committee.

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ANNEX

**The World Heritage Committee
46th session of the Committee (46 COM)**

Item 25. Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having considered Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.1**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), which did not include a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), and noting that in compliance with Paragraph 154 of the Operational Guidelines, when deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, guided by the Advisory Bodies, the Committee adopts a SOUV for the property,
3. Taking note of a further-revised draft SOUV contained in the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,
4. Takes note of the consultations held between experts from UNESCO, the State Party and the Advisory Bodies, as well as the ongoing exchanges with regard to the revised draft SOUV, the draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the related corrective measures, and invites the State Party to continue its efforts to finalise the above documents;
5. Decides to consider the examination of a draft SOUV for the property at its 47th session;
6. Also takes note of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property and requests that once the SOUV for the property is adopted and the DSOCR is finalised, the MCP be amended in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken to conserve significant attributes of the property, including conservation works at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, restoration of Zahdeh Historic House, adaptive re-use of the Al-Sharabati Building as a community centre, adaptive re-use of historic buildings, and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the Northern Entrance of the Old Town, and as well as for initiatives for socio-economic benefits and awareness-raising for the local community;
8. Deplores the ongoing Israeli activities inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, including construction of settlements, archaeological excavations, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market and destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station, which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship, and asks Israel, the occupying power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions; and further takes note with concern of the completion of an electric elevator in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, which proceeded without preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) or notification to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and which may affect the authenticity and integrity of the property;
9. Recalls the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on current conservation and development projects which have potential adverse impact on heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Calls upon all parties to refrain from any action that would cause damage to the heritage values of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value, and to take all possible

measures, in line with international law, to protect the property, in particular to refrain from physical damage, prevention of conservation projects, and inappropriate new development projects within the property and its buffer zone;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
 12. **Also decides to retain Hebron/AI-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**
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26. **Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine) (C 1492)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.39** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and to implement the corrective measures to achieve 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 pursue its efforts in seeking the required funds to undertake the development of a suitable sewage system, as a matter of priority;
4. Also commends the State Party for having established the terms of reference of the Steering and Site Management Committees, and defined the site manager's responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of activities of the Management and Conservation Plan and the achievement of its objectives;
5. Also encourages the State Party to pursue the endorsement and implementation of the land-use plan and related bylaws to avoid uncontrolled urban growth within the property and its buffer zone, with the full involvement of the municipalities and local communities;
6. Welcomes the project to "Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape of Battir", which aims at promoting agro-cultural tourism as a driver for economic and social development, while safeguarding and promoting the property;
7. Takes note with concern of the reports of ongoing illegal constructions, settlements and other developments within the property and its buffer zone, and asks all parties to avoid any action that would cause damage to the property;
8. Requests the State party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre documentation for the interpretation centre and bus parking project once available and to continue to inform the World heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.40** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Taking note of the assessment of damage inflicted by the 2023 February earthquake to the property, the removal of debris as well as the consolidation and restoration works undertaken,
4. Also taking note of the continued efforts towards the recovery of the property since December 2016 and in particular the significant progress made with the adoption of the infrastructure plan, the restoration and rehabilitation of additional sections in the suqs including financial support provided to shop owners, and the restoration of numerous historical buildings and mosques, including new sections at the Great Mosque, requests the State Party to report on the efforts to stabilize and consolidate the original fabric and architectural details, where possible, in preference to dismantling, and to using matching stone in repair and reconstruction works, and reiterates its encouragement to all stakeholders to continue their efforts towards the recovery of the property;
5. Welcomes the initiative of establishing a new entity, the ‘Ancient City Manara’ Centre, as a tool to reinforce the management system in place and to enhance coordination by providing legal and technical support to the civil society and fostering the preservation and promotion of culture and heritage in the city;
6. Noting that no information has been provided on how recovery activities are planned in a longer term, reiterates to the State Party the need to afford priority to a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and the elaboration of an updated Management Plan, to be developed in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made, and specifically requests that this process be followed for the proposed adaptation of the al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel;

8. Calls again on all States Parties to support the emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Invites the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures, and timeframe for their implementation;
11. Also noting the previously reported issuance of a regulation for the creation of a buffer zone, also reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025**, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;
12. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.41** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Taking note of the conservation work carried out to the Citadel/Theatre and at Madrasa Abû al-Fidâ, encourages the State Party to develop a detailed conservation intervention methodology for buildings and monuments at the property, including principles and technical requirements, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before finalisation;
4. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit information on any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and before the commencement of work, along with Heritage Impact Assessments, which should follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Welcomes the infrastructure work undertaken to contribute to the revival of the property and the return of inhabitants;
6. Acknowledging the financial and human resource challenge facing the property, recalls that the site management plan and the master plan remain key instruments for the adequate conservation and management, as well as decision-making on restoration and sustainable development, and also encourages the State Party to consider as a priority the initiation of steps for the development of a site management plan, addressing principles and strategies for the management of the property;
7. Also reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;
8. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
9. Further encourages the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and a set of correctives measures, for potential examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
10. Further reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.42** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the progress accomplished in planning the recovery of the property, notably through the projects for early recovery planning and 'digital transformation', which are driven by strong participatory approach and largely targeting the involvement and benefit of communities, and through which numerous activities are being planned and implemented in view of sustainably developing the property;

4. Welcomes with satisfaction that the committee in charge of developing the Master Plan for the property is being formed, noting that this plan will address major issues related to the preservation of the property such as building control, rehabilitation works, and maintaining historical and environmental integrity, notably by establishing restoration standards, promoting craftsmanship and the provision of traditional construction materials, and carrying out restoration works;
5. Requests the State Party to submit a draft version of the integrated plan for the preservation and development in the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before finalization, to ensure that the city's development contributes to the well-being of communities and to the conservation of cultural heritage;
6. Welcoming the information provided on the rehabilitation of Khan Suleiman Pasha, as previously requested, and while acknowledging the quality of the reported restoration work for the most part, nevertheless regrets that the project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies before works commenced, and also requests that prior to proceeding with the conversion of this structure to become a five star hotel, a comprehensive set of project documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
7. Reminds the State Party to submit information on any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and before the commencement of work, along with HIAs, which should all follow the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also reminds the State Party of the obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee and, in relation to Decision **45 COM 7A.42** notably, and encourages the State Party to seek funding support for the elaboration of the Management Plan, prepared in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), which remains a crucial tool for the adequate long-term management of the property;
9. Commends the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and in particular with regard to the management system, and planning for enhanced building control and restoration, and further requests the State Party to report on the achievements of corrective measures by providing a table that sets out evidence for each implemented corrective measure that has been implemented;
10. Reiterates its calls upon the international community to support the conservation of the property;
11. Reiterates its request that the invited World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to enable a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;

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

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.43** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Remains greatly concerned about the situation at the property, which does not allow for an overall assessment of its state of conservation, and the lack of sufficient available information on damage, including the impact of the February 2023 earthquake;
4. Calls again on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause further damage to the property, including through its use for military or other purposes;
5. Also reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;
6. Also calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
7. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the security situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
9. **Decides to retain Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.44** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. While regretting that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was not submitted before the implementation of the project for the restoration of the stable and counterscarp walls, welcomes the opportunity provided for enhanced dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, as well as the opportunity provided by the capacity building sessions which support application of the methodology on major interventions at World Heritage in Syria in the future, and encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the HIAs for other major interventions at the property, as planned;
4. Takes notes of the results of works for the restoration and reconstruction of the stable and counterscarp walls, as well as the consolidation and stabilization measures implemented for several other structures at the Crac des Chevaliers;
5. Also encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts for establishing strategic partnerships and seeking international support for the conservation of the property;
6. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures;
7. Reminds the State Party of the obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee, and further encourages the State Party to report on the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures in view of achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) by providing a table that sets out evidence for each corrective measure implemented;
8. Encourages furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated Minor Boundary Modification proposal that would take into consideration the recommendations of Decision **45 COM 8B.67**, aimed at strengthening the protection of Qal'at Salah El-Din;
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. **Decides to retain Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.45** and **45 COM 7A.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its appeal to all Member States of UNESCO to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;
4. Commending the exemplary background documentation and impact analysis submitted for the project on restoration and reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch, which provides a model for other restoration works at the property and other archaeological sites in Syria, welcomes the progress made towards the implementation of the project;
5. Taking note of the first phase of a restoration project at the Theatre, which includes emergency measures, documentation and stability studies, requests the State Party to provide further information on the outcomes of this phase as well as the proposed restoration methodology for the second phase that clearly follows the model developed for the Triumphal Arch prior to commencing implementation work, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Encourages the State Party to continue to submit detailed information on any major project within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also taking note of the cooperation established to put in place a management system to control urban and landscape protection regulations, the expansion of the contemporary city, and tourism infrastructure development, as well as strict traffic management measures within and around the site, recalls that the elaboration of the Conservation Management Plan, whose preparation was previously reported, remains crucial to inform restoration decisions and ensure coordination among stakeholders;
8. Takes note with satisfaction of the works undertaken for the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of correctives measures, and adopts the following DSOCR, corrective measures and timeframe:
 - a) Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR):
 - (i) The property as a whole is in a safe and secure state,
 - (ii) The attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that have been damaged have been preliminary assessed, documented and secured,
 - (iii) Methodologies have been defined, approved and implemented for the manner in which work on documentation, conservation, restoration and reconstruction is agreed upon and taken forward, and on-site work is initiated,
 - (iv) Appropriate management is in place at the local, regional and national level,

- b) Corrective measures:
 - (i) Improving accessibility and security, by removal of land mines, and addressing identified threats, to allow safe passage of people in the property,
 - (ii) Protecting monuments/cultural artifacts from direct threats,
 - (iii) Undertaking urgent emergency measures at monuments damaged by the conflict and at further risk, through preliminary assessment, documentation and stabilization,
 - (iv) Establishing, approving and implementing methodologies for documentation, assessment, conservation, restoration and reconstruction, that are all based on the methodology implemented for the Triumphal Arch,
 - (v) Developing conservation plans for damaged attributes, and defining priorities for their implementation,
 - (vi) Recovery of objects and statuary damaged during the conflict,
 - (vii) Reinstating the relationship between the City of Palmyra (Tadmor) with the property and surroundings, and rehabilitation of the oasis,
 - (viii) Setting up of a management system, including a management plan, and facilities to ensure the adequate management of the property and its buffer zone, including through the integration of the City of Palmyra (Tadmor) and the oasis,
 - c) Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures by end of 2027;
9. Calls upon the international community to support the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;
 10. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
 11. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
 12. **Decides to retain Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.47**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic

buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, security challenges, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;

4. Commends the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and emergency interventions at the property, including through the second phase of the 'EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' and requests that they continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification are elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
7. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
8. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
9. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works and implementation of the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

34. Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) (C 1700)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **18 EXT.COM 5.3** adopted at its 18th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023),
3. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party in providing an informative report, with indications on the damage and challenges incurred, as well as in seeking partnerships and support for funding;
4. Requests the State Party to implement the recommendations outlined at the time of inscription, as follows:
 - a) Halting the implementation of the 2018 Master Plan until a full assessment has been undertaken, through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), of its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting, and, based on the results of the HIA, undertaking necessary revisions of the Plan,
 - b) Reinstating funding for management and conservation,
 - c) Developing as a matter of urgency risk preparedness plans for each component part of the property, to address vandalism and looting as well as overall protection,
 - d) Including local tribes as traditional custodians of the component parts in the management and protection of the property to ensure buy-in from local communities and prevent potential conflicts,
 - e) Extending protection measures onto the post-Sabaeen vernacular architecture in the ancient cities of Ma'rib and Sirwah, as part of the safeguarding of the historic and traditional context of the property, and involving local populations in the protection and management of these heritage resources,
 - f) Completing an inventory of Sabaeen monuments and sites,
 - g) Enhancing the coordination of inputs from varied research institutions and international agencies to ensure that there is no duplication of work or resources and to maximise and sustain the initiatives aimed at capacity-strengthening, knowledge production, protection, and management of the property,
 - h) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects (including fencing) which may affect the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Encourages the State Party to submit, when conditions allow, detailed documentation on all damage incurred at the property, comprising systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics, quantitative data and identification of potential risks;
6. Recommends that the State Party undertake protection and urgent stabilization work only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention, and that future interventions shall be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive Conservation Plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Reminds the State Party that any elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destruction, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and the boundaries of the property protected from illegal excavations and looting;
8. Also notes with appreciation the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and also requests that the mission take place once conditions allow, in order to report on the overall state of conservation of the property; to assess the protection of the property and its buffer zone, and consider the effectiveness of the property's boundaries; and to advise on the development of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures;
9. Calls on all Member States of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
10. Appeals to States Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Yemen and to contribute towards the safeguarding of its cultural heritage;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session,
12. **Decides to retain Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

35. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) (C 385)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.49** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, damage from conflict, security challenges, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and repair of historic buildings at the property, including through the second phase of the 'EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' and requests that these initiatives continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Requests the full implementation of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of the Al-Nahrain Mosque project and the rehabilitation project for Souk Al-

Halaqa and adjacent souks, including preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

6. Recalls the obligation to continue to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies,
7. Reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification are elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
8. Also requests that a review of the protection system is undertaken for the property, and to submit this review to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
10. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
11. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works and implementation of the National Strategy for the Preservation of the Historic Cities, Sites and Monuments 2016-2020 and the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides** to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

36. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) (C 192)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.50** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, damage from conflict, and continuing limited support and resources for both heritage management and physical conservation;
4. Commends the efforts undertaken by the State Party, international agencies and local actors in the repair of historic buildings, capacity building, and awareness raising, including through the second phase of the EU-funded project 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen', but notes with concern that the implementation of the Conservation Plan has been hindered, resulting in some building violations, and requests the State Party to continue to further support and extend protection, conservation, capacity building and awareness activities to all stakeholders, and to engage with the local community and landowners to ensure adequate protection and prevent encroachment;
5. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018-2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', as well as full details regarding the works undertaken at the Governmental Complex buildings, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) Elaborate proposals for a boundary clarification and a minor boundary modification in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to advise on repair and conservation works, and to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;
8. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
9. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the

implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
11. **Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.41**, **44 COM 7A.28** and **45 COM 7A.51** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,
3. Regrets that a state of conservation report was not submitted for the property;
4. Expresses its deep concern with regard to the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the difficult situation of the education and cultural sectors, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in implementing technical assistance;
5. Notes with appreciation the resuming of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Sustainable Management of the Bamiyan World Heritage property – Preparing the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger", the Italian Funds-in-Trust projects "Preservation and Promotion of the Bamiyan Valley through Culture-Oriented Sustainable Development" and "Local Community Empowerment and Preservation of Shahr-e Gholghola, the World Heritage site in Bamiyan" and their contribution to the progress in achieving the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that an updated report on these projects be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Commends the achievements of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project in particular for the reinforcement of security and conservation measures for the Western and Eastern Buddha Niches, emergency interventions at Shahr-i-Zohak and Shahr-i-Ghulghulah sites, as well as monitoring and technical study on the different components of the property, including the Foladi and Kakrak valleys for further intervention, while generating employment opportunities for more than 300 labourers so far;

7. Considering the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSAFE), recommends that activities be focused on assistance to achieve the DSOCR, including the operational activities, revision of the Action Plan and timeline, as well as documentation and research activities, and to ensure that the project be implemented in line with the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.21**;
8. Considering the prevailing situation in the country, also recommends that all stakeholders be informed about the requirement to address the reported issues of the use of the historic caves as dwellings, uncontrolled access to the caves, conversion of agricultural lands in adjacent areas with new constructions;
9. Further recommends that technical requirements, as outlined by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, be addressed on the mitigation of adverse effects of the development project of the road to Gholghola Bazaar and the proposed revision of the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', and the possible reinstalment of the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s; and also requests to comply fully with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and not to take any decision that would be difficult to reverse before submitting detailed documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and obtaining the approval of the Committee;
10. Further requests that the elements suggested by ICOMOS for the revision of the Strategic Master Plan be taken into consideration in order to ensure legal protection and a holistic management approach of the property as a cultural landscape, promoting the involvement of local communities and addressing the necessary modification of the buffer zones with a land use scheme, in order to address the issue of uncontrolled urban development within the Bamiyan Valley which would place threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
11. Reiterates its request to respect the provisions of the international treaties ratified by Afghanistan, such as the 1954 Convention, 1970 Convention and 1972 Convention, as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendations on the Museums and Collections, and further recommends to:
 - a) Ensure regular verification of the state of moveable heritage and keep up proper inventories of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre,
 - b) Ensure the backfilling of the holes at the top of the Western Buddha niche,
 - c) Closely monitor the commercial activities within the inscribed area and buffer zones,
 - d) Carefully review the concept of reinstating the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s at its original location, having regard to potential alternative locations, and appropriate design, materials, planning and management in place;
12. Thanks the international community for its support and urgent measures for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the property; and recommends the coordination of these technical activities under the established system of the Bamiyan Working Group meeting for information sharing of academic and scientific community;
13. Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage, so that all the diversity in heritage that constitutes an integral part of Afghanistan's history and culture can be preserved;

14. Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
15. **Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.42**, **44 COM 7A.29** and **45 COM 7A.52** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the current situation in Afghanistan in terms of humanitarian, educational and cultural environments, and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in effectively implementing technical assistance activities for heritage preservation; combined with natural disasters, this has brought another layer of difficulties for the implementation of conservation work based upon the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures adopted in 2007 by the Committee in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**;
4. Appreciates that the UNESCO project funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Kabul in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, has contributed to the implementation of the adopted corrective measures;
5. Recommends pursuing additional technical studies in elaborating the CAP by identifying the most urgent and feasible actions in light of the current situation, the potential impact and long-term mitigation measures for recurring flooding in the future, and, to the extent possible, benefitting the local communities;
6. Reiterates its requests to implement the following:
 - a) Installation of a sustainable monitoring system on the Minaret of Jam to monitor its inclination,
 - b) Emergency stabilization work for the wooden staircases to prevent further destabilization of the minaret's structure,
 - c) Construction of a footbridge over the Hari Rud river and the reconstruction of the site office at the property with due consideration for the risk of flooding, in order to improve access to the property and site security,
 - d) Hydraulic study with monitoring of the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers, to inform the possible long-term mitigation and protective measures to address their recurring floodings;
 - e) Permanent deployment of security personnel on the ground;

7. Notes with appreciation the proposed reprogramming of the activities of the UNESCO project funded by ALIPH to contribute to the CAP in light of the prevailing field situation and encourages that the focus be put on the elements suggested for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including the above;
8. Regrets that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone still remain to be precisely defined, and reiterates its request to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, taking into consideration the topographical map produced in 2012 to facilitate the delineation of these boundaries, in conformity with the CAP and in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the allocation of necessary resources for the safeguarding of the property to address conservation issues, including the proposal for a boundary modification, the establishment of the overall action plan for the CAP as well as capacity-building;
10. Acknowledges the role of UNESCO to monitor the prevailing field situation and implement essential work under the international assistance;
11. Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage, so that all the diversity of heritage that constitute an integral part of Afghanistan's culture can be preserved;
12. Further requests the international community to provide support to the Afghan people in preserving their heritage and cultural rights;
13. Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, of an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

39. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) (C 1503)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.53** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes progress with some actions to manage the property and protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, completion of the Visitor Centre with support from the governments of Japan and the United States of America, and preparation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the property, site Management Plan, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan,

with support from the Cultural Site Research and Management (CSRM) Foundation, and also welcomes support for past and future conservation work provided by the US Forest Service, US Office of Insular Affairs (Department of Interior) 'Technical Assistance Program' (TAP) and Pohnpei State Tourism Authority, and requests the State Party to report on the process and actions being taken to adopt and implement the three above-mentioned plans;

4. Notes with concern that there has been only limited progress in addressing matters which are essential to the state of conservation of the property, including statutory protection, adoption of the proposed management system for the property, and appointing a Property Manager, despite previous assurances by the State Party, the conclusion of the border and travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and previous requests by the Committee; and therefore reiterates again its previous request to the State Party to address and implement previously identified matters of high priority, including:
 - a) Continuing implementation of vegetation management actions and clearing mangroves from the main canals,
 - b) Appointing and establishing a long-term commitment to the post of 'Property Manager',
 - c) Finalising and approving legislation LB392 to provide essential legal protection to the property and establish the Nan Madol Trust or an appropriate managing authority for Nan Madol,
 - d) Adopting the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the Nan Madol World Heritage Site, the site Management Plan and the Sustainable Tourism Plan,
 - e) Establishing processes for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, as part of the management system,
 - f) Preparing and submitting a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also reiterates its concern that the development of a proposed tourism resort on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property has continued and expanded to include a new meeting house/conference centre, despite a request to stop work and before an HIA was prepared, and that the issues raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review have not been addressed, and further reiterates its request that the State Party ensure that construction is halted and that an HIA is prepared, in conformity with the aforementioned Guidance, and provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before work resumes;
6. Further reiterates its request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, including HIAs carried out according to the aforementioned Guidance, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the approval and/or implementation of any project, including construction of new walkways, and significant conservation programmes;
7. Considers that the OUV of the property remains subject to both ascertained and potential danger from: Inadequate protection and management system, including lack of long-promised legislation and an adopted Management Plan; Physical and biological impacts

including overgrowth of vegetation and stonework collapse; Effects of storm surges; Erosion and siltation/ deposition; and Impacts of visitation;

8. Also requests the State Party to initiate remote elaboration of the DSOCR, a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion remotely through collaboration between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the representatives of the State Party, with the aim of presenting the DSOCR and related corrective measures to the 47th session of the Committee;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

40. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.48**, **41 COM 7A.57**, **42 COM 7A.4**, **43 COM 7A.44**, **44 COM 7A.31** and **45 COM 7A.54** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.44**, in which the Committee allowed the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification or a new nomination in order to consider again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period if a clear way forward has been proposed, or to delete the property, and furthermore had urged the State Party to develop a restoration plan with sufficient details to allow appropriate assessment of the potential for each option to justify Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before proceeding with any work on a significant boundary modification or on a new nomination and further encouraged the State Party to seek upstream advice from the Advisory Bodies;
4. Further recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.54**, in which the Committee concluded that the proposal submitted by the State Party should be explored further while retaining the property on the World Heritage List at that stage, and encouraged the State Party to further explore the possibility of a significant boundary modification, in line with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and to study and present “new justification for criteria based on an OUV that would reflect a shift away from the integrity of an overall intact city and towards an ensemble of Timurid monuments, with the urban areas seen as their essential settings” while noting that it was not possible at this stage to confirm if the new proposition could be justified, recommending specific consultations on it with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on this matter;

5. Welcomes the continued efforts to explore possible ways forward for a nomination with a potential modification in criteria and/or attributes based on Timurid monuments within an urban setting, and notes that work is being led by the Agency of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan in collaboration with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS), and that a report will be submitted by **1 February 2025**, following discussion by the International Advisory Committee (IAC);
6. Also notes the complexity of this process as acknowledged by the State Party, and recalls that the Committee strongly recommended that the State Party engage in a specific consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on procedural questions related to such work, and reiterates its recommendation that a dialogue be organised between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS before any detailed work is undertaken on one approach, and requests that this dialogue be undertaken in 2024, ahead of the submission of the report announced for February 2025;
7. Confirms that the report to be submitted in February 2025 should set out an outline of a possible nomination with modified criteria/attributes based on Timurid monuments within an urban setting, in order to allow the Committee to consider, at its 47th session, whether a clear way forward for the property can be supported, in which case the State Party can develop a new nomination, in line with several of its previous decisions and in compliance with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Welcomes the work being undertaken to develop a strategy for the conservation of the Ak Saray tiles as well as a project for their conservation, and urges the State Party to submit these as early as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before any work commences or is planned in detail;
9. Notes that engineering assessments have been commissioned for the Kok Gumbaz Mosque following the collapse of some columns and that further engineering assessments will be conducted in 2024 to consider actions to address identified cracks and displacements;
10. Recommends that conservation plans be prepared for both Ak Saray and Kok Gumbaz, given the very different challenges that each faces, as well as for other individual monuments, as previously recommended by the Committee;
11. Notes that further analysis of the conservation needs of monuments will be undertaken based on the initial assessment of historic monuments undertaken in 2021, and that the State Party considers that most monuments are currently in a good state of conservation, but also takes notes that this assessment does not align with the statement that erosion and salinity of the mud-walled structures, and earthquakes threaten the property, and therefore requests the State Party to clarify which monuments face these threats and how these will be addressed;
12. Reiterates its request for the development of an overall Master Plan for the city that integrates heritage conservation needs, the Management Plan, proposals for restoration and reconstruction, as well as planning and legal frameworks, prepared in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) and further requests that a draft of the Master Plan be submitted at the earliest opportunity to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
13. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;

14. **Decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisayabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.17** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges the submission of the updated report on the proposed SR 836/Dolphin Expressway Road extension project, and takes note that the project is temporarily halted due to a legal challenge in the State Division of Administrative Hearings Court for planning inconsistency with the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan, for which a decision is pending;
4. Recalls its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2024** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
5. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

42. **Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) (N 196)**

Decision: 46 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.1** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the strengthening of indigenous territorial governance alongside the completion of the land titling process in the cultural zone of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve;
4. Notes the progress in issuance of Family Usufruct Contracts in the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve and encourages the State Party to ensure management responsibilities and usage rights have been assigned to all residents within the buffer zone who meet the requirements established by law;
5. Notes with appreciation the inter-institutional efforts to address illegal activity in the property, notably poaching, deforestation and illegal settlement, and also requests the State Party to further strengthen enforcement and engagement with local communities to reduce illegal activities in the property;
6. Notes with concern that, despite reduced rates of deforestation, the coverage of broadleaf forest in the property continues to decline and urges the State Party to maintain and strengthen efforts to halt deforestation and promote recovery of forest cover in the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to secure the necessary technical and financial resources required for the consultation processes, especially with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils, to submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification as a crucial step towards achieving the Desired state of conservation of the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and in particular to fully consider the archaeological heritage of the property and corresponding actors;
8. Expresses its utmost concern that the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is already in operation without the current and potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property having been thoroughly assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment and reiterates its requests to the State Party to urgently develop a study to identify and monitor any actual and potential impacts of the HPP on the OUV of the property, and to adopt an adaptive management approach, including through development and implementation of necessary measures to mitigate any adverse impacts on the OUV;
9. Takes note of the State Party's proposal for an IUCN Advisory mission to the property in relation to the HPP to provide recommendations on the development of necessary mitigation measures, and considers that this mission should take place following the finalization of the assessment and consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
10. Also notes the proposed revisions to the DSOOCR and requests furthermore the State Party to initiate dialogue with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and the site manager, to ensure that revisions adequately reflect the required corrective measures to address the concerns indicated in Decision **35 COM 7B.31** upon the property's inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.2** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its utmost concern about the critical status of the vaquita, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California, and that illegal fishing of totoaba has continued in the Upper Gulf of California resulting in a threat of imminent extinction of the vaquita species;
4. Welcomes the measures taken to monitor the vaquita population in the property, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts in order to inform conservation measures;
5. Welcomes the confirmation that the sole remaining vaquita population appears to be stable and breeding, and considers it essential that the remaining vaquita are fully protected through all means necessary, in particular by eliminating the illegal use of gillnets in their habitat;
6. Notes with concern that, despite renewed commitments and improvements to inter-institutional surveillance and law enforcement efforts, illegal fishing in the property persists, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to strengthen law enforcement efficiency through increased surveillance and inspection accompanied by improved criminal prosecution procedures and development of necessary legislation to increase the penalties foreseen for illegal traffic, capture, possession, import and export of wildlife species, parts and products considered, threatened, endangered or specially protected and/or regulated under national law, or by international treaties adopted by the State Party;
7. Also welcomes the cooperation between the State Party with the relevant international institutions and States Parties, notably the United States of America and the People's Republic of China, to combat illegal trafficking of totoaba products, including within the framework of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the development of a Terms of Reference for the Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group, and strongly recommends that the State Party of Mexico, together with the transit and destination countries, continue these efforts to establish the Trilateral Law Enforcement Contact Group and take urgent action in line with all CITES decisions to effectively address the illegal totoaba bladder trade;
8. Further welcomes the ongoing retrieval of abandoned fishing gear, including through collaboration with civil society organizations, and again urges the State Party to continue these efforts alongside surveillance and law enforcement to ensure that the Zero Tolerance Area (ZTA) is completely free of gill nets;
9. Notes with appreciation the novel mechanism to deter illegal fishing through sunken seabed hooks, and also requests the State Party to assess and monitor the efficacy of this technique alongside regular maintenance to ensure that trapped nets are removed from the hooks and do not become a source of entanglement for vaquita and other marine species;

10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently expedite the production and deployment of alternative gear and provide information to the World Heritage Centre on the uptake of alternative gear across all fishing communities of the Upper Gulf of California;
11. Urges the State Party to implement, with utmost priority, all of the corrective measures for the property and approves the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) proposed by the State Party in its January 2024 state of conservation report on the property, including the following indicators:
 - a) Sustainable fisheries based on legal fishing gear systems that do not cause entanglement of marine mammals, sharks and turtles have been successfully adopted and modified as necessary in the property, the “Upper Gulf of California Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve (marine portion)” in particular, in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders,
 - b) As an attribute of the OUV of the property, the vaquita species population has been increasing for at least 5 years, individuals appear healthy and are producing calves,
 - c) The property is effectively protected from illegal fishing activities through increased surveillance and prosecution of illegal acts,
 - d) The Vaquita Refuge and the “Upper Gulf of California - Colorado River Delta Biosphere Reserve (marine portion)” are free of illegal fishing gear, while the use, sale, possession, manufacture, and transport of gillnets has been eliminated, including among the surrounding communities,
 - e) International cooperation is operating systematically to combat illegal totoaba fish poaching and trafficking;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. **Decides to retain Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.3** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Congratulates the State Party and its partner, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), on their significant efforts to secure and improve the management and monitoring of the property, to continue ecological monitoring, to strengthen staff numbers and capacities, to rehabilitate the infrastructure of the management team, to raise awareness among local communities and to develop community alternatives to poaching, and thanks the donors, who continue to support conservation of the property, in particular the European Union, the Government of Norway (through the World Heritage Centre), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
4. Notes with satisfaction that the priority conservation area of the secured property is gradually evolving and encourages the State Party and its partners to continue their efforts in order to achieve the objective of securing 63% of the area of the property before the end of 2024;
5. Also notes with satisfaction that the population of flagship species has remained stable since 2021, and requests that the State Party provide detailed information presenting the abundance, distribution and population trends of flagship species in the property;
6. Also requests that the State Party develop, on the basis of information obtained from biomonitoring, indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to submit it for examination by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Expresses its concern at the persistence of intensive poaching, illegal gold panning and international transhumance, and urges again the State Party to strengthen control and law enforcement measures against these illegal activities and to continue advocating for the implementation of existing regional agreements on combating poaching and other cross-border criminal activities as well as those relating to peace, reconciliation and social cohesion;
8. Further requests that the State Party provide detailed information in order to assess the extent and impact of these activities on the property, as well as trends in each of these threats in response to the multiple security actions undertaken on the property;
9. Appreciates the State Party's ongoing efforts to mobilize financial resources to cover the additional costs incurred by the bypass, takes note of the availability of the executive summary of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize this study with the support of its partners in accordance with the World Heritage Impact Assessment Guide and Toolkit and to submit said ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before approving the project in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Further requests that the State Party provide detailed information concerning the situation of oil block A and exploration blocks I, II and III overlapping the property, based on the results of the field mission with representatives of the Ministry of Geology and Mines, and to ensure that no oil and mining exploration activities are permitted on the property;
11. Reiterates its established position that mining and oil exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status;
12. Also commends the State Party for its creation of the Northeast Protected Area Complex biosphere reserve, of which the property is a part, and further encourages the State Party to consider submitting a request for a minor modification of the boundaries of the property

to create a buffer zone for the property in conformity with the zoning of the biosphere reserve;

13. Further requests that, once the draft DSOCR has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the integrity of the property and progress in implementing the corrective measures and recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
15. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;**
16. **Also decides to keep the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.6**, **44 COM 7A.40** and **45 COM 7A.4** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the States Parties under difficult circumstances to implement the corrective measures, including joint transboundary surveillance patrols, funding to support management operations, surveillance, ecological monitoring, support for neighbouring populations and transboundary activities, and the restoration of degraded areas, and requests the States Parties to continue the implementation of all corrective measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
4. Appreciates the support by a growing number of national and international partners to the conservation of the property, including UNESCO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, and encourages States Parties to build long-term programmes with them, including actions contributing to the achievement of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and to explore other funding opportunities for a sustainable maintenance of the ecological integrity of the property;
5. Notes with concern the limited progress made in the process of validating the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'aménagement et de gestion - PAG) for the Guinean part of the property as well as the Master Plan including the two components of the property, and also requests the States Parties to provide detailed information on the

progress of these two processes and to ensure that these processes are finalised as soon as possible;

6. Also notes with concern that ecological monitoring data for key species representing the attributes of the OUV of the property, notably the chimpanzee, the Micropotamogale and the viviparous toad remain highly disparate from one component to another, expresses its concern about the lack of reliable data on the status of the Micropotamogale in the property and further requests the States Parties to develop and implement, as soon as possible, a harmonised and operational ecological monitoring and anti-poaching system to monitor the evolutionary trend of key species of the OUV of the property and the integrity of their habitats;
7. Also takes note of the regulatory framework for infrastructure development in the peripheral zone of national parks and nature reserves in Côte d'Ivoire, recalls the importance for the property of having a buffer zone as described in the Operational Guidelines and reiterates once again its request to the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to designate and formalize a buffer zone for the Ivorian component of the property in accordance with the procedures of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Welcoming the involvement of the Mounts Nimba-Simandou Environmental Management Centre (Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba-Simandou - CEGENS) in controlling and monitoring the implementation of the necessary impact management measures for the Lola-N'zo - Danané road project, which crosses the buffer zone of the property in the Guinean component, also expresses its serious concern about the potential direct and indirect impacts of this project on the OUV of the property and urges the States Parties to provide as soon as possible detailed information on the progress of this project and its current route, and to ensure that these impacts are assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context before any decision is taken;
9. Regrets that the State Party of Guinea has not provided any additional information concerning the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the approved version of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the update of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of Zali Mining SA and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the approved ToR to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken;
10. Recalling the commitment of the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) to carry out a full ESIA of the project in accordance with international standards, to be independently assessed by IUCN, before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse, notes with the greatest concern that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Guinea has issued approvals for the ToR and the scoping documents of the ESIA for the development of Phase 1 of the Nimba Iron Ore Project, despite its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as indicated by the assessment of the Brief Description of Phase 1 of the project, and further requests the State Party of Guinea to ensure that no environmental compliance certificate is issued for this mining project until its full potential impacts have been the subject of an ESIA;
11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea to ensure that the ESIA for the Nimba Iron Ore Project and the Zali Mining Iron Project:
 - a) are carried out in accordance with the highest international standards, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, and in close consultation with all key stakeholders,

- b) identify fully and quantify the potential effects of the project on the OUV of the property, at each phase of its cycle, including construction and operation, taking into account the synergistic and collateral impacts also linked to the on-site transformation of the ore and its transport, as well as the socio-economic changes to be expected,
 - c) are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision to approve the project;
12. Notes with concern the potential individual and cumulative impacts of mining projects on the OUV of the property, mainly in the Guinean component, and also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea not to grant any new exploration or mining permits around the property without carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the impacts, including synergistic and cumulative impacts of these projects, and submitting it for prior consideration by the World Heritage Centre and for review by IUCN, and to provide further clarification regarding the planned World Bank strategic assessment of all mining projects in Guinea, in relation to the OUV of the property;
 13. Requests moreover the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
 14. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

46. General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Decision: 46 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.46** and **45 COM 7A.9** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that a report on the implementation of these Decisions, as requested by the Committee at its 44th and 45th extended sessions, nor a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger were submitted by the State Party;
4. Notes that the lack of timely reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger considering the important conservation threats these properties are facing;
5. Remains concerned about previous reports of alleged human rights abuses towards indigenous peoples and local communities during law enforcement operations, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to take urgent measures to further strengthen efforts to address this issue, including by establishing and implementing a national code

of conduct for eco-guards and a grievance mechanism for human rights abuses, and by training all staff on human rights issues as part of regular law enforcement training, as well as ensuring that management processes are founded on a rights-based approach that ensures full involvement of all stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with relevant international norms, the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development;

6. Notes with concern the continued security issues affecting some of the DRC properties, in particular Virunga National Park, which is partly situated in the territory controlled by rebel groups and has been the scene of heavy fighting since 2022, strongly condemns this violence once again, and urges the State Party to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to continue to ensure the safety of its staff while on duty and the management of the properties in the current difficult security situation and to take all measures to restore peace and security in and around the properties;
7. Strongly regrets that the State Party has included in the public auction of oil blocks in 2022 two oil blocks overlapping with Virunga National Park, notes with utmost concern the semi-industrial mining activities in Okapi Wildlife Reserve, reiterates its clear position concerning the incompatibility of mining, oil exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status, and urges once again the State Party to cancel all concessions for oil blocks and mining concessions that overlap with World Heritage properties;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a detailed report on the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the security situation in the properties, the measures taken to address human rights abuses and the actions undertaken to cancel all oil exploration and exploitation and mining concessions that encroach on World Heritage properties, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.5** adopted at its extended forty-fifth session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit in time a state of conservation report on the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, contrary to Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Notes with concern that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the World Heritage Committee, given the significant conservation threats facing these properties;
5. Notes the ongoing efforts to prepare a new nomination for the property that would review the justification for the original listing under criterion (x), taking into account both the likely

extinction of a key species characteristic of the property's OUV, and also the wider range of species of high conservation value that were not recognised at the time of listing;

6. Requests that the State Party provide information on the implementation of the following paragraphs mentioned in Decision **45 COM 7A.5**;
7. Notes the results of the ecological monitoring in 2021, which show a temporary stabilisation in the numbers of Kordofan giraffes and elephants and an increase in the hippopotamus and buffalo populations, but points out that the populations are still very small compared with the situation when the property was listed, is concerned about the high level of poaching for bushmeat for commercial and subsistence purposes in the hunting grounds, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue efforts to control poaching in order to promote optimal conditions for fauna restoration, as well as to submit the strategy and action plan for the conservation of giraffes in the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
8. Reiterating its utmost concern about the likely extinction of the northern white rhino subspecies within the property due to the lack of evidence of its presence since 2008, notes the launch of the implementation of a programme for the re-introduction of the white rhino into the property with the transfer of a first group of 16 specimens of the southern white rhino subspecies in June 2023, urges the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the reports of the 2018 and 2021 southern white rhino introduction risk assessments, as well as the report of the comprehensive study conducted in accordance with the IUCN Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by IUCN,
 - b) In collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, consult and take into consideration the advice of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (AfrRSG SSC) prior to the implementation of any translocation of southern white rhino to the property,
 - c) Implement rigorous long-term management measures for the risks that may be associated with the introduction of the southern white rhino subspecies into the property; in particular the safety of individuals, disease, competition with other herbivorous species and veterinary considerations to ensure the survival of translocated specimens in accordance with the advice of the IUCN AfrRSG SSC;
9. Notes with concern the constraints related to the relocation of existing artisanal mining sites in the hunting grounds and the limited progress in the definition of a Land Use Plan (LUP) and the creation of a functional 2km buffer zone around the property, and reiterates its long-standing request to accelerate the finalisation of the LUP and the creation of the buffer zone in line with the Park's sustainable development strategy, the 2019 Ministerial Decree banning artisanal logging in hunting grounds, and the strategy for relocating refugee camps outside the park;
10. Welcomes positively the continuation of cross-border cooperation with South Sudan, as recommended by the Committee, with a view to establishing a bilateral cooperation framework for the enhanced management of the Garamba-Lantoto Landscape and reiterates its call on both States Parties to expedite the formalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding in order to reduce illegal cross-border activities such as poaching and trade in wildlife products;
11. Takes note of the information on the progress made by the State Party towards the achievement of the indicators as proposed by the 2016 mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise these indicators on the basis of the recent inventory data available, as well as the recommendations of the regional workshop on support to the

process of removal of natural properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the French-speaking countries of Africa in Kinshasa in June 2022, and to submit the final version of the desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to the World Heritage Centre for adoption by the World Heritage Committee;

12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the implementation of corrective measures and progress made towards achieving the indicators as proposed by the 2016 mission, the current state of conservation of the property, the finalisation of the DSO CR as well as the status and proposed plans for the introduction of southern white rhinos to replace northern white rhinos that may be extinct in the wild as a key attribute of Outstanding Universal Value;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above points as set out in Decision **46 COM 7A.5**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.6** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report on the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, contrary to Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Notes with concern that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the World Heritage Committee, given the significant conservation threats facing these properties;
5. Requests that the State Party provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made in Decision **45 COM 7A.6** and recalled below;
6. Reiterates its concern about allegations of serious human rights violations against indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the context of law enforcement operations, and also takes note of the conclusions of the "Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Violations Committed by ICCN Personnel in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park" established by the State Party to investigate the issues raised and documented in the previous report submitted by the State Party in 2022;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry, as well as any other measures necessary to ensure that all conservation activities fully respect human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including, but not limited to, establishing a national code of conduct for ecoguards and an effective and transparent complaints mechanism for human rights violations, and training all conservation personnel tasked with the application of human rights, as well as ensuring an equitably governed consultative process with the participation and decision-making of all rights holders and stakeholders, in accordance with relevant international standards and the 2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development dimension into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention;
8. Urges the State Party to accelerate the further implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue for relations with Batwa indigenous communities, in close consultation with all parties concerned;
9. Requests that the State Party promptly implement all corrective measures updated by the 2017 mission;
10. Recalling its concern about the increasing pressure of encroachment on the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit further details on the rehabilitation plan for the ecological corridor and to ensure that its implementation takes into account all the impacts of the encroachment on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the actions necessary to ensure the recovery and regeneration of the natural vegetation, in consultation with all the parties concerned;
11. Recalling the importance of wild flora and fauna to the OUV of the property, remains concerned about the low populations of key wildlife species, in particular the Grauer's gorilla population, compared to the date of listing and reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit the results of the 2018 wild flora and fauna inventory, or a more recent inventory, to the World Heritage Centre, and to finalise, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, indicators for the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), defined on the basis of the draft proposed by the 2017 mission and the wild flora and fauna data;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points in the Decision **46 COM 7A.6**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
13. **Decides** to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;
14. **Also decides** to keep the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling **45 COM 7A.7** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that a timely report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger was not submitted by the State Party;
4. Notes that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, taking into account the important conservation threats these properties are facing;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the continuous and increasing pressure from semi-industrial and small-scale artisanal mining and associated illegal activities in the western portion of the property and along the Ituri river and Route Nationale 4 in the property, which is jeopardizing the integrity of the property, and therefore directly affecting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Recalls again the commitments made by the State Party as part of the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, in particular, to enforce the conservation laws and mining code, which forbid any mining in protected areas in the DRC;
7. Strongly reiterates its request to revoke all mining permits attributed within the property, close all mining sites inside the property and access roads to them and initiate restoration activities in the degraded areas;
8. Commends the efforts made by law enforcement rangers to detect and deter mining activity, and urges the State Party to establish without further delay the joint commission including the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), the Mining Cadastre (CAMI), and third parties from the National Cartographic Institute (IGC) and the Ministry of Mines, among others, to harmonize maps for the property and resolve the issue of overlapping mining permits in the western part of the property;
9. Also welcomes the continued efforts for the participatory demarcation process of the western boundary of the property, including through the support provided by the World Heritage Centre with funding from the Government of Norway, and requests the State Party to complete the demarcation of the property boundaries;
10. Thanks the technical partners who support the conservation of the property, notably Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Wildlife Conservation Global, and appeals to the international community to further support the efforts of the State Party to ensure sustainable financing of the property;
11. Requests again the State Party to provide further details on:
 - a) The number of residents within the villages located inside the property in order to assess the impacts of population increases on land-use in the property,

- b) The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data to enable an assessment of the impact of illegal activities on the OUV of the property,
 - c) The updating of the Integrated Management Plan (PAG) and the formalization of the Central Integral Conservation Zone,
 - d) The plans to capture okapi from the wild to repopulate the okapi breeding station,
 - e) Data concerning progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in 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 continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission;
 13. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, the status of increased threats and impacts from mining and associated illegal activities, implementation of the corrective measures, and the progress towards achieving the DSOCR;
 14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
 15. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the property;**
 16. **Also decides to retain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

50. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Decision: 46 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.8** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger has not been submitted by the State Party;
4. Notes that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor closely the state of conservation of the DRC properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger taking into account the important conservation threats these properties are facing;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern regarding the considerable deterioration of the security situation resulting in large parts of the property being in the area under the administration of armed groups, the park authorities having to abandon the gorilla sector, and reported

increase in poaching, deforestation for fuelwood and illegal encroachment, thereby risking to jeopardize the recent improvements in the state of conservation of the property, in particular the gradual recovery of key wildlife populations and the progressive restoration of territorial integrity of the property;

6. Commends the actions taken by ICCN and the park authorities to maintain the monitoring of gorilla populations through local community trackers and the efforts to continue anti-poaching activities in the rest of the property in spite of the difficult working conditions and urges the State Party to continue its efforts to protect the property in line with its commitments in the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, including through the joint organization with UNESCO and its partners of a national workshop on heritage protection in conflict zones in the DRC, as highlighted in Decision **45 COM 7A.8**;
7. Appreciates the support by UNESCO with funding from Norway to maintain gorilla monitoring activities as well as the continued support by donors, in particular the European Union, to maintain conservation activities in the property;
8. Whilst reiterating its position that oil and gas exploration and exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, notes with utmost concern that the State Party has included in the public auction of oil blocks in 2022 two oil blocks overlapping with Virunga National Park, and again strongly reiterates its request to the State Party not to allocate new petroleum concessions overlapping with the property and to cancel permanently any existing concessions and to confirm its unequivocal commitment to prohibit new petroleum exploration and exploitation within the property;
9. Recalls that restoring the territorial integrity of the property remains one of the most important challenges and a key requirement to move towards a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the future and strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that local, provincial and national authorities cooperate with the park management to halt encroachment and take measures to recover and restore the encroached areas;
10. Notes with concern that no updated information is available on the increase in deforestation for fuelwood around the camps for Internally Displaced People fleeing the armed conflict reported at the extended 45th session of the Committee and reiterates its request for the State Party, in collaboration with humanitarian relief organizations, to address the matter;
11. Also notes with concern that no updated information is available on the opening of a road and military infrastructure within the property reported at the extended 45th session of the Committee and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any infrastructure developments in or around the property, including hydropower projects and road developments, are assessed for their potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new developments in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to any activities being undertaken;
12. Requests the State Party to continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission and to continue the implementation of the sustainable development activities established in the framework of the Virunga Alliance;
13. Encourages the State Party to submit, as soon as the conditions on the ground allow, the latest results of flagship species inventories, as well as the biological indicators for

the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to be finalized in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

14. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the validated 2021-2025 Development and Management Plan (PAG) to the World Heritage Centre for review;
15. Furthermore reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess the impact of the renewed fighting in the property on its state of conservation, in particular in the central and gorilla sectors, the actions taken or planned for the cancellation of any oil block auctions overlapping with the property and the implementation of the corrective measures;
16. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
17. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the property;**
18. **Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.47** and **45 COM 7A.10** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the State Party's continued implementation of the Lake Turkana National Parks Management Plan, and reiterates its request to the State Party to consider developing an operational plan and a monitoring and evaluation system for the Management Plan to bring the three components of the property under one integrated management unit focused on the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and which includes a co-management system agreed with local communities on resource use, in line with the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;
4. Notes with appreciation the submission of an updated Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), based on feedback by IUCN and through the April 2024 UNESCO DSOCR workshop financially supported by the Government of Norway;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Ethiopia to provide an urgent update on all planned and current development projects in the Omo-Turkana Basin, which could negatively affect the property, and to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project, the Gibe IV (Koysha) dam under construction and the planned Gibe V dam for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Notes with appreciation that the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia have committed to reconvene the Joint Technical Experts Committee (JTEC), established under the Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission, to discuss the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts from developments in the Omo-Turkana Basin, which is crucial to plan for the protection of the property's OUV and has been pending since 2014, and also requests the States Parties to develop a realistic plan and timeframe for the SEA;
7. Urges the State Party to ensure that the potential impact of any individual project that may impact the OUV are assessed through individual ESIs carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
8. Also recalling previous reports of flooding of Lake Turkana, further requests the State Party to provide an update on the status of the water level of Lake Turkana and to monitor the potential impact of the water level variation on the OUV of the property;
9. Further reiterates its request for the State Party of Kenya to provide an update on the progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular to:
 - a) Develop a site-specific Biodiversity Action Plan to conserve and protect wildlife populations in the property,
 - b) Conduct a comprehensive scientific study to assess the current impacts of grazing and develop a viable grazing pressure reduction strategy, based on grazing capacities, to address encroachment,
 - c) Establish a core management system with local communities that stipulates clear regulations regarding the use of resources in the property,
 - d) Establish a long-term monitoring system for the collection and analysis of hydrological and limnological data in Lake Turkana to assess the ecological changes to the lake system and the related impact on the OUV of the property,
 - e) Develop a national overarching Master Plan for development in and adjacent to Lake Turkana to avoid any negative impacts on the lake system and OUV of the property,
 - f) Create a buffer zone to the property taking into consideration other critical aquatic and terrestrial areas with complementary legal and/or customary restrictions on its use and development;
10. Adopts the Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for which the draft was prepared through the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, elaborated further at a meeting held in December 2022 and following virtual meetings with the World Heritage Centre, submitted in January 2024 for review, and finalized during the April 2024 UNESCO DSO CR workshop with the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in Nairobi, Kenya, to commence implementation of the identified corrective measures in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and external partners;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;

12. **Decides to retain Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.11** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana, a property included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and notes with concern that the absence of a report from the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property, given the significant conservation threats facing the property;
4. Takes note of the progress reported in implementing some corrective measures at a workshop organised by the World Heritage Centre on capacity-building on elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the implementation of corrective measures, but notes that the conservation challenges of the property remain major;
5. Appreciates that a costed action plan for implementation of corrective measures was developed following this workshop and requests that the State Party submit it to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN;
6. Reiterates its serious concern regarding the significant increase in the rate of deforestation within the property, which has reached a record level of 0.07 per cent, exceeding the limit of 0.01 per cent defined in DSOCR, the continuing loss of primary forest in all parts of the property and an increase in reports of illegal logging of precious wood species, as raised by the State Party in its 2022 report;
7. Notes the ongoing and planned efforts already indicated in the 2022 report, aimed at addressing forest loss through ecological monitoring and reforestation activities, and reiterates its request to the State Party to strengthen its efforts to combat illegal logging and trading in rosewood, complemented by efforts to promote local sustainable development;
8. Recalling the information in the 2022 report concerning the planned renewal of the development and management plans for each of the six components of the property, the purpose of which is to: assess the current situation with regard to forestry and mining; inform decisions on future activities, including the implementation of corrective measures and its costed five-year action plan; and produce an Integrated Management Plan (IMP), reiterates its strong encouragement to the State Party to ensure that a fully consultative process with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, is implemented for development of the plans;

9. Also requests that the State Party submit the draft development and management plans for the six components of the property, as well as the draft IMP, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, so that they may be reviewed by IUCN prior to their adoption;
10. While noting reaffirmation of the zero-tolerance policy with regard to the logging and export of rosewood and ebony, as stated in the 2022 report, reiterates its request to the State Party that it find a sustainable solution aimed at eliminating all stocks of precious woods and ending the illegal felling and trading of precious woods, including through full implementation of the decisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) concerning ebony (*Diospyros* spp.), pallsander and rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp.);
11. Also recalling the activities indicated in the 2022 report aimed at preparing an inventory and marking system for “controlled official stocks” of seized logs and trading them on the national market, using the proceeds for restoration activities, reiterates that controlled official stocks are quite small compared to “uncontrolled but declared stocks” and undeclared illegal stocks;
12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess progress made in implementing the corrective measures needed to achieve DSOCR and to update the corrective measures, as well as their implementation schedule, with a view to eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.12** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes positively the State Party’s sustained efforts to implement the corrective measures and the 2022–2024 Development and Management Plan (DPM) and requests that it pursue their implementation as a matter of urgency;
4. Adopts the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) presented by the State Party as supplementary information to this report on the state of conservation of the property and also requests that the State Party ensure its effective implementation in a timely manner, in close collaboration with technical and financial partners, the World Heritage Centre and the various specialist groups of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), where applicable;

5. Thanks the technical and financial partners supporting conservation of the property, in particular the NGOs Wild Africa Conservation and Sahara Conservation, as well as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Norway, and appeals to the international community and technical and financial partners to further support the efforts of the State Party, in order to ensure sustainable funding for the successful implementation of DPM and achievement of DSOCR;
6. Notes positively the deployment of Water and Forestry Officers within the property, supported by Eco-guards, volunteer valley chiefs and community workers, and urges the State Party to recruit, train, equip and assign sufficient staff to ensure effective management of the property, implement DPM and achieve DSOCR;
7. Welcomes the reported progress in restoring the degraded areas as well as in controlling the invasive alien species (IAS) *Prosopis juliflora* within the property, regrets that the State Party has not provided sufficient details on the strategy for controlling IAS and further requests that the State Party continue efforts to restore vegetation cover and provide clarification on the strategy for controlling IAS within the property, as well as the detailed results;
8. Takes note of the general decisions on the temporary suspension of exploration and operation authorizations and mining permit renewals as of 26 July 2023 and furthermore requests that the State Party provide updated information on the nature and status of the previous permits, in particular those located on the south-eastern boundary of the property, and ensure that the impacts of planned operations on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are assessed within the framework of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before any decision is taken, and that any proposal likely to have a negative impact on the OUV cannot be authorized;
9. Notes with appreciation the absence of cases of poaching and the new confirmation of the presence of certain species characteristic of the OUV of the property, also regrets that details of the patrol effort and population trends have not been provided and once again reiterates its request that maps be provided showing the location of the main threats identified, notably illegal gold panning and abusive logging within the property, together with indications of their severity and extent and the actions taken to combat them;
10. Also takes note of the activities envisaged by the State Party to rebuild the dorcas and dama gazelle herds, as well as its ongoing breeding of red-necked ostriches, reiterates its concern that the situation of certain species characteristic of the property's OUV remains a matter of serious concern and further requests that the State Party continue its efforts and extend them to other species characteristic of the property's OUV, in particular the Barbary sheep, addax, cheetah and spotted hyena, as described in the DSOCR;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
12. **Decides to retain the Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.50** and **45 COM 7A.13** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions respectively,
3. Notes the results of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission conducted in March 2024 and commends the actions taken by the State Party in effectively implementing various recommendations and corrective measures stemming from the 2015 mission, as well as the significant progress made in achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
4. Recalling that the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List on the basis of criterion (x) alone, notes with satisfaction the increase in the encounter rate of the characteristic species of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in comparison with the situation during the last Reactive Monitoring mission in 2015, and the continuation of the monitoring protocol with a view to collect updated data for the coming years 2024, 2025, 2026, in particular through the ongoing updating of the property's Development and Management Plan thanks to funding already mobilized;
5. Noting the clarification provided by the State Party with regard to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the National Parks Directorate (DPN) of Senegal and the Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG) concerning ongoing monitoring to mitigate any potential indirect negative impact of the Sambangalou Dam on the OUV of the property, in particular when the dam is put into operation, as well as a formal commitment from the Senegalese authorities to permanently and immediately close the Mansadala basalt quarry, and to implement a rehabilitation plan for the pits resulting from its exploitation,
6. Notes with appreciation the strengthening of anti-poaching measures, combining land, air and sea methods, as well as the continuing improvement in relations with local populations that have led to a drastic reduction of poaching;
7. Urges the State Party to fully implement the following indicators based on the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission:
 - a) Urgently update and implement the property's Development and Management Plan, ensuring that it incorporates an operational ecological monitoring plan targeting the characteristic species of OUV,
 - b) Document the stated upward trend observed in the property's characteristic species of the OUV through a census of the wildlife species in order to establish a new baseline to monitor further recovery of the OUV,
 - c) Immediately and definitively close the Mansadala basalt quarry, with a validated and implemented rehabilitation plan,
 - d) Provide the World Heritage Committee with the necessary and sufficient guarantees for the mitigation of the potential indirect negative impacts on the

property arising from the modification of the hydrological regime caused by the filling of the reservoir behind the Sambangalou Dam;

8. Also requests the State Party to implement the main additional recommendations made by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. While noting that the construction of the dam in Sambangalou is continuing, notes the availability of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report on the project, and recalls the need for a thorough analysis of the ESIA report by IUCN to draw conclusions on the effective consideration of the property's OUV in light of the potential negative impacts of the project, as indicated by preliminary analysis of the supplementary environmental and biodiversity studies of the property;
10. Commends the State Party on the various measures taken to reduce accidents with wild animals on National Route 7 through the property, and encourages the State Party to continue implementing these measures to reduce to a minimum the number of registered collisions;
11. Notes that the Barrick Gold mining project has not yet started and that no environmental approval has been issued for it, and also recalls the concerns previously expressed about the many major potential impacts identified by the project's ESIA report;
12. Thanks the State Party and its financial partners who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the Government of Norway through its funding to the World Heritage Fund to support the improvement of the state of conservation of the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to remove Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) from the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.16**, **44 COM 7A.51** and **45 COM 7A.14** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Noting that construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) within the property is nearing completion, also recalls its utmost concerns regarding this project, including its clear position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, the commitment made by the State Party to not undertake any development activities in

the property without the Committee's approval, and the irreversible impact of continued implementation of the JNHPP on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Expresses its concern regarding the reported flooding and its impacts on communities, including loss of life, downstream of the JNHPP following the discharge of water from the dam, and requests the State Party to urgently provide more information on this issue;
5. Reiterates again its concerns regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Kidunda dam project, which may inundate part of the property, regrets that the revised 2021 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was submitted too late to allow for its review in time for the 46th session of the Committee and reiterates its request for the State Party not to proceed with any decision that would be difficult to reverse before the revised ESIA has been reviewed by IUCN;
6. Further recalling the State Party's commitment to ensuring that previously planned major developments, including the suspended Mkuju uranium mine, would be subject to a new ESIA process should they be considered in future, also requests the State Party to ensure that a new ESIA is undertaken for the proposed Mkuju uranium mine to assess its potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse including to approve the project;
7. Also reiterates its request for the State Party to ensure that any development that may impact on the OUV of the property is assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
8. Takes note that the State Party has invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and urges the State Party to organize this mission as soon as possible, to assess amongst other matters, the status of the elephant population, the impacts of the JNHPP implemented within the property, as well as of various other construction projects on the OUV of the property, as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and assess future scenarios for the property, including options to conserve the wider Selous-Niassa ecosystem;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
10. **Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A. 56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.15** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts by the State Party to implement the corrective measures towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including forest restoration activities, addressing encroachment, strengthening community engagement in ecosystem restoration, continuing species monitoring and patrolling efforts, and the reaffirmed absence of mining concessions, exploration permits or new roads within the property;
4. Requests the State Party to continue implementing the corrective measures and to submit a detailed report on the progress, including an overview of:
 - a) The extent to which the DSOOCR indicators on forest cover, population trend data for key species of fauna, road development, mining, boundary demarcation, law enforcement and management of the wider landscape have been achieved,
 - b) The actions needed to achieve the remainder of the DSOOCR indicators to enable the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and
 - c) An action plan and timeline to implement the above;
5. Also notes with appreciation the continued moratorium on new forest concessions and restoration activities, and also requests the State Party to report on any forest loss within the property, and to prioritize restoration activities in ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife corridors and roadsides;
6. Further requests the State Party to implement a systematic survey for the four key species (Sumatran tiger, rhino, elephant and orangutan) using standard replicable methods to enable a property-wide analysis of population status and monitor trends over time;
7. Welcomes the continued commitment to not approve new road developments within the property and to mitigate the effects of existing roads, takes note that no request for the construction or improvement of the Muara Situlen-Gelombang road through Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) has been submitted and would not be approved, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure full implementation of the mitigation measures for the Karo-Langkat road;
8. Notes the submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports for the proposed upgrade of Sanggi-Bengkunat road segment and widening of the Bukit Tapan-Sungai Penuh road segment within the property, reiterates its request for the State Party to clarify the current status of these projects, and requests furthermore the State Party not to proceed with these projects, given the potential impacts of forest clearance and

increasing habitat fragmentation, and that, based on the submitted EIAs, proposed mitigation measures are not clearly demonstrated to result in minimal or no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

9. Noting the proximity of the proposed Trans-Sumatran Highway to the GLNP, requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the assessment of potential impacts also ensures there would be no impact on the OUV of the property, and to ensure that all potential development proposals are assessed for their potential impacts on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
10. Also welcomes the focus of the Ministerial Decree on 'Coordination Team of Management and Preparing of Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS) and Komodo National Park Natural World Heritage' on accelerating efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, optimizing and synergizing its management, as well as preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and urges the State Party to implement these efforts, especially completion of the SEA in line with the aforementioned Guidance and international best practice standards;
11. Further notes with appreciation that there continues to be no mining within the property and that the State Party has rejected several dam proposals, however, also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on four hydropower dams (Soraya Dam, Jambo Aye Dam, Kluet Dam and Samarkilang Dam), mining projects located within the Leuser Ecosystem in the vicinity of GLNP, and the spatial plan to manage the Leuser Ecosystem;
12. Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to prepare a Significant Boundary Modification for the property, requests furthermore that this process be informed by a clear identification and assessment of the OUV based on the Statement of OUV and be in line with the recommendations of previous Committee Decisions and Reactive Monitoring missions, and encourages the State Party to seek further technical guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
14. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;**
15. **Also decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7A.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.16** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Appreciates the State Party's continued efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) within the current timeframe, in close cooperation with local communities and provincial, national and international partners,
4. Reiterates once again its request to the State Party to adopt, as a matter of urgency, a new Cabinet Paper with the commitments and associated budgets of the respective ministries reflected in the budget allocation for the next fiscal year;
5. Welcomes the support provided by international NGOs for the implementation of some corrective measures, notably the carbon financing project led by "Live & Learn Environmental Education" and the IAS/rodent control project led by "BirdLife International";
6. Also welcomes the significant progress made by the State Party towards obtaining consensus from the customary landowners to apply the Protected Areas Act 2010 to the property, and the intention to develop a new Management Plan, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to obtain full consent from all the customary landowners in East Rennell to ensure legal protection for the entire property including the adjacent area in order to address ongoing and potential threats of mining and commercial logging;
7. Regrets that no information was provided by the State Party concerning the previously reported bauxite mining exploration proposal, recalling its position that mining, including exploration, is considered incompatible with World Heritage status, reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the status of the mining proposal;
8. Expresses its utmost concern that the flying fox species which are recognized as an attribute of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), appear to have become locally extinct in the property according to a recent investigation following a 2021 mass mortality event, also requests the State Party to clarify further the results of the surveys by submitting information for each species of flying fox, and further investigate the cause and the reported possible sightings in West Rennell to determine the potential for natural restoration of the population across the Island;
9. Also expresses its utmost concern that the environmental damages and socio-economic impacts on local communities caused by the grounding of the barge SAPOR 2302 in 2021 persist, and that no compensation has been made to date, also reiterates its request to the responsible company and licensee of SAPOR 2302 to adhere to the conclusions and recommendations of the assessment conducted in 2021, with regards to compensation of the ecological, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the grounding and urges the State Party to support the communities in their claims for compensation;
10. Further welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to develop livelihood activities for East Rennell communities with support of the UNESCO/Netherlands and UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust as well as to accelerate the implementation of the DSO CR through applying to the International Assistance;
11. Calls upon the international community to continue providing the State Party necessary support, both financially and technically, to meet the current timeframe to achieve the DSO CR by 2025, as well as climate change funding to conduct an integrated vulnerability assessment of the property;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session;
13. Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Butrint (Albania) (C 570ter)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.86** and **38 COM 8E** adopted at its 33rd (Sevilla, 2009) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the submission of progress reports on the state of conservation in 2011 and 2015 as well as the completion, submission and first steps of the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan of the Butrint National Park 2020-2030 (IMP), and invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a mid-term evaluation of its implementation;
4. Welcomes the engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the development of project proposals for projects in the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, as well as the undertaking of detailed scientific studies, such as impact assessments as a prerequisite for development projects and activities planned for implementation within or around the property;
5. Also welcomes the progress made towards the development of conservation and management tools, including a Community Engagement and Development Plan, and requests that the State Party ensure that these tools place the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as a primary aim and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further welcomes the progress made towards the updating of the Conservation Plan and the Action Plan and the readiness of the Butrint Management Foundation (BMF) to implement the Action Plan in the areas under its supervision, and also requests the State Party to submit both plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Welcomes furthermore the progress made towards developing a detailed Action Plan with a timeframe to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, and further requests the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and to implement fully the recommendations of the mission;
8. Also notes that the transition of the management of the sections of the property categorised as A3 to the BMF will soon be completed, welcomes the ongoing work to

ensure that the newly created Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI) retains oversight of the entire World Heritage property, stresses that in order to achieve effective management and accountability, the World Heritage property and its buffer zone need to be managed in a coordinated manner and as a whole, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide clarifications to the World Heritage Centre on the current protective regulations and designated uses for all zones of the National Park in relation to the protection of the World Heritage property and the function of its buffer zone, and on how the different management regimes will be harmonised and equally resourced to avoid fragmentation in management;

9. Regrets that the clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone is still pending and urges the State Party to submit, as a matter of priority, a clear and accurate map showing the World Heritage property boundary and the buffer zone boundary to the World Heritage Centre for review;
10. Further notes that ICOMOS has prepared a technical review of the Visitor's Centre project and the related documentation submitted by the State Party, and requests the State Party to fully implement its recommendations, including allowing sufficient time to prepare a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to assess the impact of the proposal on the OUV of the property, which should, amongst others, be based on diverse and thorough archaeological investigations, include the landscape dimension, and allow more time for the assessment to be conducted;
11. Requests moreover that the State Party continue to submit details of projects that may affect the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken on their implementation, and that projects be implemented only after agreement has been reached on their alignment with the maintenance of the OUV of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a detailed Action Plan with a timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

2. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.75**, **41 COM 7B.40**, **43 COM 7B.79**, **44 COM 7B.151** and **45 COM 7B.51** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to upgrade urban planning regulations for both the Berat and Gjirokastra components of the property, requests the State Party to clarify the interlinkages between the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the separate plans for the 'preservation, protection and administration' to:

- a) Ensure that all planning and management instruments work together to protect and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
 - b) Harmonise the differences between the former regulations and the plans, and
 - c) Make specific reference in the plans to the OUV and its attributes;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool and to diversify its development plans for the property to stimulate a broad, resilient economic base for its future and recommends that it be developed in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation);
 5. Notes with regret that, despite its previous requests, the State Party has not fully implemented the project for the development of the IMP for the property in cooperation with the governmental and civil sectors, funded through international assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund, urges the State Party to further update the IMP as a matter of priority taking into account the comments and recommendations already made by the Advisory Bodies and actively involving the local authorities of Berat and Gjirokastra, and also requests the State Party to submit a pre-final draft to serve as a basis for any further assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
 6. Further notes with regret the completion of the construction of the Gjirokastra bypass road without having implemented the requests of the Committee, and therefore further requests the State Party to urgently complete a full independent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Gjirokastra bypass road, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
 7. Requests furthermore the State Party to undertake an integrated HIA to assess the impact of the numerous infrastructure and development projects within or in the wider setting of the property, including individual ongoing projects within the Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (PIUTD), both individually and cumulatively, against the state of conservation, integrity and authenticity of the property at the time of its inscription, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
 8. Notes with concern that the recommendations of the 2021 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission have not been implemented, and reiterates its request to the State Party to implement these in full;
 9. Also notes with concern that details of all development projects that may affect the OUV of the property have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the project details to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible approval or decision, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and
 - b) Commission HIAs focusing on the OUV of the property in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and carried out in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and recalls that such documents, or at least their executive summaries, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in one of the working languages of the Committee;
 10. Requests moreover the State Party to continue its efforts to limit the occurrence of illegal construction activities in the property;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

3. Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) (Austria, Germany, Slovakia) (C 1608rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.24** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Welcomes the submission of a minor boundary modification request to the World Heritage Centre for the establishment of buffer zones for a small number of components, and requests that a buffer zone also be established for the component part at Albing (1608-rev038) by also submitting a further minor boundary modification request to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Takes note of the progress made by the States Parties and also requests them to continue to address the issues identified at the time of inscription, including by:
 - a) Clarifying whether all States Parties are members of the Scientific Advisory Board, establishing a common database and further developing the research framework and making its outcomes available to all the relevant stakeholders,
 - b) Continuing to work on the preparation of a clear and consistent approach to reconstruction works for all component parts and submitting this approach as a draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its finalisation,
 - c) Developing and adopting a proactive long-term strategy, promoting legal and policy mechanisms as appropriate, to allow all component parts and their buffer zones to be excluded from ploughing and other potentially harmful agricultural activities,
 - d) Strengthening coordinated management with the relevant water and river authorities to develop integrated management plans for the property at national and transnational levels, including disaster risk assessment, prevention and management measures for controlling the flow of the Danube and preventing or managing flooding of components and their settings,
 - e) Continuing to survey and document the entire ensemble of temporary camps as an archaeological landscape,
 - f) Clarifying whether a Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out for the extension of the existing wind park outside the southern part of the buffer zone of the Carnuntum component to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and introduce regulations to ensure that the landscape setting of other component parts is not compromised by new renewable energy infrastructure or other infrastructure projects,
 - g) Continuing to enhance outreach and community engagement across all component parts of the property,

- h) Ensuring that appropriate legal frameworks are in place to allow Impact Assessments, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to be routinely used to assess the impact of proposed changes that may impact on component parts or their settings, and ensure that all projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

4. Fertő / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary) (C 772rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.52** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the strengthened cooperation of the States Parties in the protection and management of the transboundary property, commends their efforts in finalising the updated joint Management Plan, and also welcomes their decision to develop a vision for the future of the property and to establish a joint strategy, including a strategy for tourism infrastructure and management, to ensure a sustainable and equitable use of the property consistent with its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Expresses concern at the findings of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ Ramsar Secretariat Advisory mission to the property in 2023, which indicate that the current management system does not adequately protect the cultural landscape and that the property is affected by a number of factors, including urban development and sprawl, large visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure, lack of protection of urban centres, changes in the functions of buildings, renewable energy facilities (repowering of wind turbines in the component in Austria);
5. Endorses the recommendations of the 2023 mission and calls on the States Parties to implement them in order to strengthen the protection of the property's OUV;
6. Invites the States Parties to jointly undertake an inventory of all existing and planned tourism facilities along the lakeshore, together with an assessment of their cumulative adverse impacts on the attributes underlying the property's OUV, and to submit the results of the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the State Party of Hungary to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment of a redesigned Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and to submit it, together with a detailed project document, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

8. Acknowledges the need to maintain renewable energy infrastructure in the Federal State of Burgenland, but considers that the repowering of wind farms in the setting of the property prolongs the existing negative impact of wind farms on the OUV of the property, and therefore advises the State Party of Austria to:
 - a) Develop a framework for assessing the visual impact of wind turbines based on an inventory of the spatial and landscape attributes underlying the property's OUV,
 - b) Strengthen the protection of the visual setting of the property, taking into account the significant contribution of the wider landscape setting to its OUV,
 - c) Seek opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts of existing wind turbines when repowering the wind farms,
 - d) Carry out impact assessments for all wind energy projects in the visual setting of the property, using the above-mentioned Guidance and the Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context;
9. Notes that the protection of the visual setting of the property by its current buffer zone is very limited, and further advises the State Party of Austria to:
 - a) Investigate alternative locations for the proposed hospital outside the town Gols, which, if constructed in its current location, would have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,
 - b) Undertake a thorough assessment of the buffer zone and consider submitting an enlarged buffer zone boundary through the Minor Boundary Modification process;
10. Further welcomes the decision of the States Parties to continue to investigate the potential interventions to increase the water supply to the lake and to preserve the soda pans in the area, and to ensure that all the optional solutions are subject to transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments, and encourages the States Parties to engage in a careful and sustained consultation process on possible solutions, including with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the Ramsar Secretariat;
11. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

5. Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai (Belgium) (C 1009)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **24 COM X.C.1** adopted at its 24th (Cairns, 2000) session,
3. Regrets that, in deconstructing and reconstructing the Pont des Trous, the State Party did not fully consider the symbolic importance of the bridge in the recent history of Tournai, and considers that the project has resulted in a negative impact on the historical integrity of Tournai, which forms the setting of the World Heritage property 'Notre-Dame

Cathedral in Tournai' and buffer zone of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';

4. Notes with concern the 'Carré Jason' project being implemented in the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France' and directly adjacent the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai', the current design of which will have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of these properties, and therefore requests the State Party to halt its implementation and to review the project design in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
5. Acknowledges the need for the refurbishment of the Musée des Beaux Arts in Tournai in the wider setting of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France' and the World Heritage property 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai', but with regard to its extension, also requests the State Party to revise the impact assessment of the project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including the potential impact of the planned high-rise addition, to submit the revised Heritage Impact Assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and encourages the State Party to engage in dialogue with them to discuss alternatives to the project;
6. Considers also that the three above-mentioned projects, each in a different way, constitute irreversible alterations to the historic fabric of Tournai and pose a cumulative threat to the preservation of the OUV of the property, and of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';
7. Reminds the State Party of the additional layer of protection provided to World Heritage properties by their buffer zones and the supportive role of a property's wider setting in ensuring the maintenance of all aspects of its OUV, as set out in Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Undertake a thorough identification of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property and of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France',
 - b) Strengthen the regulatory system for the protection of their buffer zones and wider settings,
 - c) Fully align the planning and management framework of the properties with the objective of protecting and preserving their OUV,
 - d) Develop a joint management plan for the two World Heritage properties in Tournai,
 - e) Use from the early project planning stages impact assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,
 - f) Extend the buffer zone of the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral de Tournai' to align it with the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';
9. Also reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of its intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

6. Le Havre, the City rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.184** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reminds the State Party of the need to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, before making decisions that are difficult to reverse, of the intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions that could modify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as requested by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the documentation on the following proposals mentioned during the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission:
 - a) The specifications for the urban planning study currently underway prior to the development of a project for a future World Trade Centre,
 - b) The project currently underway on the site of the former École de Commerce and the proposed new water sports centre on the boulevard Clémenceau,
 - c) Any other project which may affect the OUV of the property;
5. Further request the State Party to implement as soon as possible the recommendations already made by the 2023 Advisory mission, in particular to promptly carry out the urban planning study of the Notre-Dame and Saint-François districts, including the area known as the 'Monumental Triangle', and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and in this regard, also requests the State Party:
 - a) To pay particular attention to ensuring compliance with the Architecture and Heritage Enhancement Areas (AVAP) - Remarkable Heritage Sites (SPR) rules set out and specified in the Protection-Evolution Plan, in particular with regard to the Place du Vieux Marché,
 - b) Not to amend the Protection-Evolution Plan to accommodate any new development that does not comply with it;
6. Recommends that the State Party take into account the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in particular the paragraphs on the role of the buffer zone and the wider setting, and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), when revising the SPR regulation;
7. Strongly recommends the State Party to ensure that the revised planning document provides for the general maximum height rule for new buildings (25 metres and seven storeys) not only within the property, but also in its entire buffer zone, and removes the

possibility of constructing buildings with no height limit in the axis of the monumental composition of the Bassin du Commerce;

8. Further recommends that the State Party include, in extenso, in the planning and heritage legislation of the intercommunal Local Urban Plan (PLUi):
 - a) Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) The general rules (AVAP equivalent to SPR) regarding the architectural quality of new buildings to be erected within the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the final draft of the amended SPR document to the World Heritage Centre prior to its submission to the local SPR Commission, and then to bring it in its final approved form to the attention of the World Heritage Committee;
10. Recommends moreover to the State Party to review the Management Plan for the property, following the revision of the SPR, and to ensure that it is consistent with maintaining the OUV of the property by:
 - a) Taking into account the revised SPR,
 - b) Incorporating certain provisions of the Operational Guidelines, particularly Paragraphs 112, 118bis and 172, and
 - c) Ensuring that it is updated in the spirit of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the HUL;
11. Further requests the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 Advisory mission;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

7. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France) (C 600)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.53** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with satisfaction the progress made on the reconstruction and restoration of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral with a view to its reopening in December 2024, including the new fire defence and fire safety project for the cathedral;
4. Welcomes the initiative to create a museum dedicated to the cathedral, to be housed in the Hôtel-Dieu, to showcase the collections relating to this important place of worship, art and history, and recommends that the State Party send documentation on the progress of the project to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Takes note of the project to create contemporary stained glass windows to mark the period of the fire and restoration, to be installed in six chapels on the south aisle of the cathedral in place of the existing 19th century stained glass windows, and considers that such a project should be the subject of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, taking into account the logic adopted by the reconstruction/restoration intervention, and a consensus among the various stakeholders;
6. Recalls its Decision **38 COM 7** in which it encouraged the identification of potential impacts of future Olympic Games on World Heritage properties at an early stage of the Games award process, in order to ensure that such impacts can be avoided or adequately mitigated by the organizing country, and notes that information on installations and facilities planned for the Olympic Games within the property has recently been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre and is currently being reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also notes that the project to develop the management plan for the property has begun, encourages the State Party to build on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in this process, requests the State Party to submit the integrated management plan for the property to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption, and reiterates its recommendation to include the new risk prevention and management plan;
8. Takes note of the setting up of a multidisciplinary committee to guide the project for the redevelopment of the Place de la Concorde and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on the project, as well as the related HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
9. Encourages the State Party to pursue a more regular dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the context of the restoration work of the cathedral and the development of its surroundings;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a full overview of the measures taken to dismantle the installations and facilities put in place on the occasion of the Olympic Games, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

8. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andr ssy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.56** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
4. Regrets that, despite the Committee's request to halt work on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) in order to allow for dialogue on how it might be modified, work has been undertaken to 'renew' Hauszmann-designed structures in the Buda Castle Quarter, which has not been approved by the Committee either in principle or in detail;
5. Also regrets that, despite several requests by the Committee, full details of the Buda Castle Quarter project, including the justification for reconstruction in relation to documentary evidence and the proposed methodological approach, have not been provided, nor have Heritage Impact Assessments or Conservation Plans;
6. Also notes that, based on details provided in a promotional brochure on the NHP, extensive reconstruction work undertaken since 2019 includes the facades of the Guardhouse and Riding School, the Stöckl Stairway, the Karakash Pasha Tower, the Hauszmann Ramp and the South Range of the Castle, including the complete recreation of the interior of St Stephen's Hall to its early 20th century form, and further notes that reconstruction of the north range of the Castle is underway, and that reconstruction is planned for the Archduke Joseph's Palace, the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters, the Royal Defence Headquarters, and the National Archives of Hungary;
7. Reiterates its concern about the negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on the state of conservation of the property, with potential cumulative negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including its authenticity and integrity, as noted in previous decisions of the Committee;
8. Requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on its OUV, and allow a full understanding of what has been accomplished in the context of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee;
9. Notes the commitment by the State Party to revive the ICOMOS advisory assistance on the management and development of the property, but invites it to consider directing any future advisory assistance by ICOMOS towards the implementation of the recommendations of the forthcoming Reactive Monitoring mission;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

9. Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary) (C 1063)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Notes the establishment of a Management Plan for the property and requests the State Party to submit its electronic copy in one of the working languages of the Committee to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
3. Also requests the State Party to amend Decree 485/2016 on the World Heritage Management Plan for the Historic Tokaj-Hegyalja Wine Region, so that the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are identical to those adopted by the Committee in Decision **37 COM 8E**;
4. Notes with regret that the Minaro Hotel Tokaj has been constructed within the property without prior preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or notification of the project to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to ensure that there is no future expansion of this facility or related creation or widening of roads on the property, as recommended in the ICOMOS Technical Review of the Visual Impact Assessment of the project;
5. Notes with concern that the Kopasz Hill Cable Car project, if built on any of the proposed routes, would adversely affect the OUV of the property, advises that the project should not proceed in its current form, and further requests the State Party to reconsider it, having regard to the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Review to consider alternative routes and potential direct and indirect impacts, and to submit full documentation, including a new HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any irreversible decisions;
6. Reminds the State Party of the requirement to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, including HIAs prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to do so before making any decisions that are difficult to reverse, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on proposals for new or improved roads, including a bypass to replace the high traffic road that crosses the property;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

**10. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy)
(C 829bis)**

Decision: 46 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.156** and **45 COM 8B.61** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou, China/Online, 2021) and at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for revising and extending the buffer zone for the property, and encourages the State Party to implement the recommendation to extend the buffer zone to include the Villa at Boscoreale;
4. Also commends the State Party for its commitment to improving the management system of the property, including securing the necessary financial and human resources, the projects undertaken for the stabilisation and restoration of archaeological structures and decorative elements, as well as the progress made in establishing systematic monitoring of archaeological remains, in order to carry out the necessary maintenance work on an ongoing basis, and reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to provide updates on the conservation work completed on buildings identified as at risk during the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;
5. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to update the property's Management Plan, and requests the State Party to submit the final draft of the document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;
6. Acknowledges the updated information on the planned project at Porta Nola in the Pompei component, and also requests the State Party to submit the revised, updated plans, together with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before irreversible decisions are made;
7. Also acknowledges that the current project design of the planned visitor centre at Torre Annunziata includes significant revisions and further requests the State Party to submit the revised design plans, and documentation for works at the Spolettifico, including an HIA, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to approval;
8. Thanks the State Party for the notification, in accordance with both paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, of 41 potential projects within and around the Herculaneum Archaeological Park component of the property, and also encourages the State Party to continue to notify planned changes and projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess achievements in addressing the factors affecting the property, to review current project proposals and to assess the current state of conservation of the property, and the need or not for further Reactive Monitoring;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.191** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for a number of developments and the provision of information on various proposed projects, and encourages the State Party to continue to improve the HIA process and to pay particular attention to the indirect and cumulative impacts of the many projects being implemented, in the light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
4. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to invest in the further development of knowledge, expertise and capacity-building in the field of cultural heritage and impact assessment, and invites the State Party to coordinate with the World Heritage Centre for any required support;
5. Notes the progress made by the State Party in finalising the draft Management Plan, urges it to expedite the process with a view of making it a fully operational tool for the effective management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity and prior to its formal adoption, and to ensure appropriate incorporation of the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies, and reiterates its request that the Management Plan incorporate the recommendations of the 2018 mission and address the following issues, in particular:
 - a) Development issues in harmony with the Spatial Urban plan for Kotor Municipality,
 - b) Protection and conservation of tangible and intangible attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other heritage values,
 - c) Disaster risk reduction,
 - d) Tourism management, including issues related to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that tourism could have on the property;and underlines the availability of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to accompany the final stages of this process, including through an Advisory mission, if the State Party deems it appropriate;
6. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to find an adequate and sustainable tourism management model for the property that is compatible with the protection of the OUV of the property, recommends that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be carried

out to manage proactively tourism development throughout the property and invites the State Party to submit any relevant strategic document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and implementation;

7. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the following documents at the earliest opportunity to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) The buffer zone study to define areas in and around the property where an impact assessment should be required for potential projects,
 - b) A planning document for the Lepetani area that would detail direct construction requirements and complement the Spatial Urban Plan of Tivat currently in force,
 - c) The HIA comprising alternative comparative solutions for the Verige bridge, when it is completed,
 - d) The detailed spatial plan under preparation for the conversion and construction of a hotel complex on the site of the former Fjord Hotel and the Jugooceanija building,
 - e) Relevant documentation on any other projects proposed in the property, buffer zone or wider setting that may have a potential negative impact on the OUV, with particular attention to the indirect and cumulative impacts of the many projects being implemented, in the light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
8. Notes that according to the Technical Review of the proposed quarrying within the property and its buffer zone, it appears to be incompatible in scale and intensity with the sustainable management of the property, recommends that no new quarrying concessions be granted and that a mitigation strategy be developed to limit the potential harm to the property's OUV and requests furthermore that the recommendations of the Technical Reviews for the other proposed projects are considered with regards to authorisations and mitigation measures;
9. Encourages the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property to assist in defining a strategic and sustainable approach to the multiple development requests and to avoid any risk of cumulative impacts on the property's OUV, using all available planning tools, including the Management Plan and SEAs;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025** 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 47th session.

12. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland) (C 1165)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.194** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the intention of the State Party to finalise the revised management plan for the property by the end of 2024, and as part of this revision process, requests the State Party to:
 - a) Strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines is systematically implemented,
 - b) Develop mechanisms to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system to ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, on the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their capacity to convey it,
 - c) Develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken on the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription, as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised management plan,
 - d) Submit the final draft of the revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption;
4. Takes notes of the invitation of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission by the State Party, which is scheduled to take place in the week of 9 September, but regrets that the timeframe proposed by the State Party did not allow the Committee to examine the resulting report at its current session;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, prior to the Reactive Monitoring mission, with clearer cartographic documentation showing whether and how the route of the Great Island Avenue would encroach upon the Szczytnicki Park and how many trees would need to be felled to widen the road in relation to the boundaries of the park;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

13. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) (C 1590)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.31** and **44 COM 7B.158** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished and welcomes the efforts of the State Party to maintain adequate conservation work for the wood and to acquire a plot of land in an area that represents a significant risk of fire for the property;

4. Expresses its concern at the slow progress in the implementation of its previous requests, including at the time of inscription, and requests the State Party to expedite its work on:
 - a) Completing the inventory of the heritage elements of the property,
 - b) Developing additional monitoring indicators to address the state of conservation of the park and woodland,
 - c) Revising the Braga Master Plan and include as a specific action a monitoring mechanism for urban expansion/development that may have an impact on the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting,
 - d) Closely monitoring the threat of fire, through the continuation of the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme' and the creation of an integrated and adaptive intermunicipal strategy with concrete actions and measures to be taken,
 - e) Updating the Management Plan to include:
 - (i) A revised Action Plan, detailing the proposed actions in the property with an associated timetable,
 - (ii) A detailed Conservation Plan, as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach,
 - (iii) A Tourism Management Plan that includes actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,
 - (iv) The results of the vegetation study to present, manage and sustain the vegetation, particularly the tree heritage, as an important element of the property that supplements its landscape attributes,
 - (v) A revised and more effective monitoring system by ensuring regular reporting on conservation work, the state of the park and wood, the impact of visitation and the threat of urban expansion/development and forest fires;
5. Further requests the State Party to confirm to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible the removal of the terrace bar requested at the time of inscription and reported to have taken place in December 2023 following the submission of the state of conservation report;
6. Expresses further concern at the number of activities that have not been implemented due to lack of adequate funding and expertise, and calls upon the State Party to make every effort to find additional and/or alternative sources of funding and the necessary expertise for their implementation;
7. Recalls that Heritage Impact Assessments of proposed developments within the property, including their potential cumulative impacts, need to be undertaken, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in advance of the proposed developments;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

14. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye) (C 1622)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.202** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyad, 2023),
3. Welcomes the work undertaken at the World Heritage property to repair the damage caused by the effects of the earthquakes of February 2023 and reiterates its invitation to the State Party to call upon the Convention's assistance mechanisms to support further repair work in the affected parts of the World Heritage property;
4. Also welcomes the survey work undertaken by the State Party to determine the exact extent of the archaeological remains and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue survey work to further detail and analyse the extent of archaeological remains, in particular to the north and west of the property, and to submit a report on the results of such surveys to the World Heritage Centre for review;
5. Notes that the five-year term of the Management Plan for the property has expired in 2024 and requests the State Party to initiate the revision process in a timely manner, with particular reference to the Conservation Plan and strategy, the Risk Preparedness Plan and the Visitor Management Plan, and to submit the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
6. Takes note of the progress reported by the State Party in the implementation of previous Committee decisions and requests the State Party to continue to address them, in particular by:
 - a) Revising the Conservation Protocol into a Conservation Plan, including conducting risk assessment, developing a Risk Preparedness Plan and preparing a cautious strategy for anticipated research and excavation, which is a key issue in developing a sustainable conservation strategy for the property, defining the location and extent of archaeological deposits on the property, particularly to the north and west, and assessing the state of conservation of previously excavated archaeological areas that may remain unsheltered,
 - b) Preparing, prior to the implementation of the new roof shelter project, a technical archaeological impact assessment report on the proposed interventions, detailing all aspects of the construction works, including the circulation of personnel and materials, and detailing the nature and location of the rainwater gutters, pipes and surface water drains on the mound and how these will be linked to the new drainage channel,
 - c) Preparing a Visitor Management Plan relating to visitor access, circulation and management on the property, as clarification of the exact number and type of facilities, and revising the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment accordingly or providing an additional one to address the additional aspects of anticipated future developments

and further requests to submit the above to the World Heritage Centre for review;

7. Finally, requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2025** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

15. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (C 1488)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.32**, **41 COM 7B.50**, **43 COM 7B.90**, **44 COM 7B.56** and **45 COM 7B.57** adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the State Party's:
 - a) Continued restoration of the city walls in recent years, including in response to the 2023 earthquake,
 - b) Actions to address several recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the suspension of projects and the development of programmes to reverse recent actions that have had a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the commitment of the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - c) Commissioning of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription and as a prerequisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, as set out in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines,
 - d) Commitment to submit to the World Heritage Centre various plans and their associated HIAs for the projects to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken, which would include the progress study as a result of the georadar survey in the re-landscaped lower area of İçkale, further detailed analysis and possible land management strategies for the Hevsel Gardens, proposals to reduce the impact of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project around the Ten-Eyed bridge, proposals to reduce the negative impact of the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates;
4. Requests that decisions on the adoption or implementation of projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the Anzele Urban Design Project, not be implemented until they have been found to be appropriate to the maintenance of the property's OUV through review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Welcomes the process of dialogue initiated between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; the agreement signed between the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums and the Diyarbakır Municipality leading to the update of the Management Plan; as well as the first study of the Hevsel Gardens, conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Also requests that an action plan outlining the further implementation of past Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 mission and the ICOMOS Technical Reviews be included as part of the Management Plan and that the latter be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
7. Further requests that the further studies of the Hevsel Gardens that the State Party intends to undertake focus on the changes that have occurred since the inscription of the property in terms of plot size, crops, use, ownership, as well as the historical and functional links to the city, socio-historical agricultural practices, ecology and the contribution that the traditional irrigation system may make to the OUV of the property;
8. Expresses its concern at the considerable changes to the Ten-Eyed Bridge that have virtually destroyed its historic setting and requests furthermore that the State Party develop an action plan with timeline of feasible actions to reverse the negative impacts of the developments that have taken place in the setting of the Bridge since inscription and submit this action plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Recalling its request at the time of inscription of the property that the State Party strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone to protect the urban fabric, including through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in the Suriçi District and also noting that the Suriçi Conservation Plans are legally binding but can be updated, request moreover the State Party to:
 - a) Re-evaluate the current development plans, based on an evaluation of the status quo of the built fabric of the Suriçi District and its contribution to the setting of the OUV of the property,
 - b) Develop a draft update of the current development plans through an iterative HIA process to deliver a plan that strengthens the contribution of the district to the OUV as part of its setting,
 - c) Submit the assessments, the draft updated plans and the HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any irreversible decision taken;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the requested action plans, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

16. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.31**, **44 COM 7B.58** and **45 COM 7B.58** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property which took place in June 2024 and notes that its conclusions and recommendations will be presented at its 47th session;
4. Also welcomes the commencement of the updating of the Management Plan for the property, which will include the definition of attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and a strategic plan for the conservation of the timber structures, and requests the State Party to submit the complete draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption;
5. Regrets the information reported on projects planned or already implemented for Hagia Sophia, such as the new ticket office and an entrance tunnel and ramps, without technical details or Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) having been submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the works, and also requests the State Party to submit the Hagia Sophia Visitor Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner for review by the Advisory Bodies ;
6. Also regrets the lack of information provided by the State Party prior to the change of status of the Chora Museum, despite numerous requests to comply with paragraphs 172 and 174 of the Operational Guidelines, notes however that updated information on the restoration work at the Chora has recently been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and is currently under review by the Advisory Bodies, but nevertheless further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre technical details and information on the additional building constructed and a comprehensive account of completed, ongoing and proposed works and projects at the Chora;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the UNESCO Advisory missions of October 2020 and January/February 2021, including the organisation of an international seminar on the conservation of mosaics and frescoes, the preparation of Master Plans for the areas of Hagia Sophia and the Chora, taking into account the potential impact that changes at Hagia Sophia and Chora may have on the OUV of the property;
8. Further regrets that a comprehensive roadmap, including short and long-term strategies covering all types of projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies despite its previous requests, and urges the State Party to develop such a roadmap, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before any irreversible decisions are taken, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre no later than **1 February 2025**;
9. Also notes the submission of HIAs for the Yedikule Fortress restoration and proposed Kazlıçeşme Yacht Marina, and further reiterates its previous request to the State Party to revise the Kazlıçeşme Yacht Marina project in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review, including three-dimensional modelling and preparation of a final HIA in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the revised HIA for the Kazlıçeşme Yacht Marina to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the project is implemented;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the HIAs under preparation for the Yenikapı Cruise Port and the Basketball Development Centre, and details of current projects at the Grand Bazaar, the Land Walls, the Yedikule Gas House and the Landwalls Nation Garden, as well information about planned excavations at Sultanahmet

Archaeopark, Yenikapı, Saraçhane and Theodosius Harbour, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also reiterates its previous request to the State Party to undertake HIAs for all large-scale infrastructure and restoration projects and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are taken;

11. Further notes the large number of infrastructure and other development/reconstruction/restoration projects proposed for the property and further regrets that, despite the Committee's repeated requests, completed project documentation and associated HIAs continue not to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner and in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore also urges the State Party to conduct HIAs in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for all proposed projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

**17. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
(C 1030)**

Decision: 46 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.61** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Thanks the State Party for the timely invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, following its recommendation, notes with concern the findings of the mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to face significant ascertained and potential threats, in particular as a result of development pressures and a fragmented management system, and requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory mission;
4. Also notes that preparatory work for the Landmark project has begun and that the 'Bradshaw Way' and 'Eagle Quarter' developments in Derby as well as the 'Amber Rock Resort' proposal in Crich are still pending determination in their current form and reiterates its previous request to the State Party to reconsider the approval of the Landmark project and not to approve the implementation of the 'Bradshaw Way', 'Eagle Quarter' and 'Amber Rock' proposals in their current form in order to avoid the negative impacts they will have on the OUV of the property;
5. Further notes the State Party's efforts to find alternative and sustainable proposals to address the poor condition of the Belper Mills complex, and also requests that details of a revised proposal, together with the commissioned study of the proposals and the associated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) based on the Guidance and Toolkit for

Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any approvals that may be difficult to reverse;

6. Regrets that the 'Belper Lane' development of 118 homes has been completed against the advice of ICOMOS and that the 'Derwent Street' development of 114 homes has almost been completed without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre and, given the significant number of developments in Belper, further requests that all developments of the Belper 2021 Neighbourhood Plan be promptly and fully notified to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any final decision, if they are likely to affect the property, its buffer zone or wider setting;
7. Also regrets the construction of the Leonardo Hotel Derby - Formerly Jurys Inn and the Premier Inn Derby City Centre (Cathedral Quarter) Hotel within the buffer zone of the property without notification to the World Heritage Centre and requests furthermore that the proposed extension to the latter, the so-called Full Street project, not be approved and, should a revised scheme be envisaged, that it be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any irreversible decision;
8. Requests moreover that an assessment be made of the cumulative impact of all projects undertaken within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone since the inscription of the property in order to establish a baseline for any individual impact assessment; and further requests that in the case of projects in the process of being decided upon, a thorough HIA based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context be undertaken against the above baseline, including the systematic evaluation of real comparisons with less impactful project alternatives, thereby adopting a precautionary approach to all new development projects and ensuring that projects are assessed for their cumulative impact on its OUV;
9. Acknowledges that the Local Plans are currently under review, reiterates its concern that review processes do not appear to be coordinated or their potential impacts on the OUV of the property assessed cumulatively, which has led to intrusive development projects, particularly in Belper, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that all new local plans and policies affecting the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting are assessed through integrated HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that draft plans and relevant HIAs are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption;
10. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate a review of the management system of the property with the aim of establishing a fully functioning management system that provides for:
 - a) A management authority with the legal jurisdiction and agency to ensure that the OUV of the property is safeguarded, including by coordinating the spatial and other plans of the various authorities with spatial mandates over the various sections of the property and its buffer zone and wider setting,
 - b) Legal status for the Management Plan of the property,
 - c) A legal mandate for the execution of HIAs, as prescribed by the Operational Guidelines, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Further requests that in the above process:
 - a) The attributes listed in the 2020-2025 Management Plan for the property be augmented to reflect more fully how they both truthfully and credibly convey the OUV of the property and how the buffer zone and the wider setting of the rural landscape support OUV,
 - b) A risk management and emergency preparedness plan for the entire World Heritage property be included;
 12. Reiterates its grave concern that development pressures on the property, coupled with the inability of the management system to safeguard its OUV, are reaching such proportions that, if not addressed as a matter of urgency, ascertained or potential threat, as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, could be confirmed if the recommendations of the 2024 joint Advisory mission to the property are not followed;
 13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, together with an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Advisory mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV.**
- 18. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)**

Decision: 46 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **18 BUR VI.B, 25 COM VII.83, 27 COM 7B.82, 28 COM 15B.102, 29 COM 7B.88, 31 COM 7B.104, 41 COM 7B.56, 42 COM 7B.32, 43 COM 7B.95, 44 COM 7B.61 and 45 COM 7B.62** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Notes that collaboration and partnerships among interested individuals and organisations continue to support the conservation of the property, through initiatives such as exhibitions and events, and continued progress on revised management and governance arrangements, and welcomes the commitment by the State Party to submit the draft Setting Study and Site Condition Survey to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Also welcomes the proposed new educational facilities within the Stonehenge component of the property and the manner in which the design process has considered the findings of the Technical Review by ICOMOS;
5. Notes that the proposed A303 road Improvement Scheme (hereafter: Scheme) within the Stonehenge component of the property, was granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in July 2023 without modification requested by previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission and that, as outlined in the State

Party's 2024 state of conservation report, the design can be refined following the granting of the DCO, and also notes that in February 2024 the UK High Court upheld the decision to grant the DCO and that in May 2024 permission to appeal against that decision was also granted;

6. Notes that preparatory works in the vicinity of the property have commenced and that the State Party submitted a set of corrective measures to the World Heritage Centre by 31 January 2024 in its state of conservation report 2024;
7. Takes note that the State Party has considered over 50 different options for the Scheme over the last 30 years, with amendments and modifications and has the support of the national heritage agency;
8. Acknowledges the State Party's commitment to continue dialogue and consultation, that the State Party has provided the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the Committee, with an information package on the proposed design developments to the Scheme, and that the Scheme design has been updated to reduce the extent of the exposed highway cutting at the western end through cantilevered edges and the introduction of an additional 150 m-wide green bridge, and that the State Party has briefed the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies about these proposed design adjustments;
9. Encourages the State Party to continue to explore whether there are any further options to further reduce the adverse impact of the Western Portal;
10. Notes in view of its previous requests, that the State Party should not proceed with the A303 route upgrade for the section between Amesbury and Berwick Down in its current further-modified form, and its previous advice that the minimum change required includes an extension of the underground section of the western approach (in tunnel and/or cut-and-cover) at least to the western boundary of the property, with the western portal relocated as far to the west as reasonably practical;
11. Notes that the current Scheme, as modified in January 2024, still retains dual carriageway sections exposed in cuttings, particularly those at the western end of the Stonehenge component of the property;
12. Recognizes that the proposed design developments offer enhanced mitigation of the impacts on the integrity of the property and that the impacts of the proposed open 0.7 km cutting at the Western Portal do not constitute sufficient ascertained or potential danger to warrant inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

19. Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (Brazil) (C 1620)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.27** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Appreciates the systematic approach the State Party has taken to respond to the recommendations that were issued by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;
4. Recommends the State Party to prioritise the detailed delineation of the attributes of the property and their degree of intactness, in line with paragraph 4.a) of its Decision **44 COM 8B.27**, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if requested, and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Encourages the State Party to establish the Management Committee and develop on the basis of the completed definition of the attributes, a Management Plan, Conservation Plan, Risk Preparedness Plan and urban regulations for the buffer zone, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, and requests the State Party to submit these plans and regulations as soon as they become available to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Stresses the importance to control urban development pressure, to ensure protection of views from the property into the surrounding landscape and to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, as required;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

20. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.110** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for the numerous conservation activities undertaken at the property and its efforts to respond to the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Risk Management Plan and, before their approval, encourages the State Party to consider the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies once the technical reviews become available;
5. Notes that the “Castro by-pass project” will be continued in 2024 and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on its progress;
6. Reiterates that it is a fundamental requirement for the adequate protection and management of the 16 churches that make up the World Heritage property, to designate appropriate buffer zones and put in place intervention guidelines, expresses concern that the designation of the Typical Zone of Castro has been annulled and that the designations for Achao, Rilán and Dalcahue are being reconsidered and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the related legal actions brought by civil society and indigenous representatives;
7. Also notes with concern that no effective mitigation measures have been identified and agreed upon with the owner of the shopping mall of Castro;
8. Further requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to review the implementation of all the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular:
 - a) the status of the designation of the buffer zones (Typical Zones) and Intervention Guidelines for each of the sixteen components of the property,
 - b) the wider context of the church of Castro including traffic management and eventual urban development and construction proposals in the area surrounding the church,
 - c) the adequacy of the proposed Typical Zone to protect the immediate surroundings of the church of Castro,
 - d) the feasibility to mitigate the negative impact of the shopping mall of Castro on the values and attributes of the component,
 - e) the measures which are required for a broad mobilization to ensure the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular the component of Castro;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above mentioned, particularly regarding the shopping mall in Castro, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

AFRICA

21. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.3** and **45 COM 7B.123** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the State Party's submission of the report on the state of conservation of the property in March 2024;
4. Notes with concern that the lack of timely reporting from the State Party due to the conflict in northern Ethiopia until the implementation of the cessation of hostilities, makes it challenging for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property;
5. Also notes that previous concerns about conservation threats on the property could be evaluated through the submittal of damage assessment of the archaeological and built attributes of the property to allow to better determine its current condition;
6. Reiterates its requests that the State Party develop an Action Plan with timelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 and 2016 missions and previous decisions of the Committee, and submit, by **1 February 2025**, a copy of this Action Plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to carry out a comprehensive assessment of its state of conservation and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation management and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
8. Calls again for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through International Assistance, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** a progress report, and by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

**22. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana)
(C 34)**

Decision: 46 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.5** and **45 COM 7B.125** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in finalising the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), completion of works for the rehabilitation of the Ussher Fort Slavery Museum and the consolidation of Fort Amsterdam, and the initiation of the project to delineate boundaries and define buffer zones of the components of the property, and encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre already completed survey reports and related documentation, which would allow the Advisory Bodies to offer closer assistance in that process;
4. Thanks the international partners, in particular the governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and France, for their continuous support to the State Party's conservation and capacity building activities;
5. Appreciates the State Party's commitment to respond to the advice provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies through the amendment and resubmission of revised material related to the World Bank-funded tourism development projects in Elmina and Axim, and requests that the revised projects be submitted in a timely manner for a new technical review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes both the State Party's assessment of the challenges it faces in the maintenance of the integrity of the component parts of the property, and its expressed need to obtain technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to address these challenges;
7. Notes with great concern the State Party's reported lack of capacity and resources that is inhibiting the implementation of the urgent measures previously identified, and requests the State Party to sustain and increase its efforts to implement the requests and recommendations contained in Decisions **44 COM 7B.5** and **45 COM 7B.125** and in past Reactive Monitoring and Advisory mission reports;
8. Also notes with concern that the James Town Fishing Harbour project and the use of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo have not been halted;
9. Recalling its request for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, invites the State Party to enter into discussions with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to explore the possibility of launching a funding and assistance appeal in order to undertake studies from which a strategy or establishing a campaign can be developed for the long-term sustainable conservation of the property;
10. Notes with appreciation that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property scheduled to take place in mid-2024 to address these concerns, which will formulate

recommendations for actions to be taken in order to address the numerous above-mentioned challenges the property is facing;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

23. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.9** and **45 COM 7B.129** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Notes the recommendations presented by the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests that the State Party implement these recommendations in combination with previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Also notes that the process to revise the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was delayed by the extended timeline for the completion of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission report and that the former Conservation Strategy remains in force, and requests that the State Party submit the updated CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Expresses its concern at the reports of encroachment into the buffer zone of the property and encourages the State Party to:
 - a) Prepare detailed maps of the property and its buffer zone for use in the management of the property,
 - b) Clearly demarcate the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone in the physical landscape;
6. Also recalling that the ecological restoration of the primary forest of the property was identified as a principal management goal at the time of inscription and also encourages the State Party to:
 - a) Review past measures for the ecological restoration of the primary forest as part of the process of the revision of the CMP,
 - b) Implement measures to reverse encroachment into the buffer zone and reduction in the primary forest since the time of inscription;
7. Welcomes the State Party's report that the Osun River is not polluted, that action against illegal mining in the region is ongoing, that clean-up actions have been undertaken and that further water quality tests will be undertaken and, also requests that testing be undertaken on a regular basis, and that the outcomes of past and future tests be shared with the World Heritage Centre;

8. Further notes the ongoing discussions regarding the allocation of funding from the annual festival for the conservation of the property and the relocation of the tarmac road from the property and further encourages the State Party to proceed with these discussions with urgency and with the ambition to report to their successful conclusion in its next state of conservation report and to submit details of the alignment of the proposed road, the design of the bridge and plans for downgrading the existing road with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before entering into contracts for their implementation;
9. Also welcomes the documentation process of material maintenance and repairs, considers that reconstruction of sculptures created by Susanne Wenger undermines the authenticity of the property, and reiterates its request to refrain from carrying out any non-urgent work on restoration of the sculptures and to halt all reconstruction until a revised conservation methodology and phased conservation plan has been prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
10. Further welcomes the development of a Conservation Strategy of the sculptural elements of the property, funded through the Kingdom of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, and further requests that the Conservation Strategy:
 - a) Aims to maintain the authenticity of the sculptures of Austrian artist Susanne Wenger over time by giving preference to the application of appropriate conservation methods and materials that halt or slow down processes of decay to avoid replication or reconstruction,
 - b) Includes a detailed inventory of all the 20th century sculptures that sets out their form at the time of inscription and any changes since,
 - c) Be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further work is undertaken;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

24. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.37** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the progress reported by the State Party on improving the legislative framework of the management of the property through amending the 2010 Stone Town Development Authority Act and strengthening the management system through the appointment of staff to the Stone Town Development Authority as well as progress made on the implementation of the mitigation measures at the Mambo Msiige/Park Hyatt Hotel and encourages the State Party to continue with the implementation of the agreed to mitigation actions;

4. Also welcomes embedding the requirement to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the Stone Town Conservation and Heritage Management Plan (STCHMP), as recommended by ICOMOS, as well as mandatory building conservation by owners, and reiterates its requests that the State Party to resubmit the final STCHMP to the World Heritage Centre following its amendment, as recommended by ICOMOS, including placing the protection and maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) central to the aims of the STCHMP, to the World Heritage Centre for advice;
5. Further notes the State Party's commitment to addressing the mobility problems at the property and the commitment to submit design documentation and the HIA for the design of and the HIA for the Malindi Bus Stand and, recalling that impact assessments are pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, requests that design documentation and the HIA also be submitted for the Malindi Parking Building, should this be approached as a stand-alone project, and also reiterates its requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the documentation of the "Safe Mobility Program for Stone Town" and the reported 5-year implementation plan;
6. Further reiterates its requests that the Malindi Port area redevelopment be conceptualized with a focus on local communities and the property to ensure its long-term sustainability and capitalize fully on the opportunity for the future development of the city;
7. Also notes the State Party's commitment to the state of conservation of the property and ensuring timely notification in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Encourages again the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and other partners, to:
 - a) Continue undertaking effective conservation measures towards improved management and governance of the property in addressing the prevailing urban developmental pressures,
 - b) Continue developing the projects for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders and the Palace Museum based on an assessment of their building pathologies and clear integral vision of the future use of both buildings as museums and submit these investigations and rehabilitation plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
 - c) Ensure that the Tippu Tip House reuse results in the building being given a public cultural or educational use;
9. Further welcomes the commencement of the rehabilitation project of the Majestic Cinema as part of UNESCO Priority Africa activities on good conservation for economic development;
10. Notes furthermore that the Darajani Bazaar project has been halted pending a new HIA and commends the State Party for halting the project and committing to submitting this new HIA on the project;
11. Notes with satisfaction the financial and technical support provided to the property and reiterates again its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;

12. Acknowledges the invitations extended by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in June 2023 and for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property in May 2024, and also requests that the State Party implement the recommendations contained in these reports, including but not limited to:
 - a) Establishing a series of regular onsite meetings regarding the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
 - b) Establishing a quick feedback system to be operationalised through the appointment of an independent expert to facilitate the coordination between parties,
 - c) Establishing support processes to assist inhabitants of the property to rehabilitate and retain their properties in Stone Town,
 - d) Halting the loss of public open space and covering over of courtyards;
13. Also acknowledges the invitation by the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to visit the property in December 2024 to monitor the rehabilitation of the House of Wonder and other major development projects in the town;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

ARAB STATES

25. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.124** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Takes note of the continuing efforts of the State Party to ensure the conservation, maintenance, monitoring and documentation of the property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and provide an electronic copy of the revised Management Plan or documented management system for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Reminds the State Party that multiple projects to add infrastructure at the property could potentially have a cumulative negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests that the lighting system is reviewed as previously requested, and that the World Heritage Centre is informed of any projects in or around the property that could

affect OUV, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Also requests an update from the State Party on the status of the proposed port development project and reassurance that it has been revised in light of the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission and the mitigation measures suggested in the Heritage Impact Assessment;
7. Also encourages the State Party to complete the studies for the maritime extension to the buffer zone and for addressing rainwater pooling as soon as possible, and further requests that the proposed buffer zone modification and water management project are provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

26. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.13** and **45 COM 7B.38** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Welcomes the creation of a new, temporary, Historic Cairo Regeneration Unit to manage projects of the Urban Development Fund for the regeneration of Historic Cairo, in relation to urban regeneration and sustainable development in priority areas of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to clarify how this new Unit relates to the Steering Committee for the property and its associated board that were both established in 2021;
5. Also welcomes the commitment to develop Heritage Impact Assessments for all regeneration and development projects within the property, and requests the State Party to extend the use of this tool to major conservation projects;
6. Notes that the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is still a work in progress with its completion now being the responsibility for the new Regeneration Unit, recommends it be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), and also acknowledges the importance of the Plan in relation to setting out how the Egyptian Antiquities Protection Laws relate to heritage assets of the property;
7. Also notes that the University Heritage Forum implemented with the UNESCO Office in Cairo is foreseen to contribute to the process of preparing the CMP and Sustainable Development Plan for the property;

8. Urges the State Party to give priority to completing both the Sustainable Development Plan and the CMP as both are needed to frame the development of urgently needed regeneration projects and the vision for regeneration;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit drafts of both plans for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before they are finally approved and also, to submit the regeneration vision for review;
10. Acknowledges the engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre in providing responses to reported damage to the property, nevertheless, expresses strong concern regarding the continued reported damage and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit technical information on any major restoration or new project at the property, or its buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

27. Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Commends the State Party for having promptly carried out a mission to assess the damage caused by the earthquake, as well as for the measures taken to ensure the safety of people and properties, and the stabilization of structures damaged by the earthquake of 8 September 2023;
3. Notes with satisfaction the willingness of the State Party to initiate a programme of studies, restoration of buildings impacted by the earthquake and consolidation of ruined buildings, as well as its intention to proceed with the programme for the restoration of houses within the property;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the roadmap of activities planned in the framework of these interventions;
5. Noting with concern the development of commercial activities and tourist accommodation within the property to the detriment of its residential functions, encourages the State Party to resume the revitalisation and community awareness-raising activities outlined in the 2020-2030 management plan;
6. Also encourages the State Party to continue to improve the management conditions of the property, in particular:
 - a) Establish a management structure with human and financial resources to coordinate work within the property,
 - b) Draw up a risk management plan and a visitor management plan,
 - c) Draw up a development plan of the property;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

28. Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco) (C 331)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Commends the State Party for having promptly implemented, under the supervision of its cultural heritage services, measures to protect and preserve the property;
3. Notes with appreciation the establishment by the State Party of technical commissions to assess the damage caused by the earthquake of 8 September 2023 and of a specialised scientific commission to examine draft demolition orders;
4. Encourages the State Party to proceed with its efforts to ensure the implementation of restoration programmes for all the monuments of the property impacted by the earthquake;
5. Requests the State Party to submit the following information to the World Heritage Centre:
 - a) A scientific and technical report on the restoration work on the ramparts,
 - b) A file containing the reports on the assessment of damaged parts of the property, reports on the completed restoration projects of Bahia Palace and Koutoubia Mosque, and the schedules for the implementation of the planned restoration works,
 - c) Clarification on the management system, and in particular on the structure in place for the property, its status, staffing and scope of work, as well as its funding modalities;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue the preliminary studies necessary to define the final provisions of the car parking projects within the property and to submit them for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

29. Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan) (C 1336)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Expresses its deep concern over the armed conflict which erupted in April 2023 and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
3. Commending the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, monitor and assess its current condition in spite of the difficult prevailing context, requests the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;
4. Recalls the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory mission to the property, and accordingly, also requests the State Party to give due consideration to the relocation of the proposed museum to the new entrance facility building, which would be beneficial to the commercial facilities as well as for the visitor experience;
5. Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and that any proposal for boundary modification should be justified in terms of ensuring the full protection of the property and its OUV;
6. Takes note of the project “Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage” funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, and calls on all States Parties of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund;
7. Also calls for an increased mobilisation of the international community and all scientific missions involved in the property to support the State Party’s efforts, including by providing the necessary technical assistance and adequate documentation to the State Party;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.40** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its deep concern over the armed conflict which erupted in April 2023 and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
4. Continues to express deep concern about the overall state of conservation of the property, which is seriously threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, including heavy rainfall and potential flooding, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, ineffective coordination of archaeological missions, absence of an integrated strategy for the conservation of newly-excavated archaeological features, urban encroachment, and development projects, all of which are impacting negatively on the attributes, which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in implementing community engagement and awareness raising activities and requests the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible;
6. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground, and to undertake urgent measures, as conditions allow, and in particular:
 - a) Assess in detail, and in close cooperation with UNESCO, the impact of the conflict on the cultural heritage of the region, especially the conservation and management of the property,
 - b) Ensure the safeguarding of the property through protective measures, where possible,
 - c) Engage, where necessary, in undertaking an emergency response through targeted actions, including by creating a full inventory of archaeological artefacts at the property and their state of conservation;
7. Takes note of the project “Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage” funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, and calls on all States Parties of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund;
8. Also calls for an increased mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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

47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA - PACIFIC

31. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.152** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its concern about third-party reports concerning possible forced population displacements;
4. Acknowledges the State Party's report on the current population relocation programme, which also explains the historical context and legal basis for the zoning management scheme for the property, and presents management tools and laws, media materials and related documents in annexes;
5. Recognizes the complexity of managing this vast World Heritage property, with living resident communities and over 100 fragile temples and other ancient structures while also making substantial efforts to ensure the sustainable development of local communities;
6. Recommends that the State Party accurately and effectively communicate regarding the zoning regulations and the on-going relocation programme to both national and local communities, notably by outlining:
 - a) Clear means of identifying inhabitants having the rights to live within the property,
 - b) Its commitment to ensuring that the conditions of relocated populations comply in all respects with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human right normative instruments ratified by the State Party,
 - c) A strategy for mitigating the demographic evolution of the villages within the property;
7. Also recommends the review and implementation of the policies for sustainable development and poverty alleviation outlined in the Angkor Heritage Management Plan 2013 towards developing a strategy for the broader distribution of economic benefit from the Angkor World Heritage property and address inequality among populations despite the flourishing tourism industry;
8. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, including management issues related to the areas from which

populations were relocated, reflecting on appropriate measures to prevent ongoing illegal settlements and analysing the conditions of the relocated communities;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, as well as on the matters requested by Decision **45 COM 7B.152**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

32. Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (India) (C 1570)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.160** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the establishment of the Telangana Provincial Committee and the Palampet Special Area Development Authority (PSDA) and the clarification of the roles of other institutions in the management of the property;
4. Also welcomes the revised stakeholder engagement protocols established, as well as the capacity-building activities undertaken and encourages the State Party to continue regular capacity building implementation in the future;
5. Further welcomes the detailed documentation of the components of the Kameswara Temple, and also encourages the State Party to continue with its reassembly and conservation;
6. Welcomes furthermore the submission of the Conservation Management Plan and the comparative analysis of Kakatiya Temples at the local, national, and international levels, and requests the State Party to respond to the recommendations provided in the ICOMOS reviews;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a boundary modification of the extended boundaries of the property, with a view to including relevant elements of the wider temple context of the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple;
8. Notes the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken for the proposed Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme project, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Further develop the HIA, as a matter of urgency, to place the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) at the core of the assessment, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context,
 - b) Resubmit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, the updated HIA along with illustrative material, including maps depicting the territorial relationships of the projects to the property and its buffer zone, section and elevation drawings, as well as the full Tourism Development Master Plan (TDMP), for review by the Advisory Bodies before taking any further decisions on the implementation of the proposed 10-acre and 27-acre projects;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

33. Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan) (C 972)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.166** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note of the conclusions of the June 2023 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission that the fire that occurred at the property on 31 October 2019 had minimal impact on the significant attributes of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to implement fully the mission's recommendations;
4. Acknowledges with appreciation for the State Party's efforts and approach to recovering the property and ensuring that its integrity and authenticity are maintained;
5. Notes that the "Disaster Mitigation and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jō Site" are being developed, requests that, upon completion, the State Party submit this document to the World Heritage Centre, in one of the working languages of the Committee, for review, and encourages furthermore that these fire protection measures be implemented in the recovery and the reconstruction of the replica buildings and be extended to other buildings on the Shuri-jō site;
6. Encourages the State Party to incorporate a multi-hazard approach that addresses risks from all potential hazards into the disaster risk management plan when it is next updated;
7. Welcomes the fact that the State Party used the post-disaster reconstruction as an opportunity for educational outreach, allowing visitors and local community to learn not only about the recovery process, but also about the conservation work required for the property, encourages the State Party to continue involving the community in the recovery process, providing educational and interpretation materials to visitors, and invites it to submit a good practice case study, to be made available to other World Heritage stakeholders on the World Heritage Centre's website;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

34. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.43** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably the progress made with the update of the management framework of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan ("Plan de sauvegarde et mise en valeur" - PSMV), including the use of GIS monitoring, research on ecological and intangible values, and the thematic policy development relating to its intangible values, sustainable development goals and historic urban landscape, and recommends that the updated elements of the PSMV be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies, in light of the specific invitations made in Decision **45 COM 7B.43**;
4. Notes that advice has been provided to private owners of traditional houses, but expresses concern that a sustainable financial mechanism has not been found for the preservation of the major attributes of traditional architecture, and that resumption of the previously promulgated Heritage Fund to provide assistance with repair and maintenance works for significant traditional architecture is prevented by national law;
5. Welcomes the State Party's increasing attention regarding scientific data collection concerning the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers, their riverbanks and associated environmental parameters, which would enable the long-term monitoring of possible changes in environmental setting and values, in particular with regard to the dams and hydropower constructions upstream and downstream of the property, and requests that the State Party share the monitoring data with the World Heritage Centre periodically;
6. Notes the State Party's efforts relating to the preservation of intangible values, progress with restoration of ponds and wetlands, and the Nam Khan River park and riverfront protection projects, and requests the State Party to take into full consideration the points raised in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews as the Nam Khan Riverbank protection and park projects are implemented,
7. Invites the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the Infrastructure Development Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its final approval and implementation,
 - b) Continue to afford priority to the 142 deteriorated buildings, especially those entirely constructed of wood, and to ensure access to affordable materials for construction and repair, as well as traditional conservation skills to sustain the authenticity of the property,
 - c) Consider alternative approaches to the proposed replacement of the Nam Khan River Bridge in light of the ICOMOS Technical Review, and the option proposed by the Reactive Monitoring mission of a like-for-like replacement, and to submit the selected design to the World Heritage Centre prior to implementation,
 - d) Establish an Urban Design Guidelines document, to be in line with the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation)

to contribute to the preservation of streetscapes, and inform the appropriate built form, materials and colours to be used in future development projects within the property and its buffer zone;

- e) Ensure that the comprehensive Tourism Management Plan is prepared in alignment with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism guidelines and the ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage Tourism and other relevant guidelines, based on a carrying capacity study, to inform the measures to regulate tourism-related activities and infrastructure development, to prioritise the actions, including those to ensure safety and security of visitors, and that the draft tourism management plan is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to being finalised,
 - f) Strengthen the role of National and Provincial Committees for National Heritage to ensure the proactive and informed coordination for major development projects,
 - g) Integrate the World Heritage Convention's principles within the broader context of territorial and developmental planning for World Heritage properties in Lao PDR, including for the properties' buffer zones and wider settings;
8. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to safeguard the property's OUV by preparing a new Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Luang Prabang Hydropower Project (LPHPP), but urges the State Party to revise the January 2024 HIA in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review dated March 2024 and the comments of the World Heritage Centre;
9. Takes note of the Urban Environment Improvement Investment Project and the Luang Prabang Smart and Integrated Urban Strategy, and further requests the State Party, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to submit to the World Heritage Centre the full set of technical documentation on both initiatives, including HIAs, for review by ICOMOS prior to their finalisation and implementation;
10. Notes the proposals for a range of significant tourism and infrastructure projects, including a new Mekong Bridge, the 'Riverside Tourism Development Project', the 'Hillside Tourism Development', the Mekong Footpath Project, and the Airport Upgrade, and reminds the State Party that, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines, documentation for all such projects should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including HIAs prepared in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, for review before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
11. Reiterates its previous invitation to the World Heritage Management Division in Luang Prabang to remain a unified technical entity overseeing the various aspects of the management of the property, provided with the necessary human and financial resources;
12. Requests the State Party to invite a new joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, the status and resourcing of the World Heritage Management Division, evaluate progress with implementation of the Committee's previous decisions and the relevant recommendations of the 2022 mission, consider the potential impact of current and proposed tourism, infrastructure and other development projects on attributes that support the property's OUV, and advise the State Party on appropriate heritage governance and processes to ensure that development projects are designed, evaluated and implemented in a manner that provides sustainable social and economic benefits, while ensuring that the property's OUV is conserved;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

35. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.68, 40 COM 7, 43 COM 7B.68, 44 COM 7B.146 and 45 COM 7B.168** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party's efforts in revising National Heritage Law with strong provisions concerning the necessity of impact assessments for development projects that may affect Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic (PDR)'s national heritage and World Heritage properties;
4. Welcomes the planned strengthening of the building codes and urban control guidelines, the planned revision of the Management Plan in line with the recommendations made by ICOMOS and requests that the State Party submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes again the need for a clearer definition and understanding of the physical and other attributes of the property that convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly in relation to the wider cultural landscape and Champasak town and that such consideration should involve meaningful consultation with the local community, and also requests the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to finalise a draft Statement of OUV for examination by the Committee at its 47th session;
6. Also recalling past decisions requesting the State Party submit an up-to-date topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001, and that clarification of the property boundaries are a prerequisite for the strengthening of the building codes and urban control guidelines and updating both the Management Plan and the Champasak Cultural Landscape Plan, further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the map by **1 December 2024**, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session if the technical requirements are met;
7. Encourages the State Party to investigate for the purposes of effective protection of the property, a buffer zone delineation, considering the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit a proposal and rationale for the buffer zone delineation to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2024**, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session if the technical requirements are met;

8. Notes again with concern that the State Party requires the financial resources to the completion of the adapted road network, including Roads 14A and 14B, and revision of the Management Plan and encourages again the State Party to keep exploring options to mobilise the necessary resources and complete the pending work;
9. Also notes the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 mission, and request furthermore the State Party and concerned stakeholders to implement its recommendations, including:
 - a) Urgently stabilising at-risk archaeological structures, including at the Southern Quadrangle and the central axis, and other conservation interventions to the highest international standards aligned with the Lao PDR authorities' leadership and ownership,
 - b) Necessary measures to lessen the visual impacts of recent non-archaeological infrastructure inside the main temple complex,
 - c) Integration of the archaeological remains outside the main temple complex (Ancient City, Tomo Temple) into the conservation, research and valorisation programme,
 - d) Enhancement of preservation measures for landscape setting, through a clearer definition of the attributes of the OUV, delineation of the boundaries, zoning and buffer zone definition and strict control over the expansion and renewal of the settlements;
10. Further notes the State Party's will to become the "Battery of Southeast Asia" by exporting hydropower energy to neighbouring countries to reach ASEAN's goal of net-zero emissions, encourages the State Party to realise this objective in congruence with its commitment to preserving the OUV of the properties located within its territory;
11. Considering the proximity of the projected site for the Phou Ngoy Dam to the archaeological sites of the property and its possible impacts on the attributes that support its OUV, notes furthermore the stated commitment of the State Party to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and that the Project Development Agreement (PDA) for this project was renewed in February 2023, requests moreover the State Party to:
 - a) Consider an alternative location for this hydropower project,
 - b) Not start any further on-site operations that would limit the mitigation options available to the HIA,
 - c) Urgently submit the already completed and approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment along with any other details on the project that are available to the State Party to the World Heritage Centre and submit the possibly forthcoming HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in compliance with Paragraph 118 bis of the Operational Guidelines,
 - d) Ensure full agreement on the impacts and mitigation thereof of the project with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before taking any further decisions on its implementation;
12. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

36. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.45** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts towards the recovery of the property following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake and the significant progress that has been made following the establishment of the International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV), notes with appreciation that much of the required conservation and restoration work to earthquake-damaged monuments within the Protected Monument Zones of the property has been completed, and that a series of sector strategies will be prepared to support the ongoing conservation and management of the property, and requests that draft versions of the sector strategies be reviewed and approved by the ISC-KV before being finalised and implemented;
4. Reiterates its previous call for the international community to continue supporting the State Party's recovery work through financial, technical or expert assistance, including capacity building and training, support for local communities and their housing and social needs, and the ongoing resources needed to enable the active participation of international experts in the ISC-KV;
5. Noting the development of the 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report', and recalling its previous requests that the Recovery Master Plans (RMP) for each Protective Monument Zone of the property be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), requests that the State Party integrate the RMPs for each Protective Monument Zone of the property within the proposed 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report', as part of an overall socio-economic revitalization programme for urban communities;
6. Noting that the 2021 version of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) was re-submitted without revisions or updates, requests that it be revised in line with the Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies,
7. Regrets that, despite its earlier requests, the new Master Plan for Pashupati Protected Monument Zone was adopted without a prior Technical Review, and reiterates its previous request that the State Party submit the New Master Plan for the Pashupati Protected Monument Zone and the revised IMF to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation;
8. Welcomes the State Party's report on progress implementing the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the recommendations of the first meeting of the ISC-KV, and requests the State Party to include reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the ISC-KV in future reports to the Committee;

9. Notes that the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project was implemented without demonstrating how feedback from the ICOMOS Technical Review was incorporated, and requests that a report on this project, including information about archaeological monitoring and discoveries, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion of the works;
10. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to ensure that the draft procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in Nepal be reviewed and revised to be consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before being used in relation to projects that may affect World Heritage properties in Nepal, and requests that the updated draft document be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Reminds the State Party that details of major projects that may have an impact on the OUV of a World Heritage property should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, together with any necessary HIAs, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

37. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.46** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Urges the State Party to facilitate rapid implementation of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property and to submit the related Sector Strategies and the integrated Plan of Actions to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Fully implement the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 International Scientific Committee meeting,
 - b) Ensure that the draft procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in Nepal are reviewed to be consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context prior to being adopted,
 - c) Undertake HIAs before any further work occurs within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and ensure that these HIAs and relevant project documentation are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse,

- d) Submit, in one of the working languages of the World Heritage Committee (English or French), the 'Conference Centre Guidelines' and other relevant information regarding preventive measures to reduce any negative impact of the Buddhist Meditation Hall on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the surrounding landscape and the environment;
5. Notes that the Lumbini World Peace City project is not currently proceeding, but reiterates its previous request that, if such a project were to be pursued, a comprehensive HIA should be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation and before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
6. Notes the preparation of initial sector strategy documents and encourages the State Party to complete the full set of these documents and submit them for review by the International Scientific Committee (ISC) before they are finalised;
7. Notes the condition of the Sacred Garden and Mayadevi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to potential for damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Mayadevi Temple Shelter, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the hydrological assessment report for the Temple Shelter and details of immediate measures to be undertaken to protect the deteriorating archaeological remains within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter, along with mid- to long-term protection goals, using the latest surveys and technologies available;
8. Requests the State Party to submit the draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised;
9. Regrets that the new developments within the Sacred Garden have been carried out without comprehensive HIA prior to implementation;
10. Requests the State Party to ensure that projects arising from the 2022 Review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden in Lumbini be subject to HIAs, and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
11. Requests the State Party to submit a detailed plan and schedule for full implementation of the recommendations of the 2023 International Scientific Committee and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission which are yet to be fulfilled, and in particular that the condition of the Sacred Garden and the archaeological features within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter have not been adequately addressed, despite previous requests;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

38. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.169** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party's continued actions and commitment following the August 2022 monsoon and flood impacts, in particular its close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre regarding the recommendations of the UNESCO emergency missions in 2022 and 2023, the elaboration of the integrated conservation strategy, short-term conservation actions, research into major causes of deterioration, and expansion and training of the workforce, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, including:
 - a) Completion of the overall condition assessments of the property with maps by quarters and by damage and risk,
 - b) Continuation of short-term conservation actions to address the most vulnerable and damaged parts of the property,
 - c) Ongoing research regarding the causes of deterioration and appropriate preventive and remedial actions;
4. Takes note of the findings and conclusions of the March 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to implement its recommendations, including on conservation and management, further research, equipment needs and data management, appropriate conservation interventions and methodologies and their evaluation for effectiveness, vulnerability assessment, short- and long-term priorities, drainage, stakeholder participation, the site museum, elaboration of an integrated Management Plan with a refined Disaster Risk Reduction plan, and overall governance;
5. Reminds the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, should be prepared for projects with potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and documentation, including the HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement, in conformity with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, prior to making any irreversible decisions;
6. Also encourages the State Party to continue its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre to finalise the technical proposal for the proposed multi-annual preservation project, to secure funds to support conservation needs, to review and possibly update the existing management and conservation tools, and to establish an Integrated Management Plan to strengthen emergency response and preparedness to the multiple effects of climate change and extreme natural hazards, and calls on all States Parties to support this appeal;
7. Finally Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and

the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

39. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.170** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party's continued actions following the August 2022 monsoon and floods' impacts, in particular its close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre regarding the recommendations of the two UNESCO emergency missions in 2022 and 2023, and for the elaboration of the analytical report and the recommendations for conservation actions, and endorses the recommendations of the analytical report, including:
 - a) Prioritizing the emergency conservation of two key monumental tombs and four platform tombs,
 - b) Conducting an extensive drainage plan study and excavation with more detailed documentation,
 - c) Addressing management and governance through the participation of international members to the Steering Committee,
 - d) Monitoring of the work of Heritage Foundation Pakistan and that of the Endowment Fund Trust,
 - e) Reinstalling polycarbonate crack monitors at the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II and other locations,
 - f) Procuring an orthophoto of the entire site to support a topographic drainage map and an update of the general survey,
 - g) Enforcing a strict ban on smoking on-site, and improving of water supply,
 - h) Allocating funds to procure necessary equipment;
4. Requests the State Party to continue addressing its previous decisions and the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, ensuring overall site monitoring, and applying on-site preparative and mitigation measures;
5. Welcomes the elaboration of the Conservation Plan, the Disaster Risk Review Plan and the updated Management Plan, requests that these important documents be refined and revised in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical reviews before they are finalised and implemented, and notes that the inclusion of action plans and costed schedules, including preparation of a technical proposal for emergency and short-term interventions for prioritised monuments with cost estimates, may assist with fundraising and securing further international support;

6. Notes with satisfaction that the property continues to play an important role for the nation and the local population and requests the State Party to ensure that the property's living nature be sustained while security and safety and conservation works are conducted;
7. Requests the State Party to continue pursuing opportunities to strengthen staff capacities in all areas of conservation, but particularly relating to stone conservation, moveable heritage and detached architectural elements, as well as risk management and preparedness;
8. Noting the explanation on the rationale for interventions on the Mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II and the main gate, invites the State Party to submit all necessary technical documents and impact assessments when considering projects within the inscribed zone, buffer zone and wider setting of the property that may affect its Outstanding Universal Value, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines;
9. Requests the State Party to submit detailed project documentation for the proposed conservation works to the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at its earliest opportunity, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification in line with Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines and reflecting the boundaries identified in 2013, along with a regulatory plan for the proposed buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Appreciates the financial support provided through the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, which enables immediate intervention to safeguard two tombs identified as short-term priorities by the emergency mission, and calls upon the international community to provide further support and technical assistance to strengthen the management framework and preserve other priority monuments within the property;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

40. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea) (C 1319bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.48** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Considering the property's continued spiritual, symbolic and geomantic characteristics and its living heritage dimensions as an active ritual site, and recalling that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is underpinned by the selection of tomb sites based on geomantic principles (pungsu) and, therefore, by key sightlines from the tomb mounds as well as from the visitors' standpoint,

4. Notes that guidelines for appropriate development in the vicinity of the component parts of the property have been in place since at least 2010;
5. Welcomes the State Party's progress in implementing the recommendations of the March 2023 Advisory mission to the property, especially the updated spatial information collected about the buffer zone of each component part, encourages the State Party to expand the use of 3D modelling and drone-based monitoring to gather reliable data on building heights, sightlines and other key information to assess the current situation of each component and potential development projects, and invites the State Party to share this good practice example in due course with the World Heritage Centre for further dissemination among World Heritage stakeholders;
6. Reiterates its concern about the Jangneung (W6) component part, especially since the developments' impacts compromise the component part's capacity to contribute to the property's OUV, as illustrated in the previously endorsed Advisory mission report, and notes with concern that the Korea Heritage Service (KHS) lost its appeals of earlier judicial rulings which had already been adjudicated in favour of the three development companies involved;
7. Notes again with concern that housing developments in the wider setting of the component parts may have adverse impacts on the pungsu, and recalls the requirements for impact assessments for major projects within or around a World Heritage property outlined in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Welcomes the establishment of Standing Advisory Committees involving residents in the vicinity of the component parts and local government officials, and emphasises that the involvement of civil society represents a key opportunity to monitor the 40 tombs that make up this property and could help alert to development initiatives located outside of the KHS' immediate legal remit;
9. Welcomes the adoption, in October 2023, of the "Special Act on Conservation, Management and Utilisation of World Heritage", which establishes a national framework for impact assessments, along with the Korean-language translation and dissemination of the Guidance and Toolkit of Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
10. Notes again that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) remain underway for the public housing development projects at Changneung (Seorung cluster, W1) and Taereung (M3), encourages the State Party to give full consideration to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory mission in this process, especially concerning the scope of the HIA process and the height of proposed commercial developments, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre upon completion, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decision is made;
11. Welcomes the creation of a KHS Task Force to identify measures that would prevent similar unauthorised development from occurring at other component parts or properties, and encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress;
12. Takes note of the progress accomplished with scheduled building demolitions around the Taereung (M3) and Uireung (M5) component parts and the State Party's assurances that they will have no negative impact, or even beneficial impacts, on the property's OUV;
13. Takes note of the State Party's intention to invite the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.48** in late 2024 to assess thoroughly the overall state of conservation of the property, the cumulative impacts of planned or

ongoing housing and commercial developments, their existing and potential impacts on key sightlines from the property, as well as any other factors affecting the property's OUV at all 18 tomb clusters;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a progress report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.172** and **45 COM 8E** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing efforts for the protection, conservation and presentation of the property and its use of the recently adopted retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to inform planning, management and conservation activities;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue developing its restoration and re-use approaches and methods to maximise the retention of historically authentic building fabric in the property;
5. Notes the continued implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP), welcomes the State Party's plans to revise and combine these into a single updated management plan and to prepare a conservation master plan, that is recommended to be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), and requests that, once ready, these documents be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes that the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF) has suitable staffing but lacks sufficient financial resources to undertake conservation activities and requests the State Party to investigate mechanisms, such as a tourism levy, to ensure that the GHF has sustainable financial resources to undertake conservation activities;
7. Requests that the Heritage Impact Assessment for the revised port development project be carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, focusing on the property's OUV, and also requests the State Party to submit information, including plans, timelines and completed impact assessment reports for the revised port project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions on the implementation of the port project are made;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and

the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

42. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) (C 543)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.49** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the completion of the Management Plan and an increase in staff for the current management team with a view to creating a distinct “Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit”;
4. Notes that work on the revision of the Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Khiva (PDP) is still ongoing to allow it to control more effectively the outer town of Dishan Kala, as the proposed buffer zone, as well as the property, urges the State Party to prioritise the completion of the revised PDP, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to initiate dialogue with the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible to facilitate this process;
5. Also notes that conservation and monitoring activities undertaken by the Cultural Heritage Department of the Khorezm Region in January 2024 have set out clearly some of the key conservation issues affecting this property and the approaches to address some of them;
6. Expresses concern over the lack of expertise to undertake the regular maintenance of mud walls, which is a fundamental issue for the property and its immediate setting, and requests the State Party to define a training programme to address this issue, in association with the Advisory Bodies;
7. Welcomes the new generic approaches being developed and considered for conservation, including:
 - a) Guidance to ensure termite control in new and existing buildings,
 - b) Research to develop a detailed programme of whole-building termite investigation/monitoring to bring this activity up to international standards,
 - c) Considering the provision of sanitation and water system infrastructure for all houses in order to control salination and damp in walls, which can lead to irreversible damage to tiling;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at the initial stage of development, the details of the programme for the provision of sanitation and water infrastructure for all houses in relation to archaeological and stability considerations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Acknowledges the detailed supplementary information provided for the conservation of the Juma Mosque, which will be subject to a further ICOMOS Technical Review;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

43. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi (Viet Nam) (C 1328)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress made by the State Party in addressing all Committee's recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;
3. Notes that a vast programme to enhance the property is included in the Masterplan for the Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long (Decision 696/2012) and in the Detailed plan of conservation, enhancement and promotion of the values of the Central Sector (decision 975/2015), both of which were approved and their implementation initiated without prior notification to the World Heritage Committee, and that if fully implemented they could have a considerable impact on the property, therefore reminds the State Party of the importance of complying with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Takes note of the State Party's request to dismantle the colonial 19th-century Artillery Building and the War Operations Department Building, which stand on top of the royal path of the Central Axis of the Imperial Citadel, considering the historical significance of these areas for deepening the understanding of both material and immaterial attributes of the property, where archaeological remains of the Vietnamese dynastic palaces and associated structures, including Kinh Thien Palace space, have been unearthed and considers that the dismantling operations can begin following the positive evaluation of the solid documentation provided by the State Party in line with the recommendations of the July 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission and ensuring that further documentation of the two buildings is gathered, organized and archived during the dismantling process to preserve adequate record of the two buildings and facilitate future study;
5. Takes note with satisfaction of the Vision 2034 proposed by the State Party for the future of the Central Axis of the Imperial Citadel and supports this in principle, subject to further refinement as excavations are undertaken on the site of the demolished buildings, to further development of the Archaeological Strategy, and to the development of a Conservation and Presentation Strategy for the possible restoration/reconstruction of the Central Axis, based on the detailed delineation of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and on archaeological and scientific justification, comparative analysis, with these documents being submitted for review of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, in line with the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory mission;
6. Takes note of the request for removing four additional buildings (CT20, 21, 24 and 25 as per Appendix 4 to the State of Conservation Report) and considers that:

- a) To ensure the proper controlled dismantling of the Artillery and War Operations Department Buildings, the buildings identified as CT24 and CT25 can be removed, provided that basic geometrical and photographic documentation is gathered and archived before removal,
 - b) Before the dismantling of the buildings CT20 and CT21 can proceed, the Vision and the Archaeological Strategy need to be further refined under the guidance of and review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and careful geometric and photographic documentation of these buildings is implemented and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to facilitate the archaeological research on the Khin Thien Palace's spaces, as well as to enable the continued expression of intangible values as desired by the communities;
7. Further considers that the refined Vision, together with the Archaeological Strategy and the Conservation and Presentation Strategy, when presented to the Committee following review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS should contain sufficient information to allow understanding of which further buildings, if any, are proposed for dismantling;
 8. Strongly encourages the State Party to establish a coordination mechanism with a view to continue the close dialogue and exchange, by means of consultation, including through meetings and exchange of documents with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and one or more advisory missions as necessary, before detailed plans are developed to improve the presentation of the Central Axis, after the dismantling of buildings and further excavations and research, and before any irreversible decisions are taken, and to ensure that recommended actions are finalized to the level needed to fulfil their purpose;
 9. Requests that available project documentation of the ongoing rehabilitation works at Vaxuco Building and of the planned open-air museum at 18 Hoang Dieu archaeological site be promptly transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for comments by ICOMOS;
 10. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to establish dialogue and cooperation among all relevant agencies to secure agreement and commitment to expanding the buffer zone so that the necessary protection of the property is guaranteed, and the archaeological potential is preserved below ground in the immediate setting of the property.
 11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

44. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.68**, **41 COM 7B.34**, **43 COM 7B.36**, **44 COM 7B.77** and **45 COM 7B.104** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note that the March 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property and that its conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Committee at its 47th session;
4. Welcomes the revision of the Strategic Recovery Plan (SRP) based on the Committee's recommendations, but notes that there is an urgent need to implement the SRP without delay and to prioritise its most urgent actions, in order to reverse the severe and multiple threats to the property that the Committee considered in 2021 as posing an actual and potential danger;
5. Requests the State Party of Albania to upgrade the status of the SRP, including through clear and reinforced governance, e.g. through government endorsement, to ensure the effectiveness of its implementation, and to promptly implement urgent measures to address existing threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to improve the overall state of conservation of the property;
6. Urges the States Parties to reinforce the transboundary dialogue from high institutional level to the operational level to ensure its effective implementation, and also urges the States Parties to ensure that the Transboundary Watershed Management Committee operates on a regular basis, in a two-way dialogue with and supported by a transboundary working group, to ensure that transboundary issues are addressed promptly and effectively and that the pace of progress is monitored and reported;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party of North Macedonia that:
 - a) Amendments to Detailed Urban Plans and approval of Local Development Plans outside settlements be suspended until a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) at the strategic level is carried out and demonstrates that the attributes underlying the property's OUV are not adversely affected by these plans,
 - b) The General Urban Plans for Ohrid and Struga and the spatial planning instruments for non-built-up areas be elaborated as a matter of urgency and in full respect of the attributes underlying the OUV of the property,

- c) Systematically examine, based on explicit criteria, the extent of negative impacts of illegal buildings and decide how to eliminate or mitigate those adverse effects, including through by removing the illegal constructions or parts thereof,
 - d) To submit to the World Heritage Centre, upon completion, the feasibility study for the Urban Plan for areas and buildings of State importance in the coastal belt of the Ohrid region for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Albania to formally remove:
 - a) From the provisions of the Pogradec General Local Plan, the possibility of urban development in the areas along the lakeshore between Pogradec and Tushemisht and in Lin via an amendment of the GLP,
 - b) From the Master Plan of the Drilon Spring Waterscape Park, the provision for the construction of a building on top of the hill near Drilon and of any infrastructure above and around it,
 - c) The possibility of urban development in the rural area between Tushemisht and Drilon Area;
- 9. Further reiterates its request to the States Parties to urgently prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that comprehensively assesses the cumulative impacts of all infrastructure and development plans and other major projects on the property's OUV and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 10. Further urges the State Party of North Macedonia to halt construction near Studenčišča Marsh and Gorica North and Gorica 3 complex until the above-mentioned SEA is undertaken and a project-specific HIA is completed;
- 11. Urges again the State Party of North Macedonia to finalise the proclamation of Studenčišča Marsh as a nature park and Lake Ohrid as a Monument of Nature, and to ensure that management measures preserve the key ecological processes and features which contribute to the property's OUV;
- 12. Also requests to the State Party of Albania and the State Party of North Macedonia to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS all project documentation concerning the project proposal for the conservation and enhancement of the Early Christian Church in Lin and the project for the rehabilitation of the promenade along the lake in Struga, respectively;
- 13. Urges furthermore the States Parties to undertake an SEA and/or an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the potential impact on the OUV of any alternative route of the railway Corridor VIII, for which the feasibility study should be prepared in 2024, and to submit all assessments and relevant technical information to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken;
- 14. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above and in response to the recommendations of the mission report, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

45. Laponian Area (Sweden) (C/N 774)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **CONF 201 VIII.B** adopted at its 20th session (Merida, 1996), by which the Committee recommended that the Swedish authorities continue to work with local Sámi people, Decision **37 COM 7 (Part III)** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), which urges all States Parties and leading industry stakeholders to respect the International Council on Mining and Metals “No-go” commitment by not permitting extractive activities within World Heritage properties and by making every effort to ensure that extractive companies located in their territory cause no damage to World Heritage properties, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, and Decision **45 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note that the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was undertaken in May 2024, and that its conclusions and recommendations will be presented to the Committee at its 47th session;
4. Reiterates its concern that the State Party has granted an exploitation concession for the proposed Kallak mining development in the vicinity of the property which, if implemented, could impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which is dependent on the wider cultural practices of reindeer husbandry that are important to the integrity and authenticity of the property and the attributes that underpin criteria (iii) and (v);
5. Expresses its concern that the Kallak mining concession may gain legal force now that the Supreme Administrative Court has dismissed an appeal by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation and the Sámi village of Jåhkågasska against the approval of the concession;
6. Notes that a further Environmental Permit would be required under the Swedish Environmental Code for any mining operations to proceed, and that the concession stipulates that the proponent must complete an impact assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that various conditions must be met in relation to indigenous Sámi communities and reindeer herding practices recognised as part of the OUV of the property;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that a revised impact assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Kallak mine on the OUV of the property is completed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, specifically addressing the Statement of OUV of the property and its supporting attributes, and to submit the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including in relation to the Environmental Permit that would be required for the mining operation to proceed;
8. Invites the State Party to submit the terms of reference for the revised Impact Assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Takes note of the State Party's position that it is addressing the concerns raised by the UN Special Rapporteurs on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment regarding the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the Sámi indigenous peoples as part of the conditions for the proposed Kallak mining concession, and that the Reactive Monitoring mission will provide further recommendations on this matter, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any further consideration of mining permits guarantees the FPIC of the Sámi indigenous peoples, in accordance with international norms and standards, including the Convention;
10. Expresses concern about the planned extensions of the national grids to Gallivare and Kiruna and to Naalojärvi-Messaure, one of which passes through the Stubba Nature Reserve within the World Heritage property, and which could impact the OUV of the property, as well as the new hydrogen manufacture and the upgrading of a windmill, which might affect the OUV of the property in particular its visual integrity, and requests the State Party to provide project documentation and associated impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
11. Requests the State Party to ensure that there is an effective means in place for the full and complete consideration of the cumulative impacts of multiple developments on the OUV of the property, to not permit individual projects on a case-by-case basis, if the cumulative impacts on OUV have the potential to be unacceptable, and to take timely action in response to the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission in this regard;
12. Reiterates the importance of assessing the potential impacts of any proposed development within the property or in its immediate or wider setting that may impact on its OUV, through an impact assessment conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
13. Urges the State Party not to approve any permits or licences related to the Kallak mining concession or any other proposed development with potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property, until the recommendations of the May 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission have been considered by the Committee at its 47th session;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above and in response to the recommendations of the mission report, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

46. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.78** and **45 COM 7B.99** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the actions undertaken by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) for the implementation of the Management Plan of the property, as well as for the research and documentation collected through LiDAR imagery, that will help guide priority conservation actions;
4. Notes with appreciation the extensive research and documentation programme of INAH in the framework of the Tren Maya project and strongly urges the State Party to address previous Decisions and the recommendations in the technical reviews of the Advisory Bodies;
5. Appreciates the submission of the Environmental Impact ‘Statement’ (EIA) for the Tren Maya project, however notes with concern that it does not allow for a comprehensive assessment of impacts on the OUV of the property and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated EIA that assesses impacts on all the values and attributes of the property, including beyond the physical footprint of the project and assessing connectivity across the whole property and its buffer zone;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the strategic alignment and cumulative impacts of the Tren Maya project on the six World Heritage properties located along the proposed route of the railway, and include an assessment of alternative options, in line with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
7. Considers it essential that any changes to the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserve, comprising the buffer zone of the property, are undertaken through a transparent consultative process with full and effective participation of local and indigenous communities and rightsholders which ensures free, prior and informed consent and is in line with international norms, and also requests the State Party to submit information on the consultations undertaken during the process of amending the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserve to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Urges again the State Party to consider previous recommendations from the Committee to include additional and relevant cultural sites within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the current status of the Tren Maya project

and its accompanying developments in light of its rapid development and its potential to negatively impact on the OUV of the property;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

AFRICA

47. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad) (C/N 1475)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.15**, **42 COM 7B.64**, **44 COM 7B.71** and **45 COM 7B.28** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its concern that the State Party has repeatedly provided limited information on the state of conservation of the property and on the actions taken to implement the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription and in subsequent decisions, including its recommendation to the State Party to extend the northern boundaries of the property to include all attributes bearing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the rock art sites, and urges again the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi so as to guarantee that all important areas are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen, and to submit a request for boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee;
4. Requests that the State Party urgently develop and submit an action plan with a road map for the implementation of past Committee requests and recommendations;
5. Notes that the property continues to be managed through a public-private partnership, and is monitored by a contingent of eco-guards and that stakeholder awareness activities have been undertaken, and encourages the State Party and its partner to continue their efforts, particularly by providing adequate technical and financial resources to ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property;
6. Welcomes that preliminary discussions for the revision of the Management Plan have been initiated, also requests that this process be expedited and reiterates its request that the revised Management Plan provide continuity of management and conservation for the whole property, which meets international standards and includes an operational implementation calendar for all steps needed to achieve this goal and, which clarifies how the responsibilities of the new management system will be integrated with the established traditional management systems; the Management Plan should clearly:

- a) Detail the measures foreseen to address the main potential threats and spell out management operations to conserve World Heritage values,
 - b) Include zonation which supports strict protection of the key areas for biodiversity,
 - c) Specify the institutional, staffing and budget regime to ensure effective management of the property,
 - d) Guarantee the full participation of local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property;
7. Also notes the reported completion of numerous reports, manuals and other studies which could contribute to further document attributes under Criterion (ix), further requests the State Party to submit the completed studies to the World Heritage Centre, and also reiterates its request to:
- a) Establish a detailed botanical inventory of the site, to identify all important refugia and areas for relict flora to further document the attributes of the property supporting Criterion (ix),
 - b) Present more details on the status of biodiversity, including flagship species such as the relic crocodile population, including its genetic viability;
8. Appreciates the efforts to reintroduce flagship wildlife species which had disappeared from the property as a result of poaching, and requests the State Party to provide more information on these efforts, including on the strategy to re-establish viable populations in the property;
9. Further notes that no other vandalism of rock art has been reported at the property since 2017;
10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the implementation of all Committee requests and recommendations since inscription in 2016, including functioning of the management system and update of the management plan, report on the damage due to vandalism of the rock art at Fada in 2017, the need to further document attributes under Criterion (ix), and establishing a zonation system which supports strict protection of the key areas for biodiversity ;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

48. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
- 2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.171** and **45 COM 7B.30** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively;

3. Also recalling the provisions of the Operational Guidelines and the previous decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee regarding human rights-based approaches that embody the participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including indigenous peoples and other interested parties and partners in the identification, nomination, management and protection processes of World Heritage properties, as well as the relevant international norms;
4. Notes that the State Party's Review of the Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) management system, undertaken in 2020 and made available only in 2024, states that maintaining a multiple land use model has "more advantages economically, socially, culturally, politically and internally than the one that advocates for changing NCA to other protected area category";
5. Considers that the continued implementation of a multiple land use model, that is developed in consultation with stakeholders and rightsholders, and ensures a clear human rights based approach, is appropriate in principle, and further considers that it is essential that there is full engagement, including effective and adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders, including those who oppose relocation, in relation to the development of the General Management Plan (GMP) and the implementation strategy going forward following the review of the MLUM;
6. Thanks the State Party for having invited a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission in February 2024 to advise on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme, also notes that the February 2024 mission, was mandated to meet with local community representatives and that some of such meetings were facilitated by the State Party, but notes with concern that the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and mission representatives have continued receiving extensive and continuous concerns, both during and after the mission, from representatives of the local communities in the property, that they did not meet the mission team nor were they adequately consulted during the visit to the property;
7. Notes moreover that, although a report with the preliminary observations of the Advisory mission is currently being completed based on the February visit, further in-person and on-site engagement is required to ensure that the views and concerns of all local communities and stakeholders on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme are adequately heard;
8. Also takes note that baseline ecological studies are reported to have been undertaken and archaeological investigations scheduled regarding the upgrading of the Lodoare Gate to Golini main road through the property, and again reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations concerning the road and submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the action plan to manage road use, and the results of archaeological investigations and baseline ecological and environmental data before starting the upgrading works;
9. Further takes note that resources are being mobilized to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and also reiterates its request for the State Party to ensure the timely delivery of the SEA in order to evaluate the current and future impacts of developments across all sectors in the region, including the property and the wider Serengeti ecosystem so that the findings can inform management, and submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review;

10. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to:
- a) Provide an update on the implementation of all recommendations from the 2017 and 2019 missions and previous Committee decisions based on a revised work plan,
 - b) Provide an update on the development of integrated policies and guidelines on tourism carrying capacity and monitoring framework,
 - c) Implement the recommendation of the Serengeti Reactive Monitoring Mission on the southern bypass road to downgrade the status of the Karatu – Nyamusa road as a trunk road to a protected area road, closing it for heavy transit traffic from Arusha to Musoma and by disincentivizing other vehicle transit traffic, fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations concerning the upgrading of the Lodoare Gate to Golini main road through the property and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the action plan to manage road use and the results of archaeological investigations and baseline ecological and environmental data before starting the upgrading works;
 - d) Provide an update on any plans for translocation of southern white rhino into the property and not to proceed with the introduction without addressing the concerns raised by the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfrRSG);
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to not yet implement the 2024 Laetoli Conservation and Sustainable Use Roadmap, which proposes the re-excavation of the Laetoli Footprints (site G) and the construction of an enclosure, but to:
- a) Continue to further define clearer conservation approaches for the Laetoli footprint site and for the overall archaeological landscape,
 - b) Engage the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the evaluation of further developed options before any decisions are made on the presentation of the footprints or the construction of a museum building at the site;
12. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to examine the overall state of conservation of the property, and to address the above issues regarding adequate consideration of views and concerns of all local communities and stakeholders on the review of the MLUM and the voluntary resettlement scheme;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

ARAB STATES

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **44COM 7B.73** and **45 COM 7B.31** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with appreciation that the process to prepare an updated Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the entire property, and updated management plans for each component has been initiated, and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise, as a matter of priority, drafts of these plans and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Notes with concern that water scarcity in the property has continued for a fourth consecutive year, and recalls again that significant fluctuations in water flows may pose a major threat to the property and non-fulfilment of minimum water requirements could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Welcomes that measures are being implemented to mitigate the impact of water scarcity, and that the update of the strategic study for water and lands intends to develop a strategy to ensure an integrated management approach of water resources across all sectors, including the allocation of water requirements to the marshes, and to mitigate negative effects on the marsh components, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Urgently implement management measures that demonstrate that adequate flows to the property are ensured in the short and long-term as a matter of utmost priority,
 - b) Finalise the study on water and lands and the resulting strategy for an integrated water management approach, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and ensure these inform the preparation of a basin-wide Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in line with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Continues to encourage the continued implementation of technical and scientific studies that inform the effective management of the property, ongoing monitoring and research collaborations;
7. Requests the State Party to continue strengthening its technical cooperation with the States Parties located upstream of the property for long-term sustainable transboundary water management measures, and also requests that transboundary cooperation remains a matter of priority to ensure effective water management that is informed by science and can guarantee minimum water supplies to sustain the OUV of the property;
8. Recalling the concerns raised by the State Party regarding dam and irrigation projects upstream of the property that could further exacerbate water scarcity and negatively

impact the OUV of the property, also welcomes that the Makhul dam, which could have impacted the OUV of the property, has been halted, notes however that information on other upstream developments and their impacts on the OUV remains unclear, and further requests the States Parties located upstream of the property to ensure that any projects that may negatively impact the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that any projects which would impact the OUV are avoided;

9. Further welcomes the commitment of the State Party to ensure legal protection for the marsh components within its national legal framework, and its efforts to reduce over-fishing and prohibit poaching, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide an update on the amendments to the Wildlife Protection Law to ensure broader effective protection of the property, and to continue strengthening its monitoring, legal protection, enforcement and management capacity to control illegal activities such as bird hunting and overfishing;
10. Also recalling its significant concern over the continued vulnerability of the marsh components and the related natural values of the property to oil and gas developments, acknowledges the State Party's continued commitment to ensure that oil activities outside the property do not damage the property, as well as the reported monitoring of existing activities, and reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that any proposed extractive activities that may impact on the OUV are assessed for their potential impacts in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decisions to approve such projects, and not to approve any project that would have an adverse impact on the OUV,
 - b) Continue monitoring existing extractive activities in the vicinity of the property, report on any potential or actual impacts on OUV as previously requested, and immediately address any negative impacts and undertake remediation activities as required,
 - c) Provide an overview of oil and gas developments within or in the vicinity of the property, including the assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,
 - d) Extend its commitment to a permanent ban on all extractive industries, including oil and gas, within the property, and ensuring no negative impacts on the OUV from activities beyond the boundaries;
11. Further acknowledging steps to regulate ecotourism in the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement an overall Tourism Management Plan for the whole property to regulate visitation, and to ensure sustainable tourism practices, infrastructure and facilities, and requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on the status of the tourism project located in the buffer zone of the property;
12. Welcomes furthermore the activities undertaken to engage with local communities in management issues, and further encourages the State Party to continue engagement, including on matters concerning hunting and fishing, water usage, rights-based approaches to management and for the application of traditional ecological knowledge to any planned new constructions;
13. Takes note that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in March 2024 and its recommendations will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

50. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.21** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the conclusions of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the establishment of the border barrier, associated infrastructure and border security operations in the part of the property in Poland, is exacerbating the impacts of the existing barrier in Belarus, which already hindered connectivity without completely blocking it, and that the succession of border barrier infrastructure is blocking the majority of wildlife movements and has resulted in a loss of ecological connectivity, which threatens the integrity of the property and its biodiversity values, and that these impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property could result in the property meeting the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in the near future unless decisive urgent actions are taken;
4. Considers that in order to avoid further long-term impacts on the OUV of the property, decisive actions are needed by the States Parties of Belarus and Poland to fully restore ecological connectivity across the entire property and that this would require modifying or partly dismantling the barrier structures and associated infrastructure, however notes with concern that this is unlikely to be feasible in the short - to medium-term whilst transboundary cooperation remains impacted;
5. Urges the State Party of Poland to develop and implement mitigation measures to reduce the impact of the border barrier in Poland, including via:
 - a) Urgent implementation of technical measures to address the localized impacts on the hydrology and allow for a restoration of natural peak water flows, for example by adding more and larger culverts under the barrier wall foundation and adjacent service road, and putting in place dedicated monitoring and human capacity to ensure the culverts function under peak flow conditions,
 - b) Development and timely implementation of a set of actions to support the Polish lynx population in the property to improve habitat quality for increased prey availability combined with reduced noise, light, and road use, and also develop

- contingency plans to supplement/reintroduce the Polish lynx sub-population as warranted,
- c) Providing additional funding for monitoring and mitigation measures to suppress the introduction and spread of invasive species, including screening all human activities for invasive species, rapid detection and eradication programmes,
 - d) Establishing dedicated monitoring and adaptive management capacity to mitigate noise and light pollution and edge effects,
 - e) Refraining from the further development of the barrier infrastructure in the property,
 - f) Taking additional measures to increase the resilience of the ecosystem by addressing other stressors on the integrity of the property;
6. Requests the States Parties of Poland and Belarus to resume, to the extent possible, transboundary cooperation, at least at the technical information exchange level, in order to facilitate the development and implementation of the recommended mitigation measures;
 7. Further requests the State Party of Poland to establish a comprehensive and long-term research and monitoring programme on the OUV of the property in order to allow for adaptive management of the threats and impacts of the border barrier and its associated infrastructure, and to conduct further research on the impacts of the border barrier and associated infrastructure on the biodiversity and ecological and biological processes of the property, including alternatives to conventional border walls, wildlife passages and other measures to minimise the impacts of the border barrier, concertina fences and associated road infrastructure;
 8. Further considers that a new Reactive Monitoring mission would be required in 2027 to assess the implementation of these recommendations, re-evaluate whether the property then meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and to assess the feasibility of implementing additional measures to fully restore the ecological connectivity in the property;
 9. Also urges the State Party of Poland to revise the draft Integrated Management Plan to improve clarity and to include core guidance on the overall management principles of the property in order to inform all relevant management documents for the component of the property located in Poland, including Forest Management Plans, to ensure they align with the protection of the property's OUV by including the following:
 - a) Clear guidance statements for addressing threats to the OUV,
 - b) Guidance for integrating border security issues into the overarching capacity to protect the property's OUV,
 - c) A catalogue of active forest management interventions that can be accepted in the active protection zone and the conditions under which they should be applied,
 - d) A comprehensive and long-term research and monitoring programme to allow for adaptive management of threats, and
 - e) To finalise the draft before the end of 2024 for submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by IUCN;
 10. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Poland to ensure that all habitat management operations in the property comply with the management arrangements as described in the 2014 Nomination dossier, including that the undisturbed wild nature is the basic principle for the management, by:

- a) Ensuring that the new zonation fully complies with the principles detailed in the 2014 nomination dossier and does not result in an increase of the active forest protection zone,
 - b) Ensuring that the new Forest Management Plans include a clear justification for each of the planned forest management interventions, as outlined in the 2024 mission recommendations,
 - c) Revising the proposed Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan prior to its incorporation into the Integrated Management Plan to ensure that any inconsistencies with the recommendations of the 2018 mission and management arrangements described in the 2014 Nomination dossier are resolved;
11. Also requests the State Party of Poland to develop and implement additional measures to further mitigate the impacts of the Narewowska road, including additional restrictions on the use of the road;
12. Further requests the States Parties of Belarus and Poland to implement the other recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular to:
- a) Reinitiate the work on developing a Transboundary Management Plan and coordinate transboundary management actions to address the different conservation challenges of the property,
 - b) Undertake a new scientific evaluation of bison and red deer ecological carrying capacity for the entire property and implications for management of dispersal, migration and range expansion movements within and outside the property,
 - c) Bring wildlife management in the property better in line with undisturbed ecological processes as outlined in the mission recommendations,
 - d) Continue and further increase efforts to restore the natural hydrology of the property and include the research, monitoring, and adaptation to climate change as a core guiding principle in all management planning,
 - e) Implement measures to further reduce habitat fragmentation by avoiding any further upgrading of roads, significantly reducing the number of forestry roads and the number of forestry fences,
 - f) Develop a vision on how the property can contribute to sustainable development of the surrounding region, based on a clear sustainable tourism strategy compatible with the protection of the OUV;
13. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property, on the implementation of the above and the 2024 mission recommendations, in particular on the urgent measures taken to mitigate the impact of the border barrier infrastructure, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

51. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.23** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with concern the potential cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from numerous activities and infrastructure developments planned or established within and in the wider setting of the property, including extractive activities (oil, salt and gas), ports and shipping, and energy facilities, which could be exacerbated by climate change, especially through accelerating sea level rise;
4. Appreciates the efforts of States Parties to address these challenges by strengthening joint strategic management of the property and enhancing its protection and resilience to climate change;
5. Requests the States Parties to jointly adapt and update management measures for the property in the light of the latest scientific data on climate change and to submit the updated thematic report on climate change in the Wadden Sea to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available;
6. Recalls its established position that extractive activities are incompatible with World Heritage status, and considers that the numerous ongoing and planned extractive activities in the vicinity of the property and its wider landscape, including oil, gas, and salt extraction and associated sea floor subsidence which, in combination with sea level rise, could have a negative impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Also requests the States Parties to:
 - a) Operationalise the measures included in Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines, which highlights that an effective management approach extends beyond the property to include its wider setting, as its management is related to its role in supporting the OUV of the property,
 - b) Align the national legal frameworks related to planning procedures and decision-making with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and ensure that impact assessment processes are systematically carried out for proposed projects that may impact on the OUV of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to fully consider the potential impacts on the property's OUV,
 - c) Not to authorise projects that may contribute to seabed subsidence in the property;
8. Further requests the States Parties to ensure that any extractive projects in the wider setting of the property, including the pending GEMS project application for a gas field exploitation, undergoes an appropriate impact assessment procedure and that the project is not approved if it may cause negative impacts on the OUV of the property;
9. Welcomes the decision by the State Party of the Netherlands not to approve the proposed gas extraction project at Ternaard based on the assessment by the supervisory authority that the risk of subsidence in the Wadden Sea was too high in light of new sea-level rise projections, and urges the State Party of the Netherlands to take an

unequivocal decision not to approve the project, also in accordance with the legislation adopted in March 2024, not to issue any new gas extraction permits within and under the property;

10. Also welcomes the reported draft rejection of the pending application by Wintershall Dea for oil extraction below the property from an exclave encircled by the property, and requests furthermore the State Party of Germany not to grant final approval to this application, in accordance with the draft rejection and the State Party's commitment under the Wilhelmshaven Declaration to work towards the closure of exclaves within the property, and therefore not to grant any new extractive activities within these exclaves;
11. Further welcomes the ongoing evaluation by the State Party of the Netherlands of the 'hand-on-tap' monitoring method in order to consider updated sea-level rise scenarios and reiterates its request that, in accordance with the precautionary principle, no further extractive projects be approved, and that consideration is given to limiting or halting existing salt extraction activities, as required, to effectively maintain and protect the OUV;
12. Acknowledges the importance and necessity to accelerate renewable energy production, nevertheless, notes with serious concern the increasing number of onshore and offshore energy facilities (e.g., wind) within the wider setting of the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to:
 - a) Adopt a joint strategic and systematic approach to the planning and implementation of projects to connect offshore infrastructures with the mainland, with the aim of avoiding negative impacts on the OUV of the property,
 - b) Ensure that the planning and implementation of onshore energy facilities (e.g., wind) avoid negative impacts on migratory bird pathways and habitats;
13. Requests furthermore the State Party of the Netherlands to ensure the timely submission of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the PAWOZ-Eemshaven programme, as soon as it is available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
14. Further appreciates the updated information on the requested joint SEA to assess the cumulative impacts of extraction and infrastructure developments within and around the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to:
 - a) Ensure that the focus of the SEA is on the potential impacts on the attributes which convey the OUV of the property, as well as other heritage/conservation values, in accordance with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,
 - b) Submit the scoping report of the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review;
15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session.

52. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.107** and **45 COM 7B.24** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions respectively,
3. Notes with utmost concern the conclusion of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property faces significant ascertained and potential threats due to the long-term degradation of the water quality of Lake Baikal, persistent and increasing anthropogenic pressures, notably related to pollution and tourism development as well as irregular legal protection and lack of integrated management;
4. Reiterates its concern at the weakening of the legal protection of the property at a time when the property's ecological condition continues to deteriorate, which could place the property in potential danger in accordance with Paragraph 180(b) i) and iv) of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to secure and stabilise the property's legal status to protect its OUV and to avoid any legal modifications that may lead to potential deleterious effects;
5. Welcomes the development of the study to assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the water level regime of Lake Baikal, requests the State Party to submit the study to the World Heritage Centre and to make it available on the Lake Baikal ecological portal and also urges the State Party to elaborate by the end of 2024, detailed proposals to develop water level regulations of Lake Baikal to be compatible with the protection of the property's OUV and to submit these proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, reminding the State Party to refrain from issuing any legislative amendments which allow extending the water level variation beyond one meter due to potential negative impact on the property and its OUV, until the before-mentioned study and the legislative proposals of all water use and management regulations on the OUV are reviewed by IUCN and the requirements for its protection are set;
6. Also welcomes the progress made towards eliminating the accumulated environmental damage of the former Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) and reiterates its request to the State Party to apply the highest environmental standards in the selection and application of technological solutions in these works and to ensure regular risk assessment, audited environmental monitoring and reporting to the public and the Committee;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details of all major development initiatives within the property, to ensure that they are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) developed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in each Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to assess and mitigate the cumulative impacts of the existing and proposed activities on the property's OUV before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

8. Acknowledging that the State Party is taking remedial action to halt and reverse the deterioration of the property's OUV and state of conservation, requests furthermore the State Party to intensify these efforts and to implement all recommendations of the 2023 mission, including to:
- Complete the review of past legal changes and assess the impact on the property and its OUV of the proposed additional changes to the Baikal Law, prior to approval of these amendments and their review by the Committee,
 - Minimise and work towards eliminating all major sources of pollution in Lake Baikal and its watershed,
 - Conduct a SEA of the Baikalsk Master Plan and ensure full compatibility with World Heritage requirements,
 - Elaborate and implement a clear and comprehensive plan and programme of activities for fire management and forest ecosystem restoration,
 - Develop an integrated management plan for the property,
 - Finalise the Retrospective Statement of OUV for the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre together with the map of the boundaries of the World Heritage property as part of the Retrospective Inventory;
9. Considers that unless these actions are urgently implemented to halt the ongoing degradation of the property's OUV, **the property's urgent conservation needs may require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
10. Also notes with satisfaction the decision of the State Party of Mongolia to abandon the Shuren and Orkhon river dam projects located in the Selenge watershed and the State Party of Mongolia's plan to proceed only with the Egiin Gol hydropower plant, which will be subject to an EIA in accordance with international standards and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, further requests the State Party of Mongolia to ensure that this EIA includes measures to mitigate the impact of the project on the Selenga ecosystem and is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision, and further requests the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to continue to cooperate on the sustainable management of the shared Lake Baikal watershed;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a new Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2026, during the summer season, to assess the progress made in reversing the degradation of the OUV of the property and in addressing the threats affecting its state of conservation, notably legal protection, tourism development, pollution, land use pressures and management, including forest management, and to assess whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property reflecting progress on the implementation of the above, including the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

53. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.109** and **45 COM 7B.26** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions, respectively,
3. Regrets the lack of information provided by the State Party and urges the State Party to provide a detailed update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned previous Decisions of the Committee;
4. Welcomes the initiative to establish the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park, but notes that it is unclear whether all the areas of the South Kamchatka and Kluchevskoy Nature Parks, as included in the property, are within the proposed National Park, and urges the State Party to ensure that the new National Park comprises the entire territory of the Nature Parks, as included in the property at the time of inscription, including the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays;
5. Recalls that World Heritage status requires that the legal protection of the property is adequate to protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and that modifications to the legal protection may constitute a potential danger to the property as provided for in Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Welcomes the information that the Three Volcanoes Park tourism resort development project has been revised to be implemented outside the property, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Environmental Impact Assessment for the revised project to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, together with detailed information on the current status and design of the project, including maps showing where infrastructure is being planned in relation to the boundaries of the property, before proceeding further with the project implementation;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare a Master Plan for Tourism Development in the property, as recommended by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the functional zoning currently in place in all components of the property, as well as details of the regulations and special protection regimes in place for the different zones, recalling the conclusion of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission that the zoning of the different components of the property did not meet the requirements of protecting the OUV;
9. Further requests the State Party to report on the progress made in implementing the Action Plan to address the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
10. Requests furthermore that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property assess the adequacy of the legal protection of the property and the consistency of proposed tourism-related developments with the conservation of the OUV of the property, in particular the Three Volcanoes Park, the implementation of the

recommendations of the 2019 mission to the property, as well as the overall state of conservation of the property;

11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **32 COM 7B.25, 42 COM 7B.80, 43 COM 7B.18, 44 COM 7B.110 and 45 COM 7B.27** adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,
3. Recalling that the Lagonaki Plateau is essential in expressing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular for its rich biodiversity, especially its high carabid species diversity, and the fact that the area contains two thirds of the vascular plant species of the property, including many endemics, expresses its utmost concern at the confirmation that the construction of a ski resort in the Lagonaki area of the property remains under consideration;
4. Reaffirms its position that the construction of large-scale infrastructure within the property, including on the Lagonaki Plateau, would constitute a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party not to proceed with plans for a ski resort within the property, to immediately cease all ongoing preparatory work at Lagonaki and to identify alternative locations outside the property;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern about the plans for the construction of a new highway and railway connecting the North Caucasus to the Black Sea, including routes that would bisect the property, and urges again the State Party not to proceed with these developments, in accordance with the assurances provided at the time of inscription that no linear infrastructure projects such as highways or railways would be allowed within the property;
6. Requests the State Party to provide further information on the proposals to develop a 13 km tunnel, through the property, for the road between Arkhyz and Krasnaya Polyana, including its exact location, and further urges the State Party not to proceed if it is inconsistent with the protection requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines, or if it may negatively impact the OUV of the property;
7. Noting the information that the Lunnaya Polyana road is used for forestry and fire management purposes, recalls the importance of ensuring that all infrastructure, even if

deemed necessary for management and research purposes, does not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to clarify whether the road provides access to the private ski resort / Biosphere Centre at Lunnaya Polyana;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party not to allow the construction of large-scale infrastructure in the Sochi Federal Wildlife Refuge and the Sochi National Park immediately adjacent to the property, given its potential impact on the OUV of the property, and also requests the State Party to immediately halt the notified infrastructure projects until their potential impacts have been adequately assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and the resulting Environmental Impact Assessments submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to define a strategic approach to tourism development, including through the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) reported to be underway, by identifying suitable alternative locations for tourism infrastructure development outside the boundaries of the property, as well as appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that any tourism-related development in the vicinity of the property is consistent with the preservation of the OUV of the property;
10. Notes with appreciation that the draft law that would have allowed the boundaries of federally protected areas to be changed to accommodate economic activities has been suspended;
11. Expresses further concern about the protection status of different components of the property managed by the Republic of Adygea, and urges again the State Party to ensure that the legal regulations applying to all components of the property are brought into line with the protection requirements of the Operational Guidelines, and to provide detailed information on the legal status of all components of the property ahead of the Reactive Monitoring mission;
12. Notes the proposal by the State Party to hold the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in October 2024 and reiterates the need for the mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, in particular the status of planned infrastructure and road development projects within and in the vicinity of the property and their cumulative impacts, the status and adequacy of the legal protection of the property and whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and to assess other threats to the property, including the extent of the impact of invasive alien species;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

55. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1410)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.2** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its concern about the border wall constructed in the United States of America (USA), which extends along the entire boundary between the property and adjoining areas of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and most of the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, with the exception of two mountainous areas;
4. Reiterates again its view that the physical presence of the wall has clear negative impacts on the integrity of the property and wider ecological connectivity thereby blocking the movement of critical wildlife populations, such as the Sonoran Pronghorn, which constitute important attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Encourages further transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Mexico and the USA to assess and mitigate the impacts of the border wall on the OUV of the property, including the completion of the commissioned study to evaluate the impacts of the border wall on mammal communities of the Sonoran Desert;
6. Notes with appreciation the measures taken through the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Plan and also reiterates its request to the States Parties of Mexico and the USA to expedite the implementation of the Recovery Plan and measures to avoid further depletion of scarce water resources;
7. Notes with concern that no information has been provided on the development of an action plan to assess and mitigate the impacts of the border wall on the OUV of property and to restore ecological connectivity, as requested in its Decision **45 COM 7B.2**, and requests again the State Party of the USA, in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Convention, to develop, resource and implement this urgent action plan in cooperation with the State Party of Mexico, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and no later than **1 February 2025**;
8. Reiterates that if ecological connectivity is not restored to safeguard the viability of key wildlife populations, the property may meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Notes the mitigation measures and operational conditions for the Puerto Peñasco photovoltaic project, including its associated transmission network, throughout the construction and operational phases of the project, and requests the State Party to ensure that these conditions are consistent with the management of the property and to closely monitor potential impacts and take an adaptive approach to ensure that any negative impacts on the OUV of the property are avoided and that the conservation of the important biodiversity in the wider landscape, which supports the OUV, is ensured;

10. Notes that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission has been postponed, and further requests the State Party of Mexico, in coordination with the State Party of the USA, to re-schedule the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission to the property as a matter of urgency to assess the impact of the border wall on the OUV of the property and the measures taken to guarantee ecological connectivity of the property with the adjacent wildlife dispersal areas, alongside other factors potentially affecting the OUV;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

56. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger) (N 749bis)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.3** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Deplores the continuing insecurity in the region of the property marked by the presence of armed groups, welcomes the efforts undertaken by the States Parties to re-establish effective control over the entire surface area of the property and its zone of influence and encourages them to continue their efforts to restore security within the area of the property;
4. Also welcomes the progress made by the States Parties and their technical and financial partners in collaboration with the local communities in implementing certain corrective measures identified by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the difficult security context in the region, and calls upon the States Parties to maintain this momentum in order to fully implement these recommendations for effective protection and management of the property and to provide accurate data on the coverage of surveillance of the property, as well as the effectiveness thereof;
5. Thanks the technical and financial partners who are supporting conservation of the property as well as implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterates its appeal to the international community to further support the efforts of the States Parties to ensure sustainable financing for the property;
6. Takes note of the establishment of a special ecological monitoring programme for certain emblematic species in the Benin component of the property and reiterates its request to the States Parties to carry out regular aerial surveys of all components of the property using the same methodology, so that the results can be compared and wildlife population

trends identified, as soon as the security situation permits, and to include this data in the reports submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Notes with concern that the project to translocate antelopes between the Pendjari Park in Benin and the Chinko Nature Reserve in the Central African Republic was carried out despite the reservations of the Antelope Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (AfrASG SSC), expresses its concern that another translocation project was planned between the Pendjari National Park and the W National Park of Benin at the time of the 2022 mission and also asks the States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre with a status report on these projects and to implement rigorous long-term management measures for any risks that may be associated with introducing the translocation of wildlife species onto the property;
8. Regrets that the environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) for the Niger–Benin oil pipeline project and the Banikoara–Kérékou–Burkina Faso border road project were not transmitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the commencement of operations, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Guidelines and recalls that any major project within the boundaries of the property, its buffer zone and the wider setting should be subject to an ESIA, including a specific assessment of potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, following the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by IUCN prior to approval;
9. Noting that the oil pipeline project has already been in the operational phase since November 2023, expresses its concern about the potential impacts of the project on the property's OUV as indicated by the assessment of the ESIA report and further requests that the States Parties provide further detailed information on the measures planned to preserve the property's OUV, as well as the measures taken in anticipation of possible accidents, in order to avoid pollution and fire damage;
10. Noting also that the road project is already in the process of being implemented, expresses its concern about potential significant negative impacts on the property OUV identified in the ESIA report, as well as the lack of information concerning the impacts of the project in its continuity through the W Park of Burkina Faso, furthermore requests that implementation of the project be suspended without delay and that the States Parties provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information concerning the measures taken to avoid any negative impact on the property's OUV, in both the Benin and Burkina Faso components, before any decision be taken to continue implementing the project;
11. Takes note that the request has been submitted for a minor modification to the boundaries of the property in its Niger component for the creation of a buffer zone and also encourages the States Parties to submit the request for a minor modification to the boundaries of the property in its Benin component, in order to strengthen its protection, by **1 February 2025**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
12. Further requests that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.3**, to assess the measures undertaken by the States Parties to restore the security of the property, strengthen its management and determine whether OUV is still in any danger, be undertaken as soon as the security conditions permit in the countries concerned;
13. Finally requests that the States Parties submit an updated report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, by **1 February 2025**, for examination by the World

Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

57. Ivindo National Park (Gabon) (N 1653)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.31** adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Noting the cumulative delay in the process of updating the property's Management Plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the political change that occurred on 20 August 2023, welcomes the start of the process in 2023 and requests that the State Party finalize this process as soon as possible, submit the updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN by **1 February 2025** and ensure that this Plan:
 - a) takes into account protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through biodiversity inventories and a monitoring plan for the biodiversity of its fresh water and Caesalpinioideae forests, as well as strengthening phenological monitoring capacities based on tree fruiting and flowering, as recommended in the 2024 conservation report,
 - b) is developed through a fully participatory process, including consultations with local populations, both in the buffer zone and in the region adjacent to the property,
 - c) is supported by secure, sufficient and sustainable funding for management of the property;
4. Takes note of the absence of any infrastructure and development project in progress in the area of the property and reminds the State Party that any project planned within the property, its buffer zone or its wider setting should be subject to a specific assessment of the potential impacts on the property's OUV in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, before decisions are taken that are difficult to reverse;
5. Notes the cumulative delay in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification process for the three other companies in charge of managing the forest concessions around the property and also requests that the State Party ensure that all forest concessions in the buffer zone of the property are strictly controlled, managed without any significant impact on the property's OUV and FSC certified, by 2025, as projected by the State Party;
6. Also notes the commitment of the State Party to improve managerial, technical and financial capacities for effective conservation of the property, notably through the appointment of a focal point and the forthcoming activities for renewal of the office of the Local Management Advisory Board, as well as IMET training and assessments, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, notably by making sufficient technical and financial resources available to ensure that the property's OUV is maintained;

7. Also recalls the importance of regular fauna and flora inventories for monitoring key attributes of the property's OUV, equally welcomes the ongoing fauna inventory as well as the phenological monitoring based on tree fruiting and flowering planned for 2024 and also encourages the State Party to continue its efforts and to ensure that these inventories follow the same methodology over the long term in order to facilitate analysis of fauna and flora population trends within the property;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points.

58. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.83** and **45 COM 7B.8** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the sustained efforts of the State Party to contain and dissipate the threat posed by the advance of agriculture into the area around the property through appropriate measures taken to definitively resolve encroachments, demarcating the property boundaries and having environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) carried out by certain agro-industries installed around the property, and requests that the State Party continue its efforts to ensure the integrity of the property in accordance with the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission;
4. Notes positively the progress made in combating the proliferation of invasive species through the manual removal of *Tamarix senegalensis* and the cleaning of the drainage water recovery channel in the flamingo sector, expresses its concern about the ongoing colonization of *Ludwigia erecta* within the property, as well as the invasion of some water bodies by water lettuce and *Salvinia molesta*, as noted by the World Heritage Centre project monitoring mission of March 2024, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement a specific urgent invasive plant management plan for the property;
5. Noting that discussions are underway with the European Union, in the context of a project proposal submission to LIFE IP GrassBirdHabitats, for the installation of infrastructure to pump and evacuate water from the channel into the Gorom backwater, as mentioned in the World Heritage Centre project monitoring mission of March 2024, also requests that the State Party and its partners engage in urgent discussions with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on this crucial issue and share all available and useful documentation for better current analysis of the situation on the ground;
6. Notes with appreciation the commitment of the State Party to monitor trends in the character-defining elements of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) through regular ecological monitoring, including the annual international count and monthly monitoring of waterbirds within the property, and encourages the State Party to continue its ecological monitoring efforts while standardizing the data collection method;

7. Also notes that the State Party has developed and is implementing a 2022–2026 Development and Management Plan (DPM), as requested by the Committee, with the financial support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and that this document will be reviewed by IUCN to ensure that it addresses all of the critical issues identified by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, such as water management, disaster risk management and invasive plants;
8. Expresses its deep concern about the potential negative impacts of the proposed construction of the “Rice Loop” road, which would cross the property for approximately 10 km and, according to the ESIA, have a negative impact on the property OUV, recalls that any planned project within the property, its buffer zone or its wider setting that could have an impact on the OUV should be assessed for its potential impacts in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, before decisions are taken that are difficult to reverse, and further requests that the State Party review the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and the Biodiversity Action Plan of this project and that this be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any approval of the project, and inform the World Heritage Centre of the progress of this project by **1 October 2024**;
9. Regrets that the State Party has not provided any information in relation to several of the Committee’s requests and further reiterates its request that the State Party continue to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, as highlighted in the mission report and recalled in Decision **45 COM 7B.8**, in particular:
 - a) Urgently take all necessary steps to complete construction of the drainage water removal channel by the end of 2024,
 - b) Work with UNESCO and IUCN as soon as possible to draw up a PNOD clean-up plan, an action plan to resolve problems linked to increasing salinization of the soil and progressive sedimentation and make the water quality monitoring system operational, including monitoring heavy metals,
 - c) Maintain vigilance with regard to land use around PNOD and carefully monitor the impact of bankruptcy of the largest agro-industrial unit located on the outskirts of PNOD in order to avoid uncontrolled resettlement in areas that could be left vacant by the closure of the Compagnie Agricole de Saint-Louis (CASL),
 - d) Ensure that no new rice paddies can be allocated within the buffer zone of the property and that a noise abatement plan can be drawn up and implemented as soon as possible to limit the impact of bird-scaring cannons on birds,
 - e) Undertake an analysis of the impact of avian influenza on the outstanding universal value of the property as soon as possible and implement the recommendations resulting from the study,
 - f) Retain in post for a reasonable period (at least three years) any Conservator appointed to be responsible for the property and appoint a director with the necessary qualifications to run the Biological Research Station, with this station reporting hierarchically to the PNOD Conservator, who is solely responsible for the state of conservation of the property,
 - g) Strengthen the management team with around ten additional trained and equipped staff and consider innovative mechanisms for sustainable financing of the property,
 - h) Reactivate the Management Committee to make the property’s buffer zone operational by issuing a regulatory text setting out its role, composition and operating procedures, as well as the budget required for its operation; this action should include revitalizing the inter-village committees (CIV) and their ancillary bodies (eco-guards and eco-guides);

10. Notes positively that no case of avian influenza has been recorded on the property and furthermore requests that the State Party maintain a high level of surveillance for avian influenza until the outbreak has been declared eradicated in a coordinated manner throughout the Senegal River Delta, including the Diawling Park in Mauritania, given the importance of migratory waterbirds for the property OUV;
11. Expresses its concern about the persistence of the various threats to the ecological integrity of the property and its OUV, in particular water pollution, the proliferation of invasive species induced by agro-industrial projects located in the buffer zone and the vulnerability of the communities bordering the property, as described by the 2022 mission, and also recalls that if these threats are not addressed urgently and rapidly, the property could soon meet the conditions for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

59. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.76** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the conclusion of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission that the different attributes which underpin the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are being maintained and commends the State Party for the significant efforts it has undertaken in implementing the 2010 mission recommendations;
4. Notes with appreciation that the State Party confirms its commitment that the stretch of the northern road traversing the property from Tabora B to Klein's Gate will remain under the management of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and maintained as a gravel road for tourism and administrative duties and that the southern bypass road is under construction;
5. Requests the State Party of Kenya to confirm that the proposed dam projects upstream of the property in the Mara River basin in Kenya, which could have a negative impact on the OUV of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties will not go forward, and also requests the State Party to develop together with the State Party of Kenya the planned Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) as soon as possible to ensure Minimum Environmental Flows as established by the Environmental Flows Assessment;
6. Further requests the State Party to ensure that the proposed expansion of the Serengeti National Park to include the ecologically important Speke Gulf is implemented effectively and equitably, and ensure that any planned resettlement of people follows a human-

rights based approach in line with international best practice and norms and that full and just compensation is provided to the people being resettled;

7. Noting that the pressure on the natural resources in and around the wider transboundary landscape of the Greater Serengeti Mara Ecosystem (GSME) has increased substantially over the past decades, expresses concern about the long-term integrity of the property, which is dependent on the ecological health of GSME, and requests furthermore:
 - a) The States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to establish a formal transboundary cooperation of the GSME in order to address these pressures,
 - b) The State Party of Tanzania to develop an overall management plan for the protected areas included in the Tanzanian part of GSME, as part of the preparation of a management plan for the Serengeti – Ngorongoro Man and Biosphere Reserve, and to establish a permanent management coordination mechanism between the TANAPA, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) to facilitate its implementation;
8. Further expresses concern about the growing impacts of tourism inside the property and noting the conclusion of the mission that there is increasing evidence that the current tourism footprint is already starting to impact the OUV of the property, urges the State Party to ensure that the revision of the General Management Plan (GMP) and decisions on future tourism development should be informed by the best available science, including in setting measurable and monitorable limits of acceptable change (LAC), particularly in the behavior, demographics and population of the migrating wildebeest, zebra and gazelle;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to develop a scientific rationale for the management zonation of the property, the permissible use in the different zones, and the establishment and implementation of the LAC, based on the best available science and knowledge in preparation of the planned revision of the GMP and ensure that the next GMP considers the following key points:
 - a) Ensure the management of the property is underpinned by an analysis of its OUV as documented in the Statement of OUV for the property,
 - b) Includes an improved monitoring system by defining quantifiable baselines, thresholds, and metrics for measuring change and outcomes,
 - c) Provides effective mechanisms for community participation and includes best practices for ensuring fair and equitable governance including transparency, and appropriate grievance mechanisms,
 - d) Is informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment to ensure it considers the local socio-economic contexts and priorities, and considers the cumulative impacts of tourism,
 - e) Ensures sufficient staffing and funding that is guaranteed from the national budget but also allows for revenue retention,
 - f) Is approved at Ministerial Level and fully implemented and enforceable,
10. Notes with concern that the proposed golf development at Fort Ikoma is likely to impact the wildebeest migration and also urges the State Party not to proceed with the project and to revise the current Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), to assess the feasibility of alternative locations, to comprehensively assess the potential impact of the development on the migration in the area, including whether this impact can be

adequately mitigated, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular:
 - a) Once the southern bypass road is completed, to divert further traffic away from the property by downgrading the status of the Karatu – Nyamusa road as a trunk road to a park road, closing it for heavy transit traffic from Arusha to Musoma and by disincentivizing other vehicle transit traffic,
 - b) Postpone the implementation of the road hardening project Goleni – Seronera - Fort Ikoma within the property, in order to link the timeframe of the project to the completion of the Lodoare – Goleni stretch in Ngorongoro Conservation Area World Heritage property, and the finalization of the southern bypass road,
 - c) Limit the development of the Mugumu airport to a regional airport for light aircraft only, with a 1.2 km gravel runway in order to divert the tourism flight traffic away from the Seronera and Kogatende airstrips inside the property, closing these for tourism traffic,
 - d) Provide as soon as possible a more detailed report and overview of the progress of current infrastructure development applications within the property, ensure that all EIAs are prepared in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to assess the potential impacts on the OUV and are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to making any decision to authorize construction in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

60. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.7**, **44 COM 7B.177** and **45 COM 7B.10** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions and at its, 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh) extended sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the continuous cooperation between the States Parties and their partners to improve the state of conservation of the property, and to conduct the reported research, monitoring and management activities;
4. Urges the States Parties to expedite the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property, seeking inputs and technical guidance from IUCN, and to conclude full implementation of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;

5. Also recalling its concern regarding the increasing pressure from tourism infrastructure within and around the property, exacerbated by insufficient implementation of strategic planning, acknowledges that the revision of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) for the property has been delayed for the purposes of alignment with other respective national documents, and requests the States Parties to:
 - a) Finalize the JIMP as soon as possible and to ensure that it incorporates necessary safeguards and thresholds to mitigate against developmental pressures for the protection of the property's OUV, and zonation of the property, including well prescribed limits of use and permissible activities (including infrastructure), in line with the objectives of protecting the OUV and with past Committee decisions,
 - b) Set precise boundaries of the property and its buffer zone in view of concluding the Retrospective Inventory for the property,
 - c) Report on the harmonization of various national and transboundary plans and policy documents, and
 - d) Submit the JIMP to the World Heritage Centre by 30 June 2025 for review by IUCN before it is adopted;
6. Noting again with concern the likely negative impacts of the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, also takes note that the States Parties will revise the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and requests the States Parties to ensure that the revised ESIA includes alternative scenarios to avoid impact on the OUV of the property, and to submit the revised ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;
7. Recalls with regret that the construction of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel was concluded despite the Committee's request to halt further activities until the ESIA had been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by IUCN, notes that the mitigation measures integral to legal conditions of approval issued by Zambian Environmental Management Authority are being implemented, and also requests the States Parties to provide further details on the implementation of these mitigation measures to ensure that the infrastructure does not negatively affect the OUV of the property;
8. Further requests the States Parties to provide information on all developments proposed in the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting, including on a permit for two commercial tourism development sites within the Zimbabwean component of the property recognised as highly sensitive zones according to the previous JIMP, and also urges the States Parties to ensure that any project proposals that may impact the OUV undergo an ESIA in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context before taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;
9. Further takes note of the States Parties' confirmation to submit a request for boundary modification;
10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

ARAB STATES

61. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.12** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the requested state of conservation report, and notes with concern that the lack of submission by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property;
4. Also recalling the high level of endemism in the property and the potentially devastating impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), welcomes the activities undertaken under the UNEP-GEF programme to establish port quarantine measures and prepare a participatory IAS control strategy, and requests the State Party, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to urgently finalise such IAS control strategy and implement biosecurity measures to ensure the threat is effectively managed;
5. Takes note that developments were previously reported to be mostly limited to urban development zones, that development in the buffer zone is regulated by environmental standards, and that these standards are being incorporated in the review and update of the Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP), also requests that the CZP is finalised as a matter of priority and submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reminds the State Party that any development project planned within the property, its buffer zone or its wider setting should be subject to a specific assessment of the potential impact on the property's OUV in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before decisions are taken that are difficult to reverse;
6. Noting previous reports of impacts in some national parks or protected areas, requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information regarding these impacts in relation to the OUV, and to clarify how the initiation or update of protected areas management plans to address all sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain local natural resource use, would relate to the update of the CZP and the overall integrated management of the property;
7. Also recalling that previous reports have identified fishing and the collection of aquatic resources in marine core and buffer zones as significant threats, requests the State Party to evaluate the potential threats to marine wildlife due to overfishing and the collection of aquatic resources;
8. Continues to urge the State Party and all stakeholders involved in development projects to ensure that related impact assessments are implemented in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including to:
 - a) Evaluate the potential impacts of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in the context of the new regulations,

- b) Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated CZP and that their enforcement is ensured;
9. Notes the positive actions undertaken to address threats to the OUV of the property, however, reiterates its utmost concern about the potential impacts of previously identified threats, including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and insufficient biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and considers that the cumulative effect of these factors could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
10. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party to coordinate with international institutions and projects to safeguard the OUV of the property, including actions to conserve Ramsar wetlands, habitat restoration through reforestation, and dissemination activities such as the IUCN SSC/FCC Project (2022-2024), the Franklinia Endangered Tree Project Phase II (2023-2025), the Friends of Socotra, and encourages the State Party to continue and expand these initiatives, including projects regarding social awareness and capacity building;
11. Also takes note of the UNESCO report on the implementation of the Emergency Assistance funded project to address the January 2023 oil spill from a tanker stranded at the Delisha Nature Sanctuary since November 2019, which states that the coast had been mostly cleaned by local authorities and community organizations, however expresses its concern that no assessment of the impact on the OUV has been undertaken to date, that traces of the impact on the coast are reported to still be seen and that the Gulf Dove tanker still contains some residual oil derivatives, and hence poses a continued potential risk to the OUV of the property, particularly its marine environment, and requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on this matter;
12. Further welcomes the activities carried out in the framework of the implementation of Emergency Assistance funding, including the preparation of a risk assessment and an action plan, and also notes that the implementation of the outlined action plan and related recommendations would require the mobilization of additional resources to support the local authorities;
13. Also notes with concern that on-going political instability and the economic crisis continue to impact the capacity for effective management of the property, and continues to call on the international community to support the State Party in its efforts to ensure the effective protection and management of the property;
14. Notes the efforts of the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and reiterates its request for this mission to be undertaken as soon as possible to assess if the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and make recommendations to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded;
15. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA - PACIFIC

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.13** adopted at its extend 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with utmost concern the continued threat to the property posed by climate change, and the negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) suffered through mass bleaching events, including the most recent and ongoing event in 2023-2024, and reiterates that securing the resilience of the property is of essential importance to give it the best chance to withstand the effects of climate change;
4. Welcomes the delivery of mapped priority areas for gully repairs, the commencement of a comprehensive programme to repair and restore gullies of the highest priority and the significant increases in compliance activity across sugarcane, banana and cattle farmers and urgently requests the State Party to maintain its efforts toward achieving the 2025 water quality targets, in particular for sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen, in line with the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations and the commitments made by the State Party in 2023;
5. Notes with serious concern the remaining high rates of land clearing which are deemed inconsistent with the objectives set out to achieve the water quality targets, and requests the State Party to take urgent action to:
 - a) Continue early detection and intervention to halt illegal land clearing,
 - b) Strengthen clauses under existing laws to ensure that all remnant and high value growth areas are protected, including category X vegetation (under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act), and other high priority areas including riparian zones, lands vulnerable to degradation and areas contributing to sediment and nitrogen pollution;
6. Welcomes the process to update the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) is on track for delivery in 2025, and urges the State Party to ensure that water quality targets, and actions implemented through the WQIP are sufficiently ambitious to ensure the OUV of the property is not further adversely impacted by low water quality;
7. Commends the State Party on its decisive action to phase out gillnet fishing in the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that the property is fully gillnet free by mid-2027 at the latest, that new Net-Free Zones in key habitats for species that represent attributes of OUV are established, and that all aspects of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy are fully implemented;
8. Notes with appreciation the climate change addendum to the Reef 2050 Plan, and requests the State Party to ensure the Plan is effectively implemented to limit the impacts of climate change on the property, and to set further ambitious targets to limit temperature increases to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels and align its policies accordingly;

9. Requests the State Party to maintain adaptation programmes, including the 'Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control Program' and the 'Reef Joint Field Management Program', and increase funding for innovation and scaling up of priority solutions;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a report on progress achieved in the implementation of the above, and including the impacts of the 2023/24 bleaching event, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, and an updated report on the state of conservation of the property by **1 February 2026**, for examination by the Committee at its 48th session.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.10, 38 COM 7B.65, 39 COM 7B.11, 41 COM 8B.36, 43 COM 7B.7, 44 COM 7B.185, and 45 COM 7B.83** adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, and at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes that monitoring of key species indicates that the rhinoceros population in the property has remained stable, the tiger population has been increasing since 2006, and reintroduction efforts for pygmy hog continue species recovery, notes with appreciation the continued efforts to address poaching, and requests the State Party to continue anti-poaching efforts, implement systematic long-term monitoring for key species in the property, and to report on the status of monitoring in its next report;
4. Takes note of ongoing activities to benefit local communities including through eco-tourism and addressing alternative livelihoods and human-wildlife conflict through Eco-Development Committees, and encourages the State Party to report on further progress regarding the carbon financing initiative and benefits to the property;
5. Also notes with appreciation that no further agricultural encroachment has occurred in the property and that existing encroachment is reported to be under control, and also requests the State Party to continue to address encroachment pressure with due respect to social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and respecting all relevant international norms, and to provide further details of such management activities;
6. Also takes note that habitat management continues to be guided by the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan, that objectives for an Action Plan to address the sustainable management of grassland woodland ecosystem have been identified and pilot studies to address invasive plant species have been implemented, and reiterates its requests for the State Party to provide a clear update regarding the finalisation and implementation of this Action Plan on the ground, including control measures against the spread of invasive plant species, notably *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha*;

7. Further notes with appreciation the continued transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of India and Bhutan at the field level, and also encourages continued transboundary cooperation including regarding the possible consideration of a revised proposal for the extension of the property;
8. Reiterates its serious concern about the potential impacts of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that this project is reported to have been jointly inaugurated by the government of India and the Royal government of Bhutan in August 2019, and deeply regrets that neither State Party has provided any information about the project, nor its Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan despite continued requests by the Committee since 2012;
9. Further requests that an online joint meeting between the States Parties of India and Bhutan, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN be convened no later than **1 December 2024** to clarify the current status of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, monitoring of any impacts on the OUV of the property, and any mitigation measures that are being implemented to assure the OUV of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

64. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India) (N 1406rev)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.7**, **43 COM 7B.8** and **44 COM 7B.184** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to significantly enlarging the property including reported actions towards the inclusion of Khirganga National Park, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to entitle the necessary status and designations to the protected areas considered for inclusion in the World Heritage property in order to advance the process, and to seek guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in relation to the planned boundary modification in line with the Operational Guidelines, as needed;
4. Acknowledges the continued commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and rightsholders in the governance and management of the property, and requests the State Party to provide an update on its progress in undertaking consultations with communities and stakeholders to progressively extend the property;
5. Also welcomes the development of monitoring protocols for the long-term monitoring of the property and also requests the State Party to provide more details on the planned monitoring system in its next report, including on the first results of this work;

6. Takes note that impacts from existing resource use within the property are reported to be minimal and that the buffer zone (Ecozone) fulfils local community resource requirements, and also requests the State Party to provide further details on how the ban on the extraction of medicinal plants was agreed with local stakeholders and rightsholders since, as noted by IUCN at the time of inscription, access- and use- rights require sensitive resolution that is sympathetic to the rights of communities, fostering alternative livelihoods, and the conservation of the area;
7. Noting with appreciation that a study is being finalised to assess the current status of livestock grazing in and around the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, and plans to phase out grazing, further requests the State Party to provide the final report of this study to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available as well as further information on the findings of the study and resulting management measures taken, including plans to phase out grazing, in light of the decision not to re-categorise the wildlife sanctuaries as a national park, and to provide additional details on the process followed to implement the total grazing ban in the property including community involvement in line with a rights-based approach;
8. Also takes note that the State Party is engaged with the Category 2 Centre Wildlife Institute of India to consider identifying options for potential new nominations in the region, and also encourages the State Party to continue engagement with relevant States Parties in the context of the findings of the Hindu Kush Himalaya technical assessment that was developed through collaboration between the States Parties, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN and other partners on potential new opportunities;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

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

Decision: 46 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.67, 39 COM 7B.12, 41 COM 7B.29, 43 COM 7B.9, 44 COM 7B.94, 45 COM 7B.16** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the provision of summaries of the revised management zonation and the 2021-2030 Management Plan for the property, and requests the State Party to submit the translated documents to the World Heritage Centre once available and to continue implementation of the Management Plan to address the threats to the property and ensure the long term protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the property's World Heritage status in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and also requests the State

Party to ensure that developments both within the property and its wider setting that may impact on its OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to submit the impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

5. Reiterates its concern regarding the Trans-Papuan Highway development, which crosses the property at the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment and the Habema-Kenyam segment, and will lead to the fragmentation of its habitats and is likely to negatively impact the OUV, and notes with concern that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Sugapa-Illaga-Mulia segment does not adequately assess impacts on the OUV of the property including its integrity, such as habitat fragmentation, vegetation clearing, or increased illegal logging;
6. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it is completed and in one of the working languages of the Convention, a clear assessment of the cumulative impacts of road developments on the OUV of the property, and reiterates its request to develop and submit a clear Action Plan, including a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas inside the property that have been damaged by road construction;
7. Further requests the State Party to continue mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam segment, and to not proceed with further construction of the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment, which has been halted since 2021, until its impact on the OUV has been fully assessed and appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any negative impacts on the OUV are identified in line with the aforementioned Guidance;
8. Taking note of the various biodiversity monitoring activities, requests furthermore the State Party to ensure long-term monitoring of the property and the OUV in line with the 2021-2030 Management Plan, especially regarding the regeneration of Nothofagus species, and encourages the State Party to proceed with international collaboration to further conclude the causes of the Nothofagus dieback and inform long-term conservation planning, as needed;
9. Reiterates its request for the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to be implemented as soon as possible, to assess the state of road projects in the property, their impacts on the OUV, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as the effectiveness of the zoning of the property to ensure the long-term conservation of the OUV, and any other threats that may concern the OUV of the property, including illegal fishing, logging and poaching, as previously raised by the Committee;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

66. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati) (N 1325)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.66

1. The World Heritage Committee,

2. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
3. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2**, **39 COM 7B.14** and **45COM 7B.17** adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
4. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Reiterates its deep regret that the State Party decided to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and that the reversed fishing license designed to compensate foregone fishing revenue appears not to have sufficiently benefited the livelihoods of the people of Kiribati to ensure its sustainability;
6. Recalling the importance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones and emphasizing the importance of commitments from other States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to establish sufficiently large no-take zones,
7. Reiterates its call to the international community to refrain from any unsustainable fishing practices that could negatively impact on the OUV of the property and to assist the State Party with the necessary financial and technical support to assess the implications of removing the no-take protection status;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;
9. Also reiterates serious concern about the lack of details and clarity concerning the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Programme and other measures being developed by the State Party to replace the no-take zone, and requests again the State Party to provide the following as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN:
 - a) The assessments, which were undertaken to forecast any impact on the OUV of the property as a result of the reported decision,
 - b) Maps indicating changes in protection under the envisaged MSP, including areas which will remain as no-take zones,
 - c) The measures it is taking and foreseen to monitor, survey and enforce sustainable best fishing practices within and outside of the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP;
10. Recalling its utmost concern that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property and reiterates that in case no urgent action is taken to ensure the effective protection of the OUV, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to closely follow up and provide adequate support to the conservation of this property as well as continue their efforts to engage with the State Party, including through the UNESCO field office in the region;
12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review its state of conservation, assess

the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, assess if the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;

13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, 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 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

67. Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago (Viet Nam) (N 672ter)

Decision: 46 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.98**, **45 COM 7B.89**, **45 COM 8B.3** and **45 COM 8D** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling the significant boundary modification of the Ha Long Bay property to include the Cat Ba Archipelago in 2023, notes that the State Party report provided limited information on the Cat Ba Archipelago area and on the overall state of conservation of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure the implementation of an integrated management approach for the property, including in its reporting on the state of conservation, and develop an effective coordination mechanism between the Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City to ensure integrated management of the property;
4. Welcomes the plans to expand the existing carrying capacity analysis to the entire property, also requests the State Party to complete the carrying capacity study as soon as possible in order to finalize the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy and the Integrated Visitor Management System, and encourages the State Party to seek guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;
5. Expresses concern that multiple development projects for new tourism and urban residential areas along the coastline in Ha Long City have been approved and implemented without clarification whether the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been appropriately assessed in line with the Operational Guidelines, and further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Inform the World Heritage Centre of any planned development projects within the property, its buffer zone or wider setting that may impact the OUV of the property, and ensure that their potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV are assessed through an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), including identification of development alternatives, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines,

- b) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, an overview of ongoing and planned development projects in the vicinity of the property, including the eight projects mentioned in the State Party's report of August 2023 as soon as possible,
 - c) Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impact on the OUV of the property from the tourism and industrial development projects that are located within the property, its buffer zone and in the wider setting to inform effective management planning and strategic decision making,
 - d) Ensure that the various plans for the property, including a new Master Plan for 2025-2035 (Vision to 2050) and the updated Management Plan, are coordinated and provide a solid legal basis and management framework to ensure impact assessment processes are in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;
6. Notes with appreciation various measures to address waste and other forms of environmental pollution implemented by Quang Ninh Province in order to maintain the air and water quality within allowable national limits, but notes with concern that the World Heritage Centre continues to receive third-party information on water pollution;
 7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a detailed zoning map of the Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago property showing the land use and management regime within its inscribed area, buffer zone and wider setting, to the World Heritage Centre;
 8. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, particularly in relation to its governance, the effectiveness of the overall management framework to protect the OUV, and the expansion of tourism and urban infrastructure development along the coastline, and to provide guidance on any outstanding boundary issues;
 9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2024**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of both the above and the recommendations requested in Decision **45 COM 8B.3**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

8. NOMINATION PROCESS

Decision: 46 COM 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8,

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

2. Decides to amend Paragraph 121 of the Operational Guidelines with the addition of the **highlighted** bold text as follows:

[...]

The Upstream Process advice provided regarding a site will not prejudice the results of any future Preliminary Assessment.

The requirement to undergo a Preliminary Assessment shall be disregarded for nominations of sites which have been subject to an Upstream Process on a specific site under the condition that the related nomination dossier is submitted within five years following reception of the report of Upstream Process advice. In this case, once a nomination is submitted, the related report of Upstream Process advice shall be annexed to it. The report of Upstream Process advice concerning a specific site is relevant for up to five years. After this period, either a new Upstream Process or a Preliminary Assessment is required if a nomination is not submitted by 1 February on the fifth year following the transmission of the Report to the concerned State(s) Party(ies).

Requests for the Upstream Process [...]

3. Takes note of the Preliminary Assessment requests received by 15 September 2023 presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/24/46.COM/8;

MAPS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE PARTY

4. Also decides to remove point (ii) of Section 1.e “Maps and plans, showing the boundaries of the nominated property and buffer zone” of Annex 5 of the Operational Guidelines, and acknowledges that for some specific cases (i.e. serial nominations) the Secretariat may provide specific guidance in line with paragraphs 126 and 127 of the Operational Guidelines. The removed text is shown in bold **highlighted** strikethrough as follows:

[...] the Secretariat for further information concerning this option.

~~(ii) A Location Map showing the location of the nominated property within the State Party,~~

~~(iii)~~ Plans and specially [...]

NOMINATIONS NOT EVALUATED FOR THE 46TH SESSION

5. Further decides that nominations, which were submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and the extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions but which could not be evaluated due to the health and/or security situation, be examined at the 47th session of the Committee without impinging on national and overall quota of nominations (Paragraph 61 of the Operational

Guidelines) to be examined at the 47th session, in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines.

8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2024, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 46 COM 8A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8A,
2. Stressing the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool towards regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and long-term planning,
3. Encourages States Parties to seek as early as possible upstream advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during the development or revision of their Tentative Lists as appropriate,
4. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document.

8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

I. CHANGES TO NAMES OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 46 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to Prehistoric Sites of Talayotic Menorca as proposed by the Spanish authorities. The name of the property becomes **Talayotic Menorca** in English and **Minorque talayotique** in French.

II. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL SITES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST PROPOSED FOR EXAMINATION IN 2024

A. NATURAL SITES

A.1 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A.1.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii)** and **(viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The property covers an area of 726,291.41 ha, with a buffer zone of 891,114.36 ha. Badain Jaran Desert, located in the Alashan Plateau in the hyper-arid and temperate desert region of northwestern China, is the third largest desert in China and hosts an irreplaceable natural heritage of lake and dune desert features. It stands out with its high density of mega-dunes, including the tallest stabilized sand dunes in the world, a myriad of interdunal lakes, and a range of aeolian landform features. The mega-dunes form an undulating landscape, among which the tallest sand dune achieves a relative height of 460 m. For a sandy desert and sand sea, Badain Jaran is home to abundant plant life and mostly nocturnal animal life. The lakes are mostly saline and diversely coloured, providing a favourable habitat for thriving worms, molluscs, crustacea and some fish.

Due to its geographical location and geological background, the property is strongly influenced by climate change and the continuing tectonic uplift of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Its desert-forming process is continuing, so that the site and its relics offer insights into long-term climatic changes and desert forming processes. The size and integrity of the site is important in understanding its ongoing evolution.

The property holds outstanding aesthetic values thanks to the significant abundance of mega-dunes, aeolian landscape diversity and to the uniqueness of its lakes.

Criterion (vii): Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes display spectacular ongoing geological and geomorphic features of desert landscapes and landforms subject to a temperate, hyper-arid climate. These features create exceptional aesthetic values emerging from the dense range of stabilized, linear, and parallel mega-dunes with numerous inter-dunal lakes as well as various types of smaller dunes in-between the mega-dunes. 144 inter-dunal lakes exhibit a myriad of colours, caused by different levels of salinity and microbial communities. With an exceptional expanse of so-called singing sands (describing the resonance caused e.g. by wind moving dry and loose sand), the property also presents a remarkable soundscape. Wind-eroded landforms, oases, ripple effects and the grandeur of the world's tallest sand mega-dunes (relative relief of 460 m) compose a landscape of remarkable natural beauty. The dynamic of shifting sand dunes creates an ever-changing visual environment.

Criterion (viii): The property is located at the junction of three sandy regions of China and provides an outstanding example of the ongoing evolution of desert landscapes and

landforms under a temperate and hyper-arid climate. It records and displays an exceptional variety of aeolian features and desert geomorphology, such as linear and parallel, stabilized mega-dunes and associated inter-dunal lakes. The property appears to be a very rare example at global scale that reflects the evolutionary landforms as a combined result of regional tectonism and hydrogeological changes associated with climatic evolution. The property also stands out due to the remarkable stability of its linear mega-dunes and the abundance of inter-dunal lakes. It boasts the densest collection of stabilized mega-dunes globally, encompassing among the tallest sand dunes and the highest concentration of inter-dunal lakes found anywhere on Earth. With 144 inter-dunal lakes and the considerable variety of dune formations, the property hosts a remarkable geodiversity. Both IUCN's 2011 thematic study on desert landscapes and IUCN's 2021 study on the application of criterion (viii) highlighted the property as one of the most significant desert landscapes and geomorphological sites, not currently represented on the World Heritage List.

Integrity

The property covers the continuous distribution area of mega-dunes and associated inter-dunal lakes, as well as other types of desert features. The vast area is large enough to protect the complete range of the necessary elements that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The area also covers a significant expanse of the desert ecosystem which is used sustainably. The buffer zone provides additional protection to the property and does not contain any potential pollution sources.

Most of the property is in an uninhabited natural desert state, though a few families of herdsman with some camels, goats, donkeys, and sheep herds inhabit and traditionally use the property in a sustainable way. The property represents a wide and wild area with no paved roads. Towns, factories, and any potential threats are all excluded from the property and buffer zone. Impacts from tourism are controlled and limited to the property's carrying capacity. To ensure the integrity of the inter-dunal lakes, it is essential to ensure that all groundwater sources feeding the lakes are carefully managed and not over-exploited. Further research needs to investigate the groundwater sources and inform potential additional action.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected through several layers of protective designations. These include one autonomous region-level scenic site and two autonomous region-level nature reserves and designations as UNESCO Global Geopark and as National Geopark. The protection of the property is extended through national nature reserve status for the entire property. In addition, the property is also protected by a range of national, autonomous region-level, and local-level laws and regulations. Local regulations and a management plan have also been developed specifically for the property. The property shall also receive the highest level of legal protection as a national park.

The Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region People's Government establishes a World Heritage Management Committee to assure coordinated leadership over the protection and management of the property and buffer zone. The management institutions involved in the protection of the property are integrated into of the Badain Jaran Desert World Heritage Management Office, which is responsible for the daily protection and management of the property. Local functional departments, monitoring agencies, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other research institutes provide technical support, and are specifically responsible for the monitoring, research and protection of the property.

Local regulations and a Management Plan have been developed specifically for the property. The State Party undertakes to strictly protect the property and buffer zone, ensuring the integrity of all the natural values and elements. Specific measures include,

firstly, strengthening the monitoring and scientific research on natural values and elements such as sand dunes, lakes and vegetation, and implementing adaptive management. Secondly to establish and improve the monitoring system and database for the property, and carry out targeted protection and control measures. Thirdly, local people will be involved in the team for protection, co-management, monitoring and public education. Fourthly, community participation will be strengthened and, fifthly, the balance between heritage protection and local social and economic sustainable development shall be achieved, including through sustainable eco-tourism whilst strictly control the scale and behaviour of tourists to ensure that the impact of tourism on the natural heritage values remains minimal.

4. Welcomes the decision of the State Party to include the property in a future national park and requests that the State Party submits a minor boundary modification request in case the national park boundaries could further enable the improvement of the property's boundaries, and also requests the State Party to ensure that the local communities, including traditional herders, are fully consulted, involved and in agreement with this proposal, and that such a designation ensures that the herders are able to maintain and continue their traditional activities within the property.

A.1.2 Significant boundary modifications of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 46 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.3** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Approves the significant boundary modification of the **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China (Phase I), China**, to become the **Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**, through the addition of the following component parts included in the present (Phase II) nomination:
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Chongming Dongtan, Shanghai,
 - Old Course of Yellow River Estuary,
 - North Part of the Yellow River Estuary,
 - South Part of the Yellow River Estuary,
 - Dawenliu,
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Nandagang wetland, Cangzou, Hebei Province,
 - Jiutou Hill,
 - Snake Island,
 - Dayang River,
 - Erdaogou;
4. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China, inscribed through Phase I (2019) and Phase II (2024) of a phased nomination process, are situated in the largest intertidal wetland system in the world and one of the most biologically diverse. The property is located in the Yellow Sea Ecoregion, and supports

crucial habitats for birds migrating along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, its wetlands serving a unique ecological function as indispensable stopover and staging sites during northward/southward migration. The Yellow Sea and the Gulf of Bohai are a bottleneck for many millions of migratory waterbirds – more than 10% of the total migration along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The property is thus an irreplaceable and indispensable hub for birds migrating along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, which spans not only China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, within the Yellow Sea, but also some 22 countries across two hemispheres from the Arctic to South-East Asia and Australasia. The global importance of the wider coastal area is evidenced by several Ramsar sites, some of which fully or partially overlap with component parts of the property. Thus, this property is a globally significant example of the shared natural heritage embodied in migratory birds.

The twelve component parts of the property are located along the Yellow Sea coast of China, including the Bohai Gulf, with a total area of 289,710.94 ha, and a buffer zone of 117,502.10 ha. In light of the fact that human activity has transformed many of the region's tidal wetlands, there is a need for effective measures to halt major threats and restore key migratory bird habitats, and for further national and transnational serial nominations, and/or extensions to strengthen the integrity of the property.

Criterion (x): The Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf of China support more than 400 species of birds. The property's tidal flats are of exceptional importance for the conservation of the world's migratory birds, supporting internationally significant numbers of migratory bird species, including globally threatened species. The component parts of the Migratory Bird Habitat in the South of Yancheng, Jiangsu and the Migratory Bird Habitat in the North of Yancheng, Jiangsu alone are significant for more than 10% of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway populations and provide critical habitat for two of the world's rarest migratory birds – the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and the Nordmann's Greenshank, which depend on the tidal flats for their continued survival. The wetlands within the Migratory Bird Sanctuaries along the Coast of Yellow Sea Bohai Gulf of China serve a unique ecological function as indispensable stopover and staging sites that provide necessary food resources, ensuring fat replenishment and storage for subsequent flights during northward/southward migration. Without these important hubs, the successful migration, breeding, and population maintenance of birds in the flyway could not be maintained. In addition to providing stopover habitat for migratory birds, the component parts also include wintering areas and breeding areas for at least 45 threatened bird species including shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors.

The property's tidal flats also provide important migratory habitat for the threatened Black-faced Spoonbill, Oriental Stork, Red-crowned Crane and Great Knot; the Chinese Egret, Dalmatian Pelican, Swan Goose, Relict Gull and Saunders's Gull. The property also supports further migratory bird species, including the Red Knot, Asian Dowitcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Reed Parrotbill, Curlew Sandpiper, Greater Sand Plover, Lesser Sand Plover and Ruddy Turnstone. Other migratory birds that utilise the property include the Eurasian Oystercatcher, Pied Avocet, Grey Plover, Kentish plover, Far Eastern Curlew, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Sanderling, Dunlin, Terek Sandpiper, and Common Tern. The property also hosts large numbers of zoobenthos and fish species as well as important mammal, amphibian and reptile species, all part of the coastal ecosystems the migratory birds depend on.

Integrity

The property as a whole makes an indispensable contribution to the viability of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, one of the world's most important flyways and arguably the one most at risk and fragile. The twelve component parts of the property include clear boundaries for adequate protection of birds when they are on-site. It is, however, important to understand that the birds depend on wider coastal habitats such as reed

beds and groves and hence protection and restoration efforts in these areas are equally important. The property comprises large tracts of mudflats, beaches, and other key stopover habitats for migrating birds. The intertidal mudflats, marshes and shallow waters are exceptionally productive and provide spawning and nursery habitat for many fish and crustacean species. In particular, the intertidal mudflats attract a high diversity and enormous number of resident and migratory birds. The intertidal mudflats, which have shaped the crucial habitat for migratory birds, are fed by large rivers (including the Yellow River, Yangtze River, Yalu River, Liao River, Luan River and Hai River) that provide the crucial underpinnings of this system as they continuously discharge sediments into the Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf, accumulating to form a series of different habitat types all critical for various migratory birds.

The 2024 inscription of ten additional component parts in the Phase II extension has enhanced the integrity of the Phase I property inscribed in 2019, added over 100,000 hectares of migratory bird habitat. Nevertheless, there are further important areas that would deserve to be included in the existing series to fully meet integrity requirements. In this regard it is important to note the context provided by Decision 43 COM 8B.3 of the World Heritage Committee, which first inscribed the property in 2019. This decision was taken by the Committee on the understanding that the State Party would submit a nomination that includes all the additional components of the proposed serial listing as a whole, in order to reflect the full range of natural wealth and diversity of the ecoregion and to meet integrity requirements, supported by a comprehensive and detailed overview and analysis of priority conservation areas in the Yellow Sea and Bohai Gulf, including the fourteen additional areas identified in the original Phase I nomination, fully taking into account ecosystem and habitat diversity of the coastal system, proposed boundaries, values (including species occurrence, abundance and conservation status), threats, integrity, protection and management. Thus, the further and full implementation of this Decision of the Committee remains essential.

The entire coastline lies within a densely populated and intensively used part of China that has been subject to very substantial anthropogenic modification and impact over a long period. While human activity has transformed vast tracts of the coast and tidal wetlands, policies that promote a more ecologically sustainable society are emerging to halt the transformation of the remaining natural areas and to even reverse trends by restoring key migratory bird habitats. To add complexity, however, many of the underlying factors of change, such as pollution, oil exploration and exploitation, marine traffic, the modification of major rivers and their sediment loads, wind energy and infrastructure on land and in the sea, stem from outside the property including the coast and near-shore waters.

Protection and management requirements

The component parts of the property are state-owned and fully protected by law. Ecological Red Lines are also conducive to their conservation and effective management. These management and conservation policies provide the necessary mechanisms for maintaining intact ecosystems and biological processes within the property. Furthermore, it is essential that the buffer zones in areas adjacent to the component parts provide an added layer of protection against wider threats.

In light of the major past transformation of, and profound impacts on the coastal and intertidal ecosystems and ongoing high pressures and threats, protection measures need to be strengthened and expanded, including through the planned designation of two national parks, but also through the avoidance and mitigation of threats from outside the boundaries of the property. In this respect, China has established a series of wetland conservation policies, including the Notice of the State Council on Strengthening the Protection of Coastal Wetlands and Strictly Controlling Land Reclamation from Sea (G.F. [2018] No.24), the Notice of the General Office of the State Council on Issuing the Scheme of Wetland Protection and Restoration System (G.B.F. [2016] No.89), and the

Guiding Opinions on Establishing a Nature Reserve System with National Parks as the Main Component. The Wetland Protection Law China has completely prohibited reclamation projects and actively advanced the restoration of tidal flat ecosystems in some damaged areas, representing a change from “seeking resources from nature” to “living in harmony with nature”. Under the conservation and management plan of each component part, local residents are permitted to continue traditional environmentally sustainable marine fishing, aquaculture and farming activities in the component parts.

The local governments of Shanghai, Shandong, Hebei and Liaoning have approved the establishment of leading groups and offices for the World Heritage inscription, and assigned full-time personnel for the conservation and management of the property's component parts and buffer zones. For each component part, specific management organizations and protection teams have been established, and detailed management regulations and measures have been enacted. Tourism will be concentrated in limited designated areas, and local residents are encouraged to engage in the conservation and publicity of the component parts and protected areas. Most tourism use is physically separated from the protected areas and limited to visitor centres, and tourism should be appropriately scaled and low impact. Future planning and management for each of the component parts of the property needs to ensure that there are no negative effects of development on biodiversity and threatened species, including any negative effects of tourism, wind turbines, pollution (including from noise), land reclamation, and infrastructure development. Specific strategies and action are required to ensure conservation of areas above the tidal areas and to restore degraded wider systems that are important to support the core habitat within the property.

Spanning beyond China's borders, the intertidal wetlands of the Yellow Sea-Bohai Gulf support crucial habitats for birds migrating along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Beyond the national level, there is further and related World Heritage potential, which deserves to be considered as the involved countries intensify efforts towards a harmonized conservation and management strategy of the most valuable regional stepping stones of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. Effective conservation and management of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway will require international cooperation involving all the States Parties along the flyway.

5. Takes note of the following component parts in the present nomination, which are not recommended for inclusion in the serial property at the present time:
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Qilihai Lagoon, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province,
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Dachaoping of Beidaihe, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province,
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Shihenandao of Laolongtou, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province,
 - Fantuozi Islet of Guanglu Island,
 - Ertuozi Islet of Gexian Island,
 - Dacautuozi of Guapi Island,
 - Xiaocautuozi of Guapi Island,
 - Nandajiao of Guapi Island,
 - Wuhushi of Haxian Island,
 - Wushi of Dahaozi Island,
 - Dabanshi of Dahaozi Island,
 - Xicaotuozi of Dachangshan Island,
 - Beituozi Islet of Dachangshan Island,
 - Bashao Island Lithoherm Belt;
6. Recommends the State Party before considering potential resubmission of these component parts in any future nomination to expand the boundaries of the nominated component parts so as to meet integrity, protection and management requirements, and to align them appropriately with existing protected area boundary core zones, whilst

demonstrating the presence of key species within the boundaries of the nominated component parts;

7. Also takes note of the following component parts in the present nomination, which are not recommended for inclusion in the serial property at the present time in line with the established position of the World Heritage Committee that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status:
 - Migratory Bird Habitat at Nanpu Zuidong Wetland, Luannan, Hebei Province,
 - West Part of Liao River Estuary,
 - East Part of Liao River Estuary;
8. Also recommends the State Party before considering potential resubmission of these component parts in any future nomination to unequivocally revoke permits for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation, and to expand the boundaries of the nominated component parts to meet integrity, protection and management requirements, and to align them appropriately with existing protected area boundary core zones;
9. Strongly encourages the State Party to fully implement Decision **43 COM 8B.3** and to complete the series by nominating a further phase of the nomination, to include the Jiangsu Rudong Coastal Wetland, Rudong-Tiezuisha Coast, and Lianyungang Salt Works, all of which have been recognised to be of exceptional importance to the East Asian-Australasian Migratory Flyway, as well as appropriately reconfigured component parts referred to above, which meet the necessary integrity and protection and management requirements of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Requests the State Party to establish the overarching management system integrating all of the inscribed component parts as soon as practicable and to ensure that this plan includes a strategy for sustainable tourism and reinforced measures to address threats from invasive alien species, agricultural run-off, industrial and urban developments, as well as effective disaster risk reduction measures for those component parts in the vicinity of hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation;
11. Encourages the State Party to expand the boundaries of relevant inscribed component parts aligning them with the boundaries of existing protected areas to the maximum extent possible following the completion of the State Party's current systematic review of its entire protected area system being undertaken, including enlarging and consolidating buffer zones where feasible, so as to enhance coverage of migratory bird habitats, through the possible submission of a boundary modification;
12. Further takes note of the encouraging initial efforts of the three States Parties in the central hub of the flyway (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Republic of Korea) and also encourages the States Parties to continue and expand these efforts, including under the World Heritage Convention and other international initiatives.

A.2 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

A.2.1 New nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes the **Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (x)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Vjetrenica is one of the longest caves in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Topographic mapping is still in progress, meaning that its length exceeds the published 5699 m (Lučić & Sket, 2003). According to recent exploration and mapping, its length is 7.323,9 m meters (Ozimec et al., 2021.). In the past, the cave drew attention for its strong movements of air or 'wind' that blows from the cave in warm months and into the cave in cold months. The cave is located in the south Dinaric karst, between the Popovo Polje plains (East Herzegovina) and Dubrovnik (Adriatic Sea, Croatia), as part of the Trebišnjica river system, the longest losing stream in Europe. The region is characterised by strong tectonic and geodynamic activity, high purity of carbonate (99.98%) and 2,000 millimetres of annual rainfall. For the first time in the world, biospeleological research of Vjetrenica established a cave hygropetric habitat, with a thin layer of water covering rocks.

In Vjetrenica, 231 taxa were detected in Vjetrenica: two types of bacteria, 14 fungi, 35 protista and 180 animals, with 96 cave-dwelling taxa. It is the very particular environmental conditions of the cave that provide a habitat for rare and threatened fauna. The cave also bears historic importance. Examples of leopards from Vjetrenica are known globally as best preserved and the most complete skeletons of its kind, with greatest importance in palaeontology. The remains are a testament to period spanning from 29000 to 37000 years and corroborate the fact of their existence in earlier Pleistocene. Vjetrenica is both a natural and archaeological site.

The cave system of Vjetrenica and its surroundings is presented as a well-conserved manifestation of karst topography that boasts a wide range of natural features. Most passages in Vjetrenica Cave are wide and high along their entire length across four levels: Main Level, Upper Level, Lower Level and Vertical Level. The Main Level is semi-horizontal and the longest passage in the cave, running from the cave entrance almost to the furthestmost point of the cave while the Upper Level consists of five passages which are up to 120 m above the Main Level. The Lower Level is approximately 10 to 30 m below Main Level. The Vertical Level, is reported to consist of deep pits that lead from the surface to the cave, and allow strong winds up to 8.5m per second in the cave system. The cave also harbours several smaller streams and water pools, the largest of which is the Great Lake (Veliko jezero), some 180 m in length. Several sizeable chambers are almost entirely filled with rock blocks, slabs, in the form of piles tens of metres high.

Vjetrenica Cave not only holds one of the richest, if not the richest cave fauna in the world, it also includes the richest subterranean amphipod community worldwide. Moreover, the nominated property has been recognised as one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots for cave-dwelling fauna. The nominated property also harbours gastropods with a high variability in size and ecology out of which all but one are endemic to either Popovo Polje or the southeastern Dinaric Karst.

Vjetrenica Cave is also considered an exceptional example of single-genus diversity. For instance, there are nine species of the subterranean amphipod genus *Niphargus* found at the nominated property.

Criterion (x): Natural Habitat for in situ-conservation of biological diversity

The nominated property stands out with its remarkable cave biodiversity and endemism. Vjetrenica Cave is considered one of world's most important biodiversity hotspots for cave-dwelling fauna. There are 85 troglobiotic taxa and 56 stygobites, which is unparalleled globally. A total of 231 taxa of subterranean biodiversity has been recorded,

including 14 fungi and 35 protist species. Vjetrenica Cave also stands out as an exceptional example of single-genus diversity – the nine species of the subterranean amphipod genus *Niphargus*, which may represent the highest subterranean single-genus diversity of any location in the world.

The exceptional endemism of the nominated property is illustrated by its stygofauna, of which 78% are only found in the Dinaric region. The only subterranean tubeworm in the world (*Marifugia cavatica*) dwells in Vjetrenica Cave. In addition, several of the species found in Vjetrenica Cave are tertiary and pre-tertiary relict species, which can be considered living fossils, whose closest living relatives went extinct a long time ago. The nominated property also hosts 21 plant species that are endemic to the Balkans.

Integrity

The area of the Vjetrenica cave and its surroundings adequately represents both natural and cultural, terrestrial and aquatic features, as well as processes of importance for the long-term conservation of the rich biodiversity and exceptional natural beauty. Vjetrenica Cave is the most important and unique element of biodiversity of this part of the region and beyond. The area around the Vjetrenica cave also protects all major terrestrial vegetation species and important species habitats. The nomination of the Vjetrenica cave will include all the features that make up the outstanding universal value of the property. In addition, to an internationally renowned site of Vjetrenica Cave, the nominated area includes lesser-known and as yet unexplored sites. We are thus in a position to permanently maintain the integrity of the designated property with the help of existing protective measures and safeguard provisions.

Vjetrenica Cave is a complex underground system that has not yet been fully explored, offering exceptional opportunities for further exploration of the karst underground of the Dinarides, primarily along the lines of physical speleology, geology, hydrology, ecology, biospeleology, paleontology, archeology; but also, underground climatology, tectonics and more.

Research brings us new insights about caves themselves, hydrogeological and ecological relations, the present living world extremely rich endemic species and many other aspects important for this area, but also for the community as a whole.

The main threats to the integrity of the property include a wide range of anthropogenic influences (physical devastation, changes in the habitat and ecology of the cave, waste accumulation, collection and disturbance of cave fauna, uncoordinated urban development, population growth in the area above and around caves, old infrastructure, illegal interventions at springs and tourist pressure). However, all these threats are being mitigated through the management plan as well as through existing spatial planning documents and these being in preparation.

Protection and management requirements

The nominated site enjoys the highest degree of protection in accordance with the national legislation in place, and it is guided by the management of the nominated property is guided by a management plan that was adopted by the government of the Herzegovina Neretva Canton and the Municipality of Ravno in 2021 that is valid until 2031. The management plan has been harmonized with the Law designating the Protected landscape Vjetrenica-Popovo Polje and with the Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Ravno.

4. Welcomes full acceptance of IUCN recommendations by the State Party, to ensure additional resources to further enhance capacities of the Public Institution “Vjetrenica”, as highlighted by IUCN;
5. Also welcomes confirmation of the State Party that sufficient water quality and water inflow into the Vjetrenica cave system is guaranteed in the long term;

6. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Explore to what extent it could be possible to envisage in future a potential serial transnational extension to enable a complete representation of the Dinaric Karst, including in relation to criteria (viii) and (x),
 - b) Further improving the consistency of mapping and zoning of the Protected landscape Vjetrenica-Popovo Polje, especially within the new Spatial Plan of the Municipality of Ravno that is being developed,
 - c) Ensure that the hydrology management, including water quality and water inflow in the property, is sufficiently monitored;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by IUCN.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **The Flow Country, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (ix)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Flow Country is considered the most outstanding example of a blanket bog ecosystem in the world. This blanket peat and its intricate network of pools, hummocks and ridges stretches across nearly 190,000 ha of the northern mainland Scotland, with the boundary comprising seven separate but proximal areas. The peat has been accumulating for the past 9,000 years and displays a remarkable range of features resulting from the climatic, altitudinal, geological and geomorphological gradients found across the region. Peatlands play an important role in storing carbon, and The Flow Country has an extensive record of peatland accumulation, with peat thicknesses which reach over eight metres. Ongoing peat-forming ecological processes continue to sequester carbon on a very large scale.

The Flow Country blanket bog also provides a diversity of habitats, combined with the patchwork of connected farming and coastal landscape elements within the wider setting. The area supports a distinctive assemblage of birds, with a combination of arctic-alpine and temperate and continental species.

Protection for The Flow Country is provided through international and national designations, and national, and local planning law and policy, and there is scope for future expansion of the property through restoration of adjacent degraded blanket bog. The area is also considered to be the type-locality for description of blanket bog and so represents a significant research and educational resource.

Criterion (ix): Since the glaciers receded from Scotland, climatic conditions in combination with the underlying geology, the resultant topography, and the biogeography have led to the formation of a vast and diverse blanket bog landscape that stretches across the north of Scotland. The persistent precipitation-fed waterlogging of the soil has led to an expanse of peat bog that blankets the landscape, including hills, slopes and hollows, and forming a globally rare and significant peatland ecosystem and associated species assemblage. The property represents the most extensive, near-

continuous, high quality and near-natural blanket bog landscape found globally. The active processes of blanket bog formation have continued for 9,000 years, and the diversity of blanket bog features is not found anywhere else on Earth.

The blanket bog also provides a highly significant record of its formation, preserved as pollen and plant fossils, and telling a story of its past flora, fauna, palaeoecology and human influence. This is important for the understanding of the future evolution of this and other blanket bogs globally. Moreover, the processes of blanket bog formation provide a significant example of carbon sequestration on a large scale.

The property holds between 29 and 34 peat forming species of Sphagnum moss, which are themselves home to complex assemblages of unique microorganisms adapted to survive in the low oxygen, cold temperature, acidity, and oligotrophy conditions of bog systems, adding to the biodiversity value of peatland habitats, and which also provide refuge for many breeding bird species. The property hosts a particular biodiversity assembly with specific communities composed of Atlantic, boreal and arctic taxa.

Integrity

The Flow Country property comprises seven discrete but adjacent areas totalling nearly 190,000 ha, which encompasses a large expanse of actively accumulating blanket bog ecosystem. The overwhelming majority of the blanket bog within the property boundary is in near-natural condition. The remainder includes areas of blanket bog that are undergoing restoration, and areas that are expected to be restored in the near future.

The property is of sufficient size to contain all of the elements of Outstanding Universal Value needed to demonstrate the ecological and biological processes, and the biodiversity that comprises this globally significant ecosystem. These include the blanket bog itself, the wider peatland landscape complex in which it lies and the finer elements, including pool systems, diverse surface patterning, fens, and the range of flora and fauna that all of these systems support. The climatic, altitudinal, geological and geomorphological gradients that occur across the Flow Country all contribute to ensuring that the variety of features that make up blanket bogs are represented. Furthermore, the boundaries of the property are largely defined on the basis of the hydrological elements that comprise the blanket bog, and therefore ensure ecosystem integrity and coherence.

Areas of the property have suffered from poor historical management decisions such as drainage and woodland creation, but the boundary has been chosen to include only those areas of deep peat which are in good condition or have the ability to return to a near-natural state within the next 10-25 years. It is expected that in time, it will be possible to integrate some of the bog of the wider Flow Country into the property. The construction of wind turbines represents a more recent threat to the property through supporting infrastructure and through negative impacts on the avian fauna, which constitutes an integral part of the blanket bog ecosystem.

Protection and management requirements

The property is legally protected in its entirety based on its Outstanding Universal Value. Around 73 percent of the area within the property boundary has the highest level of statutory protection that domestic law can provide: SSSIs, SACs (for habitats), SPAs (for birds) and a Ramsar Site (for wetlands). These laws provide specific protection for the elements of Outstanding Universal Value as set out in the property's attributes, notably including the processes for the maintenance and formation of blanket bog, and the associated flora and fauna.

Further to statutory environmental protection, peatlands, particularly those containing deep peat greater than 50 centimetres, are protected through the planning system for Scotland, both at national and local level. There are specific planning policies at national level in relation to both World Heritage properties and areas of peatland that afford effective protection from development proposals that might impact upon Outstanding

Universal Value. Moreover, where the boundary is not coincident with existing environmental designations, protection will be ensured by national and local planning policy.

The property has no buffer zone. However, areas important for the protection of Outstanding Universal Value outside of the boundary are protected through a combination of national and local planning policy, and the wider protection of features afforded by the existing European-level environmental designations. In addition, the integrity of the property is ensured thanks to its large size and the inclusion of areas that provide a buffering function within the property boundaries.

Management of the property's Outstanding Universal Value is guided by a single clear Management Plan, developed by the Flow Country Partnership in collaboration with key stakeholders such as landowners and managers, government agencies, local communities and scientific experts. Management requirements include bog restoration, monitoring of and responding to any potential developments in the vicinity of the property, including the construction of wind turbines. Potential threats include woodland restocking and natural regeneration, water management and drainage, intensive agriculture, wind farms, inappropriate deer management, burning and climate change. A key requirement for the management of this property lies in continued strong and adequately resourced coordination and partnership arrangements focused on the World Heritage property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Strongly encourages the State Party to further strengthen the protection of the property and its wider setting through the expansion of existing protection or through additional statutory designations;
5. Requests the State Party not to approve any wind turbines that are proposed to be constructed within the property and to ensure that any proposed developments in proximity of the property that may impact on its Outstanding Universal Value are assessed for their potential impacts, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
6. Also requests that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre a report providing an update on the status of proposed wind farms within the boundaries and in the vicinity of the property, and further describing how the property will be protected from future energy development proposals that could pose a serious threat to the Outstanding Universal Value, by **1 December 2025**;
7. Commends the State Party for the high-quality nomination dossier and supporting documentation, including the detailed articulation of attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value under criterion (ix).

A.3 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A.3.1 New nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes the **Lençóis Maranhenses National Park, Brazil**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii) and (viii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Consisting of large and extensive dunes, Lençóis Maranhenses National Park resembles a desert. However, located in northeastern Brazil, on the east coast of Maranhão, the property is subject to a semi-humid climate with a rainy season providing large volumes of water and resulting in the formation of temporary inter-dunal lagoons. The property comprises an area of 156,562 ha, of which about 90,000 ha are composed of an extensive dune field with temporary and permanent lagoons, bordering deflation plains as source area for the dunes along the 80 km coastline. The mostly unidirectional wind shapes barchan dunes up to 75 km in length. The property presents its most stunning scenery, when the lagoons reach their maximum water levels during the rainy season, exhibiting a wide range of different colours, shapes, sizes, and depths. The origin of the dune field is related to sedimentation from marine transgressions and regressions, which combined with the wind action allowed the formation of dune fields along the Quaternary. The property is located in the Barreirinhas Basin in a transition zone between three Brazilian biomes: Cerrado, Caatinga and Amazon. The park's vegetation is composed of pioneer formations of Restinga, mangroves and alluvial communities that, together with marine and freshwater environments, are fundamental for the conservation of species diversity.

Criterion (vii): The Lençóis Maranhenses National Park is part of an incomparable landscape. It is formed by successive dune chains interspersed with temporary and perennial lagoons. Along the park's 80 km of coastline, there is a beach between 600m and 2km. The sand deposited by tides on the beach is gradually eroded by the wind, shaping small barchans with heights ranging from 50 cm to one metre near the shoreline, reaching heights of up to 30 m as they migrate inland, downwind and atop dunes from previous generations. The barchan dunes form winding chains up to 75 km long and move over 20 km inland. During the rainy season, temporary lakes form between the dunes, only to vanish in the dry season, leading to a constant transformation of the landscape. With dune mobility at migration rates ranging from 4 to 25 meters per year, these lakes reemerge in new locations with altered shapes in the subsequent rainy season. The lakebeds are coated with a layer of brown or green algae and cyanobacteria, contributing to the ever-changing scenery and variety of shapes and colours, composing a landscape of unique beauty rarely found anywhere else in the world.

Criterion (viii): The sediments in the Barreirinhas Basin are subject to aeolian processes forming a field of fixed and mobile dunes, considered the largest in South America. This process is considered one of the best and largest examples of the development of coastal dunes along the Quaternary, and the only site worldwide with such extensive development of dynamic dunes and lagoons. The dunes form long chains of barchans arranged in the same direction and increasing in size as they advance inland. Temporary ponds are formed by the rise of the water table during the rainy season. The property stands out within the complex interplay of climatic, oceanographic, and geomorphological elements along the Brazilian coast, featuring unique dune and lagoon formations fed exclusively by rainwater. These features, shaped by coastal dynamics and various environmental interactions, serve as remarkable evidence of the evolutionary progression of coastal dunes over millennia, including insights into pre-vegetation fluvial landscapes, serving as a present-day analogue for understanding past fluvial processes. The geomorphological processes create pristine and nascent habitats for a diverse and specialised and pioneer flora and fauna.

Integrity

With an area of 156,562 ha, the property encompasses 90,000 ha of dune fields with beautiful chains of barchans interspersed with temporary and perennial lagoons, exclusively fed by rainwater. More than 40,000 ha are covered by Restinga vegetation, which along with mangroves, lagoons, rivers, marine areas and other ecosystems supports species diversity and interact with geomorphological processes. The area is therefore large enough to guarantee the representation of elements and processes that constitute the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The dunes are separated from the coastline by a broad deflation plain ranging from 600 m to 2000 m in width. The sand deposited by tides on the beach is gradually eroded by the wind, shaping small barchans with heights ranging from 50 cm to one metre near the shoreline, reaching heights of up to 30 m as they migrate inland, downwind and atop dunes from previous generations. The dunes migrate with a speed of up to 25 m per year. During the rainy season, lagoons emerge amidst very clean sand. With no inlet or outlet, they are exclusively fed by rainwater. The fluctuation of the water table controls the morphology of the dunes.

The property is fully surrounded by a buffer zone of 268,231 ha, both along the coast and inland, creating an ecological buffer between the natural ecosystems and urbanised areas.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected through the designation as Lençóis Maranhenses National Park with an area of 156,562 ha. This legally protected area is recognised since 1981 by legal decree and administered by the national protected areas authority, ICMBio, and comprises the National System of Protected Areas (SNUC), as the main territorial management instrument aimed at environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. The network of protected areas within and beyond the property also interacts with other levels of environmental protection and management at the state and municipal levels, as well as other legal instruments that intend to protect important ecosystems beyond protected areas boundaries.

In addition, it is part of the National System of Protected Areas (SNUC), belonging to the integral protection group, where natural resources can only be used indirectly. It has well defined boundaries and buffer zones with their respective regulation instruments, being the Management Plan and Public Use Plan. Management effectiveness evaluations are conducted regularly, and results publicly addressed. Monitoring, enforcement, and governance needs to be commensurate with the level of action needed to respond to pressures from tourism.

Governance and participatory approaches are secured both for multi-level governmental decision-making as well as users of the property, through at least two instances: the Lençóis Maranhenses National Park Council and the Regional Governance Instance Lençóis-Delta. At the time of inscription, more than 4,000 people are living within the boundaries of the property. Local and traditional communities need to be equitably involved and their rights observed. The National Park officially recognises the communities through "Terms of Commitment", intending to respond to needs and sustainable activities carried-out by local inhabitants within the boundaries of the property. The identification and recognition of the traditional communities was still at an early stage at the time of inscription and will need to be strengthened.

The marine part of the buffer zone is subject to the National Coastal Management Plan and Ecological Economic Coastal Zoning (ZEEC). To ensure the protection of the property against threats from offshore, a strengthened protection and management regime for the marine part of the buffer zone will be required in future.

4. Requests the State Party to:
- a) Develop a tourism management plan, determined by the property's carrying capacity that is to be based on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value and the biodiversity values of the property,
 - b) Further strengthen the protection and management of the marine section of the buffer zone, for instance through the designation of a marine protected area,
 - c) Continue to further increase staffing and funding for the protection and management of the property, especially to implement the aforementioned actions and including strengthened biodiversity monitoring.

B. MIXED SITES

B.1 AFRICA

B.1.1 Nominations deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 46 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B, WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes the **Melka Kunture and Balchit Archeological and Paleontological Site, Ethiopia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The cluster of Pleistocene archaeological and palaeontological sites of Melka Kunture and Balchit lies along the upper course of the Awash River, on the Ethiopian Highlands, at an altitude of about 2,000 to 2,200 metres above the sea level. With a relatively continuous stratigraphic sequence formed by the accumulation of fluvial/alluvial and volcano-derived deposits interposed with tuff, the property preserves an exceptionally long cultural sequence consisting of four consecutive phases of the Oldowan, Acheulean, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age techno-complexes, documented in a variety of archaeological contexts, testifying to the occupation of the area by hominin groups from two million years ago. Fragments of palaeo-landscapes preserved buried under the volcanic and sedimentary deposits with fossil fauna and flora allow to reconstruct the high-mountain ecosystem of the Ethiopian Highlands during the Pleistocene and draw conclusions on the adaptation of hominins to the challenges and climatic conditions of high altitudes. The presence of *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis* and archaic *Homo sapiens* fossils, found in association with well-dated archaeological material, throws light on the development of skills and cognitive capacities in the early hominin groups. Rich concentration of varied lithic assemblages made from volcanic rocks with different knapping techniques, and evidence of high-quality of standardised obsidian tools, suggest a level of planning and innovation. Evidence of the centuries-long tradition of procurement and use of obsidian starting with the Oldowan industry makes the property the earliest known example of obsidian utilisation and an outstanding witness of continuity of exploitation of this raw material.

The component parts together contribute to the understanding of human evolution, allowing to revisit the existing theories related to the transitions between the techno-industries, and suggesting fundamental steps in the development of human intelligence and adaptation skills. They also provide valuable information on the sedimentary history of the area and allow to determine the chronology of cultural horizons of the Pleistocene epoch based on the dating of volcanic tuffs preserved in the Melka Kunture succession.

Criterion (iii): The ensemble of Pleistocene archaeological and palaeontological sites of Melka Kunture and Balchit is the only known place in the world to have preserved in a single area an exceptionally long cultural sequence consisting of four consecutive phases of Oldowan, Acheulean, Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age techno-complexes. Hominin fossils of *Homo erectus*, *Homo heidelbergensis* and archaic *Homo sapiens* discovered in well-dated archaeological layers with Oldowan, Acheulean and Middle Stone Age industries, paired with the evidence of varying use of different rocks through time, contribute to the understanding of human evolution, development of cognitive capacities in early hominin groups, and their adaptation to the environment by employing different strategies of raw material procurement and use.

Criterion (iv): Fragments of Quaternary fossil landscapes, preserved buried under volcanic tuffs and sedimentary deposits of the ensemble of Pleistocene archaeological and palaeontological sites of Melka Kunture and Balchit, allow to reconstruct the palaeo-environment and palaeo-climate of the Ethiopian Highlands during the Pleistocene epoch and understand better the lifestyle of hominin groups occupying the area. Hominin remains documented within the property provide one of the earliest evidence of human occupation of high altitudes and their adaptation to the high-mountain ecosystem, different from the dry savannas of lower elevations, which marks a significant stage in human history. The volcanic material that buried the palaeo-landscapes has scientific value as it allows to date and establish the chronology of the cultural horizons.

Criterion (v): The cluster of Pleistocene archaeological and palaeontological sites of Melka Kunture and Balchit testifies in an exceptional way to the consistent exploitation of obsidian as a raw material and its extensive use for tool production that starts with the Oldowan industry. It is the earliest known example of obsidian utilisation, and the only known place in the world that holds an uninterrupted record of systematic procurement of this volcanic glass and its knapping since two million years ago. High-quality and quantity of standardised obsidian tools found in Acheulean contexts suggests possible introduction of specialised production sites.

Integrity

All component parts contribute substantially to the Outstanding Universal Value, providing complementary evidence on the evolution and activity of hominin groups, their natural environment and the sedimentary history of the Upper Awash River basin over the span of two million years. The archaeological and palaeontological deposits and the deep stratigraphy are well-preserved throughout the property. The excavated sections have been backfilled, except for one section which has been left open for public display. Artefacts and hominin remains are stored and exhibited in the Ethiopian National Museum in Addis Ababa and the site museum. The component parts suffer from erosion to a small extent, due mainly to seasonal overflows of the Awash River. Intactness of the deposits in some areas is threatened by activities related to sand quarrying. The setting of the property has been largely preserved and the areas with future research potential have been included within the buffer zones to protect them from potential encroachment related to development of the area or agricultural practices.

Authenticity

The area has been excavated to a small degree and the context of the sites remains intact. The cultural sequence and the geologic record – with volcanic tuffs that allow to determine the chronology of cultural horizons – are preserved undisturbed. The immediate setting

of the property has not been compromised but the expansion of settlements and the related development of infrastructure need to be monitored at some of the component parts.

Protection and management requirements

The property is a registered national heritage, owned by the state while people receive usufruct rights to plots of land. All component parts and the buffer zones are protected through the Regulation No. 159/2013. At the highest level, the property is managed by the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau, in collaboration with the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH). At the site level, the Administration and Preservation Office is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the property and coordination of stakeholder relations. Since the property falls under two different Woredas and Administrative Zones, the respective Culture and Tourism offices of the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau serve as a bridge between the site administration and other government institutions at higher levels, at the district and administrative zone levels.

The management plan (2022-2027) has been developed through a consultative process and will be implemented collaboratively by the Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau, and ARCCH. Local communities will be actively engaged in the management and development of the property to ensure conflict-free protection of the archaeological and palaeontological sites. Key challenges in the short term will be to put in place adequate procedures and practical mechanisms to guarantee effective protection and management of the property within the existing legal framework, to strengthen human capacity, and to ensure sustainability of funds for the maintenance of the property.

4. Decides not to inscribe the **Melka Kunture and Balchit Archaeological and Paleontological Site, Ethiopia**, on the World Heritage List under criterion (viii);
5. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any future development proposals within the boundaries of the property or major projects planned within the buffer zones,
 - b) Putting in place procedures and practical mechanisms to ensure effective protection and management of the property,
 - c) Operationalising the proposed co-management structure and creating guidelines for the cooperation between different stakeholders on the national, regional and local levels,
 - d) Ensuring an active role of the local communities in the decision-making related to the management and development of the property,
 - e) Raising awareness among the local populations of the importance of protecting the property and their vital role in this endeavour,
 - f) Developing a research strategy to ensure continuation of studies and expanding archaeological investigations beyond the boundaries of the property, into the buffer zones, to explore further their research potential,
 - g) Preparing a disaster risk management plan that would address the threats to integrity and authenticity of the property, and integrating it with the management plan,
 - h) Providing updated figures for the areas of the revised boundaries of the serial property as a whole and of each component part, as well as for the buffer zones;
6. Decides that the name of the property be changed to “**Melka Kunture and Balchit: Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites in the Highland Area of Ethiopia**”.

B.2 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

B.2.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B, WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands, France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (vi), (vii), (ix) and (x)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in the centre of the South Pacific Ocean, the Marquesas Islands are one of the most isolated archipelagos of any continent in the world. The geomorphology of the islands is largely characterised by steep mountains, dramatic cloud-draped peaks and precipitous cliffs, interspersed with deeply incised valleys. Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands is a serial property composed of seven component parts bearing an exceptional testimony to the territorial occupation of the Marquesas archipelago by a human civilisation that arrived by sea around the year 1000 CE and developed on these isolated islands until contact with Europeans and the annexation of the archipelago by France in 1842.

Throughout this period, the Ēnata - "human beings" in Marquesan – were organised into chiefdoms and settled in the valleys, which, from the top of the ridges to the coast and the access to the sea, constitute the unit of spatial and symbolic organisation of the Ēnata chiefdoms. Due to a demographic decline and the abandonment of the human settlements, the archaeological remains were maintained in place, and many are now enveloped in a thick forest cover.

The serial property is a hotspot for terrestrial and marine biodiversity in the Pacific. The archipelago systematically ranks first or second for its endemism of vascular flora, terrestrial and marine avifauna, terrestrial and marine molluscs and freshwater fish, spread across a wide diversity of natural habitats ranging from coastal formations to ridge-top maquis that can exceed 1,000 m in altitude. Lacking the reefs usually found in this type of oceanic island in the eastern Pacific, Marquesan waters are an exceptional example of a tropical archipelago ecosystem with very high primary productivity. Exceptional for the endemism of coastal fish and marine molluscs, the waters of the Marquesas archipelago have been identified as the wildest coastal marine province in the world. They are among the world's main sites with the highest coastal biomass, dominated by top predators. The marine ecosystem is virtually free from human exploitation. The archipelago also offers a great diversity of emblematic marine species (rays and dolphins) and nesting seabirds. Biological and ecological processes have hardly been disturbed, making the Marquesas Islands a remarkable model of the evolution of species in an oceanic island environment.

Criterion (iii): Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands bears an exceptional testimony to the territorial occupation of the Marquesas archipelago by the Ēnata between the 10th and the 19th centuries, to their adaptation to a challenging natural environment and to the limitations of available construction materials, to their patterns of settlement within deep steep-sided valleys as well as to their social and spiritual organisation in chiefdoms.

The topographical and climatic constraints of these volcanic islands led the Ēnata to build two-storey lithic platforms in dry masonry (paepae) on the slopes of steep valleys, reaching heights of up to six metres, and used as the basis of both domestic and ceremonial architecture (tohua and meàe). This architectural richness and diversity, was accompanied by the development of an artistic expression very specific to the archipelago, combining sculpture (tiki) and engraving (petroglyphs) as evidence of the close relationship between human beings and their environment. The eight valleys included within the property are considered the most notable for the density and size of the lithic remains.

Criterion (vi): Despite the demographic shock and the acculturation to European contact, and despite the virtual disappearance of the Ēnata, many stories, myths, and legends linked to real or cosmological landscapes are still with us today. Combined with the knowledge passed down from generation to generation, they reflect the spiritual bond between the Marquesan people and their environment.

Criterion (vii): Resulting from their volcanic past, the Marquesas Islands are marked by sharp ridges, impressive peaks and cliffs that rise abruptly more than 1000 m above the ocean. The Marquesas Islands are among the most “vertical” islands in the world. The lush vegetation combined with the diversity of the landforms and jagged coastlines create island landscapes unparalleled in these tropical latitudes. The relief is in direct contact with the open ocean, providing natural promontories for observing the spectacle of wildlife: Dolphins gather in shoals of several hundred individuals at the foot of the cliffs, combined with the simultaneous presence of two species of rays: Reef Manta Ray and Oceanic Manta Ray whose microsympatry (i.e. record of co-occurrence observed at the same dive site) is highly unusual and almost unique in the world. Together, they form a majestic picture of a wild and spectacular nature.

Criterion (ix): As the only isolated archipelago in the middle of the equatorial Pacific, the Marquesas are an oasis of marine life in the immense Pacific Ocean. The property is isolated from the major ocean currents by the counter-current of the Marquesas. The Marquesas holds one of the highest fish biomasses in the world, averaging 3.30 T/ha and up to 20 T/ha. Marquesan waters are home to exceptional endemism in relation to the surface area of the property for coastal fish (13.7%) and molluscs (10%), i.e. 3,400 km². The Marquesan coastal communities are a major centre of endemism in the Indo-Pacific and worldwide, along with Hawaii, Easter Island and the Red Sea. Recognised as one of the world’s last marine wilderness areas, Marquesan waters offer some of the best-preserved coastal ecosystems on the planet. On land, the property retains two complete continuums of vegetation from the summits to the coast and brings together four sets of tropical cloud forests.

Criterion (x): The property combines marine and terrestrial ecosystems that are rare for their level of conservation and their irreplaceability. The isolation of the young volcanic islands of the Marquesas archipelago has resulted in a rare and diverse flora, with more than half of the 305 plant species in the property being irreplaceable. Endemism is mainly found in the dry and semi-dry coastal forests and in the hygrophilous and rainforests. The cloud forests that cover the crests and peaks of the islands of Nuku Hiva, Ua Pou, Tahuata and Fatu Iva are home to more than 70% of the species endemic to a peak, an island or the archipelago. For instance, the clear majority of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs are endemic to the islands. The archipelago is home to one of the most diverse seabird assemblages in the tropical waters of the South Pacific. It is one of the few known breeding sites in the world for 21 species of seabirds and 13 species and subspecies of land birds are endemic to the archipelago. Fatu Iva and Tahuata are respectively home to an endangered endemic species, òmaò keekee (around 30 individuals), and the pahi (less than 300 individuals estimated in 2017). The property hosts many threatened species, such as pītai, ùpe and the kōtuè. The coastal marine ecosystem is home to 40 emblematic species, including 16 marine mammals, 26 rays and sharks, and 1

endangered marine turtle, all concentrated around the 12 islands that make up the archipelago and many of which are globally threatened. More than 40% of the fish species are endemic to the ecoregion, all of which dwell in shallow marine, brackish and riverine habitats.

Integrity

The valley constituted the territorial unit of the chiefdoms, and the boundaries of the component parts of Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands reflects this by including the whole territory of the valley from the top of the ridges to the coastline and the adjacent marine area, except for the modern settlement areas, which are included in the buffer zone.

Together, the seven component parts provide a full representation of the way of life of the Ēnata and of the territorial, spatial, social and spiritual organisation of their societies until the 19th century. The abandonment of ancient settlement sites has protected them from human activity and has allowed archaeological evidence to remain in situ.

Only certain sites in the Hatiheu, Taaoa and Puamau valleys have been cleared and restored. The restoration of certain *tohua* for festivals (*Matavaa*) was an opportunity to return them to their original use as community squares for festivities and other gatherings. Most of the archaeological sites are protected by their isolation from modern human activity and by dense vegetation cover. However, the legibility and structural integrity of some of sites is affected by the growth of acacia and jambolana trees, with some stones dislodged by the tree roots and by erosion linked to the presence of feral animals.

The impacts of climate change, namely slow sea level rise and increasingly frequent and prolonged droughts, are already observed and are likely to increase in the future, along with other unforeseen consequences.

The archipelago's islands and seascapes are mostly intact and host only a small human population concentrated on the coastline. Up to 88% of plant diversity of the archipelago is represented within the property. 100% of the diversity of marine avifauna, i.e. 21 breeding species, and 78% of the diversity of terrestrial avifauna are also represented within the property. All the catchment areas and main rivers are included in the property, with 91% of freshwater fish and crustacean species represented. The plant formations are well preserved but very sensitive to biological invasions. Species of *falcata*, *miconia* and acacia as well as the African Tulip Tree are the main plant species threatening the integrity of the property. Farming activities, with the wandering of animals and the outbreak of uncontrolled fires, constitute a pressure at medium altitude that needs to be controlled locally. The Marquesan ecosystems are the least disturbed between 800 and 1200 m altitude.

The property protects all the coastal waters used for the life cycle of seabirds, coastal fish, molluscs and crustaceans, as well as 43 emblematic marine species that live in or visit these waters. Identified as the wildest coastal marine province in the world, Marquesan waters have a remarkable integrity of the trophic chain, with a remarkable biomass of coastal fish and an exceptional proportion of large predators. The effects of climate change on the distribution, life traits and life cycles of the species are as yet unpredictable. The property includes the entire length of the four richest rivers in the archipelago, as well as two complete continuums of vegetation, with a view to maintaining the essential functions for the life cycle of the species and facilitating their adaptation.

Authenticity

Most archaeological sites in Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands have not been subject to past interventions and are unrestored. The sites are entirely authentic in form, design, materials and substance. Past restorations of some archaeological sites, some

motivated by the Marquesas Islands arts and culture festival (Matavaa o te Henua Ēnana), have been for the most part carried out under the supervision of professionals.

The spirit and feeling of the places where the archaeological remains are located, and their representation of their ancestral activity, are still very strongly felt by present day Marquesans. Despite the demographic shock and subsequent acculturation to European traditions and practices, the oral transmission of stories, myths and legends within families, combined with the writings of the first visitors and ethnographic work undertaken in the late 19th century, have helped maintain important knowledge about the history and social meanings of those places.

Protection and management requirements

The complete inventory of the archaeological remains and the designation of the main sites as historic monuments under the Polynesian Heritage Code is an overarching requirement for the protection and management of the property. The General Development Plan (PGA), applicable to the entire territory of the six communes of the Marquesas Islands, is essential to determine rules and regulations at the landscape level, both in the property and the buffer zones. Special regulatory requirements for the property and the buffer zone will be incorporated into the PGA in line with the commitment of the six Marquesas communes grouped together in the Community of Mayors of the Marquesas Islands (CODIM) and the French Polynesian authorities. Effective management planning must also be ensured through the integration of the provisions of the General Development Plan with those included in the management plan for the property.

The shared governance of the property and its buffer zones is led by a management committee, co-chaired by the French Polynesian Minister for Culture, the Environment and Marine Resources, and the President of CODIM – Communauté de communes des îles Marquises (Community of Mayors of the Marquesas Islands). The day-to-day management is delegated to the coordination unit, responsible for implementing the management plan, centralising information and coordinating action, and leading the network of six World Heritage local associations (one per island), among other tasks. Adequate financial and human resources are required for the coordination unit to fulfil its mandate and responsibilities.

Regular maintenance and control of vegetation in the architectural sites is essential to prevent deterioration and structural damage as well as to deal with climatic hazards. Control and monitoring of invasive species, through measures to prevent their introduction and spread, early detection, and eradication is a common priority for the conservation of the cultural and natural values of the property. Measures to support sustainable agricultural areas adjacent to the property, to limit and contain fire outbreaks and to restrict the areas accessible to stray animals will enhance the conservation of the property.

Expectations for the long-term conservation and management of the mixed property depend on the integration of cultural and natural heritage across different elements of the management system: recognition of the interconnected character of the cultural and natural values of the property, identification of the attributes that reflect that interconnected character, establishment of joint monitoring programme for the state of conservation, integrated interpretation and presentation of the cultural and natural significance of the property, institutional collaboration and participatory decision-making processes. The effectiveness of such integrated management system should be assessed and improved over time.

Sites classified under the Environment Code include two category V Protected Landscapes (Hohoi Bay on Ua Pou and Hanavave Bay on Fatu Iva) and two category IV Habitat and Species Management Areas (Eiao and Hatu Tu). All of Polynesia's waters are a sanctuary for marine mammals and all shark species. Industrial fishing is banned

within the property. Species protection prohibits the removal of species from their natural environment and the alteration of their natural habitat. It covers 164 plant species, 39 bird species, all marine mammals, sharks, rays and sea turtles, as well as certain terrestrial and marine molluscs. Fishing, agriculture and biosecurity also benefit from regulatory protection measures, in particular the reduction or even ban on pesticides and reinforced action against invasive alien species.

The strategy to combat invasive species is a common priority for the conservation of the cultural and natural values of the property. This includes measures to prevent their introduction and spread, early detection and eradication. The environmental assessment of projects should include an analysis of the potential impact on the integrity and authenticity of the property. In the agricultural areas adjacent to the property, management will aim to improve sound agricultural practices, limit and contain fire outbreaks and restrict the areas accessible to feral animals. The development requirements and conservation measures may be reinforced on the basis of the inventory of emblematic viewpoints and archaeological sites, entrances to the property and visitor reception areas.

Local management of the property is based on the creation of a World Heritage association in each of the archipelago's six communes, enabling the involvement of local residents, associations and professionals. Alongside the work carried out by the local technical services, these associations are involved in implementing the operational part of the management plan, the strategic guidelines which are defined by the management committee co-chaired by the Minister for Culture, the Environment and Marine Resources of French Polynesia and the President of CODIM. Management is co-led by the ministry, CODIM and the six World Heritage associations through a coordination unit. Participatory governance of the property is essential to ensure that the management plan is anchored locally and to capitalise on the effectiveness of customary practices.

4. Recommends the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Consider further strengthening action against invasive alien species, including through further funding,
 - b) Regarding designation and inventory process:
 - i) Complete the designation of all main archaeological sites within the property under the Heritage Code,
 - ii) Complete the inventory process within a shorter timeframe than expected and preferably by 2030,
 - iii) Make use of the inventory process to document the state of conservation of the recorded sites and identify needed conservation actions,
 - iv) Develop a detailed roadmap to complete the inventory and designation processes in an integrated way and link it with the development of the General Development Plan,
 - c) Establish a regular maintenance programme for the archaeological sites, particularly those open to the public,
 - d) Strengthen complementary legal and/or customary restrictions placed on the use and development in the buffer zones,
 - e) Complete the development and approve the General Development Plan by the end of 2025, and, integrate the provisions of the General Development Plan to those of the management plan for the property and ensure that their provisions are complementary,
 - f) Support the implementation of the management plan through the development of annual or biennial workplans as well as by mid-term reviews,

- g) Strengthen the human capacity and institutional powers of the coordination unit to effectively fulfil its mandate as the main operational body to manage the property and the buffer zones,
 - h) Strengthen and/or establish institutional agreements or protocols between the different actors responsible for implementing the management plan, especially between the coordination unit, the DCP and the DIREN,
 - i) Enhance the monitoring programme for the state of conservation of the property and define an easy-to-use set of indicators (clearly linked with the attributes of the property), methods to be used to collect data in relation to those indicators, a well-established baseline against which changes on the conditions of the attributes can be identified, as well as indicator thresholds that clearly define when action is needed,
 - j) Establish a common data management system, as part of the monitoring programme, to group the data collected by different institutions, in order to gather a clear overview of state of conservation of the property as a whole, and as a mixed property, and use it to inform integrated management decisions,
 - k) Ensure the participation of the local World Heritage associations in management and decision-making processes and that their rights are respected, and their voice heard, during such processes,
 - l) Give further consideration as to how the more formal public administration aspects of the management system could be strengthened by customary practices and instruments such as the kahui and the tapu,
 - m) Establish integrated approaches for the interpretation and presentation of the property that recognize the interconnected character of its cultural and natural values, including the oral tradition and the myths, legends and historical accounts of the Marquesas Islands;
5. Encourages the State Party to consider in future the potential extension of the marine boundaries of the property to enhance coverage and protection of marine habitats;
 6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations.

C. CULTURAL SITES

C.1 AFRICA

C.1.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Royal Court of Tiébélé, Burkina Faso**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Established since the 16th century at the foot of the hill of Tchébili, 172 km south of the capital Ouagadougou and approximately fifteen kilometres north of the border with Ghana, the Royal Court of Tiébélé is an earthen architectural complex that bears testimony to the social organisation and cultural values of the Kasena people.

Its specific architecture, which combines earth, wood, cow dung and straw, is arranged according to a social and spatial distribution inside the Court based on the status of the inhabitants. A distinction is drawn between the mother houses or Dinian, the foundational structures of the domain, with a figure-of-eight floor plan, reserved for the elderly, widows, unmarried women and children; the houses of the young married people, which are quadrangular (Mangolo); and the houses of the adolescent and unmarried men, which are circular (Draa).

In addition to the houses, there are symbolic sacred elements: the pourou, the sacred tumulus where the placenta of the new-borns of the royal family are buried; the red fig tree marking the entrance to the Court, beneath which are placed the sacred stones (dala), on which sit the princes and dignitaries; the nabari, the tomb of the founder of the royal family; the nankongo, which is used as a law court and place of parley; and the bonnalè, the cemetery of the Royal Court. These elements bear eloquent testimony to the preservation of traditional practices specific to Kasena culture.

The Court is also the embodiment of practices and knowhow which help to make it an evolving and living site. The practice of mural decoration, exclusively reserved to the women of the Court, is subject to a repertory of motifs that are both ancient and constantly renewed, and passed on from generation to generation by observation and practice, and by the organisation of ceremonies and competitions. The ritual practices that are fundamental to the ancestor cult and the funeral rites are an integral part of the spiritual and temporal rituals that are specific to Kasena culture, under the authority of the Pê.

Criterion (iii): The Royal Court of Tiébélé is an outstanding example of an earthen architectural complex, which is distinctive in terms of its construction techniques, its spatial, social and functional distribution, the role of men and women in its construction, the plurality of its architectural forms, its decorative style and its specificity as a living site. It is an outstanding illustration of Kasena culture, of which the Royal Court architecture and mural decorations are representative, and of the associated social, anthropological and political aspects. These characteristics bear outstanding and living testimony to the culture and traditions of the Kasena people, which have evolved over time while preserving the identity and values of the Kasena people.

Integrity

The integrity of the Royal Court of Tiébélé is based on the set of concession huts and on the sacred symbolic elements that continue to be used today. The Royal Court has retained its original site and has been preserved from urban development up to the present day by its immediate surroundings, which are still predominantly natural. The property embodies all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. However, integrity continues to be threatened by a lack of maintenance, or even the ruin of certain concessions, and the use of new materials and chemicals. Furthermore, the maintenance of the concessions and their alterations lead sometimes to construction malpractices that cause problems of rising damp, erosion and water drainage. Lastly, hut construction techniques are changing, particularly with the use of the adobe technique, the making of cement brick foundations and the use of tar-based paint coatings; if these practices become widespread, they could adversely affect the integrity of the property.

Authenticity

The Royal Court of Tiébélé has successfully preserved its authenticity with regards to the conservation or evolution of traditional practices, both as concerns construction methods

and the architecture that is specific to the Kasena culture and way of life, which includes the social distribution of tasks of construction and decoration. It is however important to put in place a system that ensures the preservation of ancient motifs, while enabling evolution through the creation of new motifs, thereby strengthening the living character of the property and of the practices and knowhow associated with its architecture. The development of the use of new materials, such as cement, corrugated sheet metal, metal windows and tar and other chemicals to replace the natural pigments used for the mural decorations, could adversely affect the authenticity of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The Royal Court of Tiébélé is under the administrative supervision of the General Directorate of Culture and Art. The Court is legally protected by the Law 024-2007/AN of 13 November 2007 for the protection of the cultural heritage of Burkina Faso and Decree n°2014-1019/PRES/PM/MCT/MEDD/MATS/MATDS of 28 October 2014 for the classification of cultural and natural properties and their inscription on the Tentative List of the heritage of Burkina Faso. Law n°014/96/ADP of 23 May 1996 for agricultural and land reorganisation in Burkina Faso (RAF) allows the community to dispose of its domain, that is the whole of the Court and a large proportion of the buffer zone, which is a property owned by the Pê. The intangible dimension of the Court is taken into account by the Order n°2015-0338/MCT/SG of 23 December 2015 for the proclamation of the Living Human Treasures of Burkina Faso. The management of the Royal Court of Tiébélé is traditionally the task of the Pê (the customary Chief) and of the community.

A conservation and management plan for 2022-2026 was validated in 2021. Two bodies have been set up to implement the plan: a local committee responsible for implementing the plan through conservation actions for the property, and a scientific committee whose task is to carry out specific studies of the property.

The protection and management plan will be strengthened by the incorporation in the management and conservation plan of the existence and potential impacts of land use and development projects that are ongoing or that may arise in the future, the recourse to Heritage Impact Assessments, risk management and monitoring of the implementation of the conservation plan, while defining the roles, responsibilities and modes of operation of the local committee and the scientific committee.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Putting in place a system to ensure the preservation of ancient motifs while facilitating the development of new motifs,
 - b) Controlling the use of new techniques and new construction materials,
 - c) Developing sites to ensure the sustainable supply of traditional materials, for example by the planting of species of plants that are appropriate with regards to the use of wood,
 - d) Finalising the site manager appointment process,
 - e) Providing details of the management and conservation plan as regards the existence and the potential impacts of land use and development projects that are either ongoing or may arise in the future, and as regards the recourse to Heritage Impact Assessments, risk management and monitoring of the implementation of the conservation plan by defining the roles, responsibilities and modes of operation of the local committee and scientific committee,
 - f) Developing a sustainable tourism strategy as part of the management plan,
 - g) Developing the monitoring system to take into account all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value so as to adequately deal with the threats to the conditions of authenticity of the property,

- h) Informing the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies of any development project inside the boundaries of the property or its buffer zone, including the installation of the Kasena traditional architecture interpretation centre and any tourism developments inside the buffer zone,
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi, Kenya**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi was one of the most important and densely populated Swahili cities on the East African coast in the period from the 10th to 17th centuries (and particularly between the 15th and 17th centuries). During this period, Gedi was part of a complex network of trade and cultural exchanges that crossed the Indian Ocean, linking African coastal and inland centres with ports around the Arabian Sea and Southern Asia. Because Gedi was abandoned, its surviving ruins strongly demonstrates the characteristics of Swahili architecture and town planning.

Gedi was an opulent settlement, defined by two rings of irregularly running walls, public and private buildings, street patterns, tombs, and an elaborate palace complex and Grand Mosque. Within the inner walls, the remains of domestic, civic and religious architecture, all constructed from local coral stone and lime mortar, are laid out around a grid street pattern, with the mosques and tombs embellished by carvings and inset with Chinese porcelain. Between the inner and outer walls, there is evidence of more modest houses built for the majority of the residents. The city was serviced by wells and a sophisticated water engineering and management system that is still readable.

Luxury goods imported from China, Persia, India, and Venice found at Gedi demonstrate its role in international trade networks, that were supported by the export of gold, ivory, and other minerals and timber, as well as slaves. Gedi is located inland, 6.5 kilometres away from the Indian Ocean coastline and is surrounded by a remnant coastal forest. Gedi is well-researched, and has the potential to contribute further to the understanding of Swahili coastal settlements and trading histories.

Criterion (ii): The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi exhibits an important interchange of values on architecture, technology and town-planning as a result of its participation over several centuries in the Indian Ocean trading system between the East African coast, the Arabian Sea and Southern Asia. The fusion of African and Islamic beliefs can be seen in the layout of the city, in the distinctive architectural forms of its coral stone buildings, in the decorative details of its mosques and tombs, and in the technical know-how of the wells and hydraulic systems that sustained a large urban settlement over centuries of occupation.

Criterion (iii): The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi bears exceptional testimony to the strong Swahili cultural traditions that developed and flourished as a result of maritime trade between the East African coast and the Indian Ocean from the

10th to the 17th centuries. Gedi was a substantial urban settlement with outstanding features of town planning, architecture, and infrastructure. It is distinctive for the scale and density of its urban settlement, unusual and complex spatial layout, and intricate water engineering.

Criterion (iv): The Historic Town and Archaeological Site of Gedi is an outstanding example of a Swahili settlement from the 10th to the 17th centuries, that reflects a period when the East African coast became part of a global trading network linking Eastern Africa across the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean with India and Southern Asia. Gedi is one of the largest, most well-preserved and well-researched abandoned Swahili Islamic settlements on the East African coast. The architectural and archaeological elements of Gedi demonstrate its opulence, as well as its social stratification.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property are well-defined and contain all the attributes of the historical town including the inner and outer walls, water infrastructure and wells, tombs, mosques, sunken courts, palace, private houses, streets, and alleyways. The attributes are well-documented and the structures and archaeological materials are generally in a good state of conservation, although they are vulnerable and require monitoring and maintenance. Traditional building materials and methods were used for the maintenance of the structures. The visual integrity of the site is also good, due to the protection provided by the surrounding remnant African coastal forest in the buffer zone which is managed with the support of the Kenya Forest Service.

Authenticity

Gedi is an abandoned settlement with standing walls and buried archaeological remains. The abandonment of the settlement and lack of subsequent occupation has ensured a high level of authenticity. The remains of buildings and walls are in their original location, and the town layout is evident. The water sumps and other infrastructure elements are in place. The original building materials have been respected in the conservation works undertaken, and all works are documented. Appropriate conservation measures are in place and a detailed Conservation Management Plan for Gedi is in preparation that should further support the authenticity of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The property has been subject to legal protection since 1927 and is a National Monument protected by the Kenyan National Museums and Heritage Act (2006). The natural values of the surrounding forest are also protected by Kenyan law. At the local level, Gedi is additionally protected through the County Integrated Development Planning processes, and the Spatial Development Framework. All developments within the property and the buffer zone require permission from the National Museums of Kenya and are subject to Heritage Impact Assessment processes.

Gedi is managed by the National Museums of Kenya in cooperation with the Malindi Museum, relevant national and local authorities, and the local community. A management plan (2022-2027) and action plan are in place, and were prepared in cooperation with major stakeholders and the local community. Gedi is vulnerable to fire, and fire management and training are priorities for the disaster risk preparedness plan which is being prepared. Further development of strategies and plans for visitor management, sustainable tourism, archaeological research, interpretation and conservation are planned. The management plan includes actions for capacity building and the transfer of traditional skills. Adequate monitoring is in place, although this should be further augmented by regular monitoring of vegetation, and the development of more specific indicators that can track trends and identify emerging issues.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Collecting and curating conservation reports and records as a basis for conservation decisions and recording the restoration works within the site documentation system,
- b) Continuing the documentation of the attributes of Gedi, including LiDAR and 3D imaging,
- c) Considering the establishment of an advisory mechanism for conservation issues to complement the existing management system, with representation from the National Museums of Kenya, authorities for forestry and wildlife, and the local community,
- d) Ensuring that Heritage Impact Assessments are conducted for all development proposals, including visitor facilities and infrastructure for the site,
- e) Finalising the detailed Conservation Management Plan as a priority, including the approach to restorations,
- f) Completing the disaster risk preparedness plan and developing a fire risk management plan including provisions for the needed equipment and training,
- g) Implementing the five to ten-year research plan and strategy for Gedi, including priorities for cultural mapping, archaeology, history, biodiversity, and climate change impacts,
- h) Developing an interpretation strategy for the property as a priority, including the establishment of a thematic framework, tour routes and information that convey the importance and roles of Gedi within the wider region. Community stories and materials in the local Swahili language, as well as presentation of the biodiversity values of the surrounding forests should be included in the interpretation strategy,
- i) Completing the sustainable tourism strategy and developing a detailed visitor management plan,
- j) Incorporating into the management plan the intangible cultural heritage of Gedi, including local ritual and religious practices.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites, South Africa** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (vi)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites, encapsulates the legacy of the South African liberation struggle of the 20th century. In this nomination the three tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation are inextricably bound together and overlapping the roles these played in the pursuit of peace and justice in South Africa. The interplay of these tenets paved the long road to freedom in the erstwhile apartheid pariah state that was reviled around the world which rallied behind those suffering and dehumanised by oppression. The proposed World Heritage Property commemorates and celebrates the contribution of the struggle to human rights in a global context. Significantly, through its component sites and their symbolism, the proposed World Heritage Site, for the first time in the history of mankind, foregrounds reconciliation as the bedrock of nation building.

This serial nomination demonstrates the events, ideas and belief systems that were at the core of the liberation struggle in South Africa and which, a quarter century afterwards, continues to inspire humanity to adopt reconciliation. The particular legacy of the struggle lies in the connections and interactions between human rights, liberation and reconciliation and the firm belief that human rights fundamentally and inherently belong to all. From the outset it was understood that the struggle was against a system that fostered and entrenched oppression on the basis of racial discrimination, rather than against a demographically delineated group. Firmly espoused by leaders throughout the struggle, this notion paved the way for reconciliation. Each of the ten sites relate to the tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation that interactively propelled the South African liberation struggle to its universally celebrated conclusion.

Philosophies, such as non-racialism and Pan-Africanism persisted throughout the struggle, feeding into the vision that there should be a society based on human rights, where people are at peace with each other and in perpetual pursuit of equity and justice. The outlook of ubuntu, implies that humanity is not embedded in an individual but is a quality that is co-substantively bestowed upon one other, which we owe to each other and through which we find one another. The philosophy of ubuntu was therefore taken as a guiding ideal for the transition from apartheid to the majority rule in South Africa. It ultimately led to reconciliation between opposing parties that provided a basis for the building of a new society. This is demonstrated by the adoption of ubuntu into the Epilogue of the Interim Constitution of South Africa (1993) that “there is a need for understanding but not for vengeance, a need for reparation but not retaliation, a need for ubuntu and not for victimisation”.

The South African liberation struggle gave rise to exceptional African leaders, such as Mandela. This was achieved, amongst other things, through education and a strong belief in liberation. As an international symbol, Mandela is associated with the three tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation, and their expressions as symbolised by the ten sites that lie at the heart of this nomination. For example, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/64/13 of 2009 created a global Nelson Mandela Day on 18 July, while Resolution A/72/243 of 22 December 2017 planned a Nelson Mandela Peace Summit on 24 September 2018 during which a decade of Nelson Mandela (2019-2028) was declared. These events confirm the universal significance of the forward looking legacy that Mandela came to represent over the years.

The UNESCO General Conference Resolution 33C/29 recognises The Roads to independence: African Liberation Heritage, as a common heritage of shared global values. The South African liberation struggle is an outstanding example of how the relationships between human rights, liberation and reconciliation interactively drove a globally supported struggle to its conclusion. The struggle is also a globally celebrated example of how the collective adherence to a common set of values known as human rights and the resultant “coming together” of all its people turned a country away from the abyss, instead providing a framework within which an ongoing thrust to achieve a better life for all can be pursued.

Criterion (vi): The 14 components exemplify strong memories and beliefs in the triumph of human rights, liberation (the quest for freedom) and reconciliation. The component sites of the proposed serial property commemorate and anchor collective memories that bear powerful testimony to human rights as a basic right that belongs to each human being and are based on shared values such as dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence. The sites further show how the violation and denial of these rights led to the struggle and finally liberation but also highlight the interconnectedness between human rights (or the denial thereof), liberation and reconciliation.

Integrity

The 14 components are the physical focal points for the heritage they symbolise. The integrity of each of the sites and their heritage are fully intact and protected through management tools such as Heritage Impact Assessments, Visual Impact Assessments and a plethora of other regulations and laws. As physical “vessels that carry the intangible heritage”, they are “whole”. Although some somewhat remain in their original state, others have been renovated or improved, while interpretation mechanisms have been added to amplify the symbolism they carry and the messages they convey.

Authenticity

The authenticity of each of the fourteen sites lies in how this propagates, maintain and permeate public consciousness of the events and collective memories connected with the site, its symbolism. The events and significance of each site have created an exceptionally rich tapestry of heritage through the eight decades of its various phases and continues to do so. Individually and as a collective, the sites provide powerful expressions of the values, courage and persistence that led to a globally recognised triumph against adversity. The combination of sites illustrates the spectrum of major associations with the process of liberation and achievement of freedom through the attainment of human rights and reconciliation in South Africa.

Protection and management requirements

All fourteen sites are national heritage sites, declared through a comprehensive legal management framework of laws, regulations and planning instruments relating to heritage, conservation, and environmental protection, that comply with the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Protection of the heritage of each site is the first concern and lies at the core of its management plan. Each site has its own management authority that reports to an overarching management authority linked to the National Heritage Council, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). The structure, function, jurisdictions and competencies of this overall World Heritage Site Management Authority are described fully in the Integrated Management Plan for the serial nomination.

4. Notes the completion of repairs at the Sharpeville Massacre Site: Police Station (003) and progress made towards the repairs and conservation at Walter Sisulu Square (002) and The Great Place at Mqhekezweni (014);
5. Also notes the State Party’s existing buffering mechanisms as provided for in the relevant legislation and requests that the State Party undertake workshops with stakeholders including surrounding communities and local authorities on these mechanisms including Heritage Areas, to further strengthen their protection;
6. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Further developing the Integrated Conservation Management Plan to specify the required approaches to conservation, and developing more detailed content in the Site Management Plans about planned conservation and monitoring actions,
 - b) Ensuring that adequate financial and technical resources are available to all site management authorities,
 - c) Developing, as a priority, integrated and overarching strategies for interpretation, education, sustainable tourism and visitor management that can guide the appropriate planning and implementation at each component part, ensuring that there are common standards and presentation of a coherent and broader understanding of the property presented at each location:

- i) Linking interpretation of the component parts with the continuing development of the Liberation Heritage Route (Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route programme) including incorporation of specific interpretation initiatives in the action plans of the Site Management Plans,
 - ii) Considering the possibilities for online interpretation as well as on-site interpretation for each component part,
 - iii) Working with key actors to ensure that divergent perspectives are included in future interpretation of these events and their significance,
 - d) Repairing the gaps in the Phelindaba Cemetery fence,
 - e) Establishing a mechanism for collecting accurate visitor data for all the component parts, and developing carrying capacity assessment and management methods where needed,
 - f) Developing and implementing monitoring indicators for each component part that will facilitate their conservation and allow trends to be discerned and addressed,
 - g) Developing a risk preparedness strategy for each component part that addresses a broad range of risks, including vandalism, security and public safety,
 - h) Ensuring that the proposed hotel development in Liliesleaf (007) is located outside the component part, and is subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment prior to its approval,
 - i) Implementing the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, including the Stakeholder Involvement Strategy and Action Plan,
 - j) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - k) Ensure adequate repairs and conservation for all property component parts and more particularly for those of which the integrity is fragile;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Emergence of Modern Humans: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa, South Africa**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Pinnacle Point Site Complex, and Sibhudu Cave are three widely dispersed archaeological sites located in the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces of South Africa. Two of them, Sibhudu Cave and Diepkloof Rock Shelter, are located about ten kilometres from the current shoreline, while the Pinnacle Point Site Complex is located directly on the coast. These sites provide the most varied and best-preserved record known of the development of modern human behaviour, reaching back as far as 162,000

years. Symbolic thought and advanced technologies are exemplified by evidence of ochre processing, engraved patterns on ochre and bone, estuarine shellfish beads for body decoration, decorated ostrich eggshells, lithic technologies for advanced projectile weapons, heat treatment of stone for toolmaking, and microliths. This serial property contributes to the understanding of the origin of behaviourally modern humans, their cognitive abilities and cultures, and the climatic transitions that they survived.

Criterion (iii): The archaeological layers at the Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Pinnacle Point Site Complex, and Sibhudu Cave provide exceptional evidence of behavioural and palaeoenvironmental developments in the Middle Stone Age. They contain early evidence of symbolic thought and advanced technologies. The great variety of materials, the early dates, and the excellent state of conservation make the evidence of this important step in human development exceptional.

Criterion (iv): Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Pinnacle Point Site Complex, and Sibhudu Cave preserve exceptionally well-stratified and well-dated sedimentary records of ancient human life dating from about 162,000 to 38,000 years ago. The development of modern human behaviour and complex cognition are illustrated by the evidence of abstract thinking, the ability to plan and strategize, and technological innovation, including, for example, the preparation and use of adhesives and the heat treatment of lithic materials.

Criterion (v): Diepkloof Rock Shelter, Pinnacle Point Site Complex, and Sibhudu Cave offer some of the most important evidence known for the consistent exploitation of coastal resources during the Middle and Late Pleistocene. As current sea levels rise due to climate change, much of the ancient record of human coastal resource use has been obliterated or is in grave danger. As such, the excellent state of conservation of these rare sites is pivotal for preserving evidence of palaeoclimates and palaeoenvironments.

Integrity

The property includes all the attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features that convey its significance. All three component parts contain long stratigraphic sequences of human occupation that together cover a time span of about 124,000 years, from 162,000 to 38,000 years ago. Preservation conditions, even for organic material at the Sibhudu Cave, are very good. Favourable depositional processes have allowed the steady accumulation of archaeologically significant deposits with little or no loss due to natural erosion or human or animal activities. The views from the sites are generally undisturbed. Archaeological excavations have been conducted according to the highest international standards. All remains have been carefully curated and catalogued in national collections, and their significance and the interpretations based upon them have been reported and published in international journals.

Authenticity

The cultural values of the property are truthfully and credibly expressed through its attributes. The stratigraphic sequences and the dating of the different deposits, as excavated and documented by several international multidisciplinary teams of experts and peer reviewed at the time of publication, confirm the authenticity of the archaeological contexts and remains that constitute evidence of modern human behaviour.

Protection and management requirements

Legal protection of the property is based principally on the World Heritage Convention Act, No. 49 of 1999, and the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 of 1999, which protect the three component parts and provide for a system of Heritage Impact Assessment. The National Environmental Management Act, No. 107 of 1998, also includes a system of impact assessment.

The management of the Western Cape component parts is coordinated and hosted at the provincial level by the Member (minister) of the Executive Council of Cultural Affairs and

Sport, and the management of the KwaZulu-Natal component part is coordinated and hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Amafa and Research Institute. The two authorities will jointly serve as the overall Management Authority through the establishment of a Joint Management Committee. Each component part will have a Site Management Committee based in the local context. The World Heritage Convention Committee of South Africa advises on issues related to properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Integrated Conservation Management Plans have been developed, as is required under the World Heritage Convention Act of the State Party. Stakeholders and the local communities are well integrated in the management process. The component parts are privately owned, which makes the formalisation of relationships with the legal owners through heritage agreements an important step to be completed as soon as possible.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Making operational the planned management structure, including the installation of an overall Management Authority and individual Site Management Committees,
 - b) Making fully operational the individual Integrated Conservation Management Plans for each component part,
 - c) Finalising and implementing the three heritage agreements,
 - d) Finding regular, secure sources of funding as a priority,
 - e) Formalising the buffer zone extensions of the Pinnacle Point Site Complex and the Sibhudu Cave component parts, through a minor boundary modification request,
 - f) Permanently resolving water flow and seepage problems affecting the Pinnacle Point Site Complex component part,
 - g) Resolving the challenge of conserving, backfilling, and presenting opened excavations in conformity with international standards,
 - h) Defining the monitoring responsibilities more clearly, and developing clear criteria for recording and quantifying the key indicators measuring the state of conservation of the property,
 - i) Providing informative material to visitors, such as on-site information and signs, as well as digital information,
 - j) Conducting a carrying capacity study for each component part,
 - k) Exhibiting more materials from the property in the museums in which they are stored,
 - l) Creating a more coordinated approach regarding research projects at the three component parts,
 - m) Undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposal that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property before any decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse. This includes the planned development project near the Sibhudu Cave component part, the proposed developments near the Pinnacle Point Site Complex component part, and the planned visitor access walkway and on-site visitor infrastructure being suggested for the Diepkloof Rock Shelter component part,
 - n) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines;
5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to “**The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa**”.

C.2 ARAB STATES

C.2.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Umm Al-Jimāl, Jordan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Umm Al-Jimāl, in present-day northern Jordan, preserves the vestiges of a rural settlement that developed organically on the site of an earlier Roman settlement around the 5th century CE and functioned until the end of the 8th century CE, when permanent settlement at the site ceased. Composed of clusters of multi-storey houses with courtyards arranged in three neighbourhoods, the town included sixteen churches of different types. Its layout and distinctive basaltic architecture of mostly domestic and religious character reflect local Hauranian building styles and designs rooted in pragmatism, cost-effectiveness and durability. A few notable well-preserved examples of earlier Roman imperial-type military buildings, which were incorporated into the structure of the town in the Byzantine period after being re-purposed, testify to the resilience of local traditions. The town formed part of a broader agricultural landscape that included a complex water catchment system, composed of a network of reservoirs and channels connecting the settlement to the nearby wadi, that ensured irrigation of the fields. Umm Al-Jimāl bears testimony to the rural way of life on the Hauran plateau in the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, and epitomises the Hauranian culture with its agro-pastoral identity, reflecting the social values and cultural traditions of the Hauranian people. It provides a window into the hinterland of the imperial capitals and urban centres of the time.

Criterion (iii): As a typical rural Hauranian settlement that developed around agricultural and animal herding activities on the Hauran basaltic plateau, Umm Al-Jimāl is one of the most representative examples of the rural lifestyle of the Hauranian people, reflecting the key aspects of their cultural traditions and social values embodied in the well-preserved distinctive basalt architecture. By preserving the local architectural character and cultural traditions over centuries despite political or religious change, the property testifies to the resilience of the Hauranian culture.

Integrity

The property encompasses all the attributes of the settlement, including elements of the water catchment system, that are enclosed within the stone town wall. Preserved purposefully in a ruined state, these vestiges are in satisfactory overall condition, but in many cases the structures are not secured and some attributes remain vulnerable due to the lack of maintenance. The northern section of the property that has been left “untouched” entirely needs attention. The integrity of the broader setting of Umm Al-Jimāl has been compromised, as the agricultural landscape that once supported the existence of the settlement has been transformed and the ancient cemeteries damaged. The wadi rehabilitation project to the west of the site has heavily affected the setting of the property. Some modern structures within the buffer zone further compromise the visual integrity of the property.

Authenticity

The property is authentic in its form, design, and materials. Only a few of more than 170 structures in Umm Al-Jimāl have been investigated archaeologically. Restoration interventions have been kept to the minimum and include mostly consolidation; in a few cases anastylosis was completed. The only reconstructed House 119 serves as a visitor centre and a site museum. The water catchment system has been revitalised with a modern hose delivery system that mirrors the ancient channels. The agricultural landscape setting of the property has been transformed in result of contemporary urban developments, and the ancient burial grounds located outside the settlement's wall were damaged. The rehabilitation of the wadi to the west of the site has further negatively affected the setting of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The site of Umm Al-Jimāl is a National Property and Protected Area since 1939, designated as "Antiquities Protectorate". It is owned by the State and its boundaries are registered with the Department of Lands and Survey. The property is protected by the Antiquities Law 21/1988 and subsequent amendments, which also provide for the existence of a buffer zone with legal restrictions on construction or modification of buildings. Zoning regulations further control urban development in the buffer zone.

The Department of Antiquities of Jordan is responsible for the protection and management of the property. At the site level, Umm Al-Jimāl is under the purview of the Department's Mafrāq Antiquities Directorate and its Umm Al-Jimāl Site Management Unit. The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities through its Mafrāq office assumes control of tourism development, activities and facilities. Umm Al-Jimāl New Municipality collaborates in protecting the site and enforcing buffer zone restrictions.

The Umm Al-Jimāl Site Management Plan, which presents a five-year vision for the future management of the site and formalisation of processes geared towards protection of the property, is yet to be approved.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
- a) Completing, approving and implementing the Umm Al-Jimāl Site Management Plan,
 - b) Finalising the baseline documentation and the assessment of conservation requirements, and preparing a comprehensive conservation plan that would include a maintenance programme for the entire site,
 - c) Developing further the monitoring system based on the relevant documentation of the attributes of the site and the identified threats,
 - d) Preparing a disaster risk management plan as an integral part of the Umm Al-Jimāl Site Management Plan,
 - e) Considering introducing signage and physical limitations to restrict tourist access to areas with unstable structures,
 - f) Developing a research strategy to ensure that archaeological investigation across the site is consistent and targeted,
 - g) Formally adopting the zoning regulations related to land-use and type of construction allowed that cover the buffer zone,
 - h) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for all development proposals within the property (including the tourist infrastructure refurbishments at the southern entrance) and major construction projects within the buffer zone,
 - i) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area, Saudi Arabia**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area is located at the junction of the Empty Quarter Desert and the Wajid sandstone outcrops of the Jabal Tuwayq Plateau and escarpment in the south of Saudi Arabia. It is an exceptional physical testimony to the successive human occupations from the Palaeolithic to the Late pre-Islamic era, showing how different peoples adapted to the evolving natural environment in the inland region of Arabia, which experienced a much wetter climate, before becoming a drier region, and finally one of the driest deserts in the world.

The vast relict cultural landscape encapsulates extremely rich archaeological remains, including the flint tools of the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods; a huge number of funerary “avenues” of stone structures dating from the second half of the 3rd millennium to the beginning of the 2nd millennium BCE and radiating out from the oasis; and numerous tumuli at the foothills of Jabal Tuwayq dating from 2000-1900 BCE. These are associated with a group of nomads linked to the Gulf and the Mesopotamian civilisation. The remains of the antique caravan city of Qaryat al-Faw and its oasis, which appeared in the middle of the 1st millennium BCE and lasted almost a millennium until the irreversible depletion of water resources led to its abandonment in the 5th century CE, exhibit a rich urban and architectural legacy, with a vast irrigation network and a large area of ancient plantation pits to sustain the oasis economy. As an important caravan relay on the route leading from Najran to central and eastern Arabia, the forts/caravanserais, commercial quarters, residential areas, and necropolises bear witness to a thriving and cosmopolitan caravan city and the capital of the kingdom of Kinda, a federal organisation of Arabian desert tribes. The presence of various groups is manifested by the linguistic diversity of inscriptions and rock carvings found at the sacred mountain of Khashm Qaryah and in the residential areas and necropolises.

Criterion (ii): The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area exhibits an important interchange of human values, from the middle of the 1st millennium BCE to the 5th century CE, between the southern Arabian Peninsula, the Red Sea, and Yemen, as well as the Northwest of Arabia, the Fertile Crescent, and the Mediterranean world, and finally the Gulf region, Mesopotamia, and Persia in the east. The rich collection of archaeological findings and inscriptions is a tangible manifestation of the role of the site as an important meeting place for different groups of people who built the caravan city of Qaryat al-Faw and the influences and cultural exchanges between the tribes of the desert and the trading groups that occupied and resided in the area over time.

Criterion (v): The Cultural Landscape of Al-Faw Archaeological Area is an outstanding example of traditional human settlement and land use over millennia. The large quantity and diversity of archaeological remains provide valuable information that demonstrates the variety of ways in which humans have interacted with the environment for millennia, taking advantage of the natural conditions at different times. It also illustrates the vulnerability of human settlement and land use under the impact of irreversible climate change.

Integrity

The vast property area includes all the archaeological remains, such as the Palaeolithic and Neolithic stone tools; the tapered structure; cairns and circular constructions; the rock inscriptions, paintings, and engravings on the cliff of the sacred mountain of Khashm Qaryah and other parts of the property; the huge number of tumuli and cairns in the valley; the forts/caravanserais; the oasis and its water management system; and the ruin of the City of Qaryat. These archaeological remains, together with the landscape in the property area, testify to the multifaceted cultures and belief systems of the populations that once occupied the site, their interaction with both the environment and with other parts of the world through trade, political, and military activities. Preserved by the desert environment since the site was abandoned in the 5th century CE, the archaeological resources have remained intact. While a few factors affect the property, such as the natural deterioration of the exposed archaeological remains and farming in the buffer zone, these factors are under control thanks to preventive interventions and legal provisions.

Authenticity

Encapsulated by the desert environment, the property remained as it was after its abrupt abandonment in the 5th century CE. With all the archaeological structures and remains undisturbed by human activities, only slow natural deterioration occurred over time. The natural setting and the landscape in the property have undergone a certain degree of natural evolution, such as the collapse of some parts of the cliff, which buried some tumuli and cairns at the escarpment. While considering that the natural deterioration of the archaeological remains and the natural evolution of the landscape are also part of the authentic process of the history of the site, the source of information preserved at the property is credible.

Protection and management requirements

The property is registered as a National Heritage Site and is protected under the Law of Antiquities, Museums and Urban Heritage. The escarpment and the plateau are also protected under the Protected Areas Law as part of the 'Uruq Bani Mu'arid Protected Area. Tribal law helps to protect the landscape from disturbance. The property is entirely state-owned. The vast buffer zone encompasses a significant stretch of the cliff, escarpment, and desert and is mostly composed of public lands. It provides an additional layer of protection to the cultural landscape, while the Respect Zone adds another layer of protection to the visual quality of the landscape, preventing the property from future encroachment by farming and other types of development.

Responsibility for managing the property is shared between the Heritage Commission of the Saudi Ministry of Culture and the National Centre for Wildlife. A joint management framework is being established to coordinate the efforts of the cultural and natural conservation sectors. This framework is guided by the Management Charter and is supported by the Higher Committee, the Scientific Committee, and the Local Committee. The management plan is a contractual agreement and a collective commitment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Culture, the Heritage Commission, the National Centre for Wildlife, and the local authorities concerned. It is a guiding document for the medium- and long-term protection, conservation, management, and monitoring of the property. The Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism has been embedded in the management system, and the decision-making process is accessible to the local communities. Future research is planned on both the archaeology of the property and the artefacts retrieved during the excavations. Tourism management is at an incipient stage, and the presentation and interpretation of the values of the site should be improved by placing the narratives in the regional context.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Completing as a priority the establishment of the proposed joint management framework integrating the cultural and natural sectors, guided by the Management Charter, and reinforcing community participation mechanisms,
- b) Prioritising capacity building for the site staff,
- c) Implementing the road bypass plan to reduce the impact of traffic on the property,
- d) Continuing research and experiments on conservation interventions for the exposed structures,
- e) Developing a long-term research strategy to fill the gaps in knowledge about the site,
- f) Completing the visitor management and interpretation plans, including strengthened education and involvement of youth in the interpretation of the heritage values,
- g) Improving the presentation and interpretation of the values of the property by placing the narratives within the regional context.

C.3 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

C.3.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Beijing Central Axis runs from north to south through the heart of historical Beijing. It is defined by former imperial palaces and gardens, imperial sacrificial buildings, ancient city management facilities, ceremonial and public buildings and Central Axis roads remains. The Axis bears testimony to the evolution of the city exhibiting evidence of the imperial dynastic system and urban planning traditions of China. The location, layout, urban pattern and design of the Axis showcase the ideal capital city paradigm prescribed in the Kaogongji, an ancient text known as the Book of Diverse Crafts. The Central Axis originated in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) that established Dadu, its capital, in what corresponds to the northern section of the Axis. The property also features later historical structures built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and improved during the Qing Dynasty (1636-1912).

Criterion (iii): Beijing Central Axis contributes significantly to the global history of urban planning, with its specific characteristics reflecting a cultural and political system developed in China during the imperial dynastic period. This urban planning tradition influenced the planning of other East and Southeast Asian capitals. The principles of planning used for the design of the urban layout which include the definition of the north-south axis and the establishment of a “centre” depict Confucian ideas expressed in the Kaogongji, or Book of Diverse Crafts, which intend to provide neutrality and harmony to

the society by means of symmetry and balance in the urban layout. The ritual dimension of this urban planning approach also required placing temples in balance with the Axis and connections to the agricultural ritual calendar performed with seasonal festivities. This balance and symmetry as well as the specific elements of the temples and the centre are still visible and well conserved in the property. This urban planning tradition lasted until the end of the imperial dynastic system, and since then, has been influential but transformed with modern practices. Nevertheless, festivities connected to the ancient agricultural calendar are still performed, including rituals in some of the temples composing the Axis.

Criterion (iv): Beijing Central Axis is an exceptionally well-preserved example of an urban ensemble developed based on an ancient urban planning theory, founded in Confucian principles related to a ritual dimension with city planning, politics, and governance. The principles of the Kaogongji have persisted in the Axis during the imperial dynastic period against the growth and urbanisation of Beijing, providing an illustration of a distinct urban pattern which represents a particular typology in the urban history of the world originated and developed during the imperial dynastic system in China.

Integrity

The integrity of Beijing Central Axis is based on the completeness of the Central Axis as an urban ensemble which carries development over the imperial dynastic system. All the attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value are found within the boundaries of the property. The buffer zone provides an added layer of protection helping to contain urban pressures which Beijing Central Axis is vulnerable to. Planning instruments have been developed to address these vulnerabilities as well as increasing tourism pressures, such as the Regulations on the Conservation of Beijing Historical and Cultural City (2021) and the Conservation and Management Plan for Beijing Central Axis (2022-2035).

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property is based on the continuity of the Central Axis as a core of the capital city. The location, natural setting and to some extent, the historical urban setting have been preserved, particularly its layout. The layout of the Axis, as well as some of its attributes, such as the Forbidden City, the Drum and Bell Towers, Jingshan Hill, the Temple of Heaven and other imperial sacrificial and ceremonial buildings have been preserved as they were developed during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. While some elements within the boundaries of the property, such as historical structures, have undergone demolition, reconstruction and remodelling, and areas of the property have undergone and continue to be under rehabilitation and renovation works, the form and design, urban and architectural characteristics of the imperial palaces and gardens, and most of the city management facilities have been maintained. Traditional techniques related to the construction and maintenance of these historical buildings have been maintained, as well as some ritual traditions and knowledge connected to it, including music and festivals. The function of the historical buildings however has changed and has been converted to public uses. The functions of the Axis as a whole has been preserved, as the core of the capital city.

Protection and management requirements

Beijing Central Axis attributes are strictly protected by national and local legislation. In particular, the Regulations on the Conservation of Beijing Central Axis Cultural Heritage and the Conservation and Management Plan for Beijing Central Axis (2022-2035) have been enacted based on the consent of rightsholders and stakeholders, and tailored to the protection of the property and the buffer zone. Multi-level urban plans from the municipal level to the block level have been published and implemented.

Nineteen institutions are involved in the management system. An Advisory and Coordinating Mechanism has been established having Beijing Municipal Leading Group for Building the National Cultural Center as the main manager and coordinating entity. The Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau oversees the integrated protection of the property considering all aspects of the planning framework. The National Cultural Heritage Administration provides technical guidance to the Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau which functions under the People's Government of Beijing Municipality. Each heritage element is under the authority of a site management agency. The Beijing Central Axis Conservation Center has been created to coordinate the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan for Beijing Central Axis (2022-2035) with all other eighteen institutions involved.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Continuing to enforce sustainable tourism management measures that mitigate impacts on the property, buffer zone and its residents,
 - b) Reinforcing the involvement of residents of the property and buffer zone in the management system of the Beijing Central Axis by establishing a coordinating platform with clear mechanisms of participation,
 - c) Continuing interpretation and presentation works to clearly convey the role of the World Heritage properties that form part of the Beijing Central Axis,
 - d) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty are a royal mound burial necropolis established by the Tai-Ahom in northeastern India. Set in the foothills of the Patkai Ranges in eastern Assam, the property contains features sacred to the Tai-Ahom and demonstrates their funerary traditions. Led by Prince Siu-kha-pha, the Tai-Ahom migrated to present-day Assam in the 13th century and selected Charaideo as their first capital and location for the royal necropolis. For 600 years (from the 13th to the 19th centuries CE), the Tai-Ahom created moidams (“home-for-spirit”) that work with the natural features of hills, forests, and water, creating a sacred geography by accentuating the natural topography. Sacred trees were planted and water bodies were created.

Ninety moidams are found within the Charaideo necropolis, sited on elevated land. The moidams have been created by building an earth mound (Ga-Moidam) over a hollow vault constructed of brick, stone or earth (Tak), and topped by a shrine (Chou Cha Li) at the centre of an octagonal wall (Garh). This shape symbolises the Tai universe. The shrine at the top is the Mungklang, a middle space symbolised as a golden ladder establishing a heaven-earth continuum. The vaults contain the buried or cremated remains of kings and other royal individuals together with grave goods such as food, horses, and elephants, and sometimes queens and servants. The moidams within the property testify to the changes in materials and design of the burial mounds over time. This is a physical space

where Tai-Ahom royals became gods, symbolising a heaven-earth continuum. The Tai-Ahom rituals of Me-Dam Me-Phi (ancestor worship) and Tarpan (libation) are practiced at the Charaideo necropolis.

Criterion (iii): Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty bear witness to 600 years of Tai-Ahom royal funerary architecture and customs and are a testimony to Tai-Ahom cultural traditions from the 13th to 19th centuries CE. The archaeological remains of the moidams are evidence of the architecture, layout, and manifestations of the Tai-Ahom beliefs and traditions. The continuing ritual practices of Tai-Ahom at the property are also significant in relation to this criterion.

Criterion (iv): Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty are an outstanding example of a Tai-Ahom necropolis that represents in a tangible way the Tai-Ahom funerary traditions and associated cosmologies. For around 600 years, the Tai-Ahom sculpted this landscape according to their cosmological beliefs. The undulating topography was accentuated by excavating ditches and marking the troughs with moidams. The natural vegetation was enhanced by planting sacred trees, and water bodies were added by channelising streams to fill them. Together these features symbolise the Tai universe, and a heaven-earth continuum.

Integrity

The property contains the most important and well-preserved Tai-Ahom royal mound burials (moidams). These are protected by national and state legal frameworks. The state of conservation is generally good, and the factors affecting the property are heavy rainfall, soil erosion and vegetation growth. The boundaries are appropriate, and the buffer zone protects the setting and other features associated with the Tai-Ahom.

Authenticity

The Charaideo necropolis is a sacred landscape with built royal burial mounds that reflect Tai-Ahom beliefs. The moidams are largely intact, as is the rural landscape setting. The Buranjis (royal chronicles) provide details of the Tai-Ahom world view and daily life, including the funerary rituals and spiritual associations, as well as details of the materials and labour required to construct the moidams.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act of 2010, the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, and the Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Act, 1959. The National Monument Authority and Directorate of Archaeology, Government of Assam regulate development in the buffer zone, and the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India approves application for archaeological excavation. No development is allowed within the property.

The property is jointly managed by the Assam Government's Directorate of Archaeology (DOA) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The Group of Four Maidams is an Ancient Monument of National Importance, and the remainder of the property is the Charaideo Archaeological Site, an Ancient Monument of State Importance. Three committees have been established to ensure coordination: the State-level Apex Committee, a Local Level Committee that oversees maintenance issues, and a Ministerial Committee for overseeing works and projects.

The management system is guided by the National Policy for Conservation of the Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains (2014). The Site Management Plan of Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty (2023-2030) applies to the whole property. The Infrastructure/Protection, Preservation of Charaideo Moidams Archaeological Site five-year project focuses on improvements to visitor infrastructure. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act of 2010, establishes processes and requirements for Heritage Impact

Assessments. Further development of the management system to include a sustainable tourism strategy and interpretation plan is needed; as well as further development of the research plan and implementation of a landscape approach to the management of the property.

Local communities regard the moidams as sacred burial sites and actively protect them. In recognition of the importance of the involvement of local communities, additional strategies for community engagement have been outlined.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Removing the boundary wall between the areas managed by the Assam Government's Directorate of Archaeology (DOA) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI),
 - b) Implementing and further developing the research plan in cooperation with academic partners,
 - c) Finalising the state level protection of Ahom sites located within the buffer zone,
 - d) Developing the sustainable tourism strategy and interpretation plan,
 - e) Implementing the proposed measures for community engagement and further developing mechanisms for formal community participation in the management structures,
 - f) Further developing the landscape approach to the long-term management of the property, buffer zone and wider setting.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Hegmataneh, Islamic Republic of Iran**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii) and (iii)**;
3. Takes note of the provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Hegmataneh is important archaeological remains of Median, Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid and Islamic periods. The name of the site is taken from the term "Hangmata", which means 'gathering place'. It is said that prior to the formation of the Medes Dynasty this place served as a centre for public gatherings. Herodotus brings reference of a gathering of the Medes wherein Diaco (Dayukku) is appointed king, in ancient and other resources, "Hegmataneh" is mentioned under different names, including "Ecbatana, Egbatana" in Greek, "Ecbatana, Ecbatanis Partierum" in Latin. Hegmataneh is as the capital of the Median Government in ancient times, a city which has been the capital and has been one of the important government cities in different periods, wherein Cyrus the Great, the founder of the glorious Achaemenid Empire was born.

The Hegmataneh is not only the capital of an important ancient civilization of Median Empire but also serving as the summer capital in the following periods, including the Achaemenid period, also, the archaeological remains in Hegmataneh present an exceptional testimony of the creative planning and architectural and urban solutions developed during the Parthian era that were designed through interactions amongst diverse ethnicities and religions.

Criterion (ii): The Hegmataneh exhibits important evidence of the cultural interchanges amongst the cultures and civilisations of the Middle East in the 1st millennium BCE. The archaeological remains of town planning and architecture of the Parthian period, as well as the presence of artefacts made for the royal palaces in Susa and Persepolis, testify to the craftsmanship of the masters of Hegmataneh and to the transfer of knowledge from Hegmataneh to other major ancient cities.

Criterion (iii): Hegmataneh provide exceptional evidence of the cultural, social, economic, and political developments of several civilisations occupying the Iranian Plateau since the 1st millennium BCE. Hegmataneh is amongst the ancient cities of the Middle East chosen as the capital of the Medes and continued to be one of the most important government seats through the Achaemenid, Parthian, Sasanian, and Islamic periods. the nominated property provides important and rare evidence of the Medes civilisation, it also presents important evidence of the cultures and civilisations that successively occupied the city. The archaeological remains present an exceptional testimony of the creative planning and architectural solutions developed during the Parthian era that were designed through interactions amongst diverse ethnicities and religions.

Integrity

The property area includes the archaeological remains, from the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian periods that has remained intact. the integrity of the nominated property is based on the creativity and innovation in urban planning and architecture found at the Hegmataneh hill archaeological site, where the evidence of together with the landscape of hill in the property area, testify to the multifaceted cultures and civilisations.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the nominated property is based on its forms and designs, materials and substances, uses and functions, locations and settings, and spirit and feeling. Important archaeological evidence of the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras is preserved in situ on the Hegmataneh hill. archaeological finds from the early periods are also preserved and the excavated mudbrick walls have been conserved using various methods: covered with an overhead canopy, plastered with a layer of a traditional mix of mud and straw, covered with soil, or encased in protective shells. Some parts of the Hegmataneh fortification walls have been reconstructed with traditional materials for interpretation purposes.

Protection and management requirements

The property is state-owned and fully protected by law. organizations and protection teams have been established, and detailed management regulations and measures have been enacted. National law and bylaws, such as the Law for Protection of National Heritage (1930), the Bylaw Concerning Prevention of Unauthorised Excavation (1980), and the Bylaw on Conservation of Iranian Cultural Heritage (2002), regulate different aspects concerning protection, conservation, maintenance, and development. The national development plans and strategy documents, as well as conservation standards prepared by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran (IMCHTH) provide an additional set of national protective measures for the nominated property.

The Hegmataneh Base, the site-based management body of the IMCHTH, is the primary management authority for the nominated property and its buffer zone. It is directly responsible for all conservation actions, planning, and coordination in the designated property and buffer. the activities of the Base are supervised by the Hamedan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Head Office and the IMCHTH through its provincial branch. The work of the Hegmataneh of Hamedan Base is supported by a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee. The Steering Committee ensures administrative coordination amongst the central and local state bodies, academia, and experts. It also

approves annual management plans, research project proposals, and annual technical reports by the Base. The Technical Committee manages the technical conservation issues and monitoring of the nominated property via cross-sectoral working groups for restoration, social policies, training, tourism, economic planning, security, urban services, and infrastructure. The Hegmataneh Base has an adequate budget and level of staffing to fulfil its statutory duties.

Tourism is amongst the priorities for the development of the historic city and is included in different urban plans and strategies. The National Tourism Development Plan and the Comprehensive Tourism Plan of Hamedan Province provide the policy framework for planning tourism development in the area. There is no visitor pressure in the nominated property except during Nowruz (Iranian New Year), when the pressure is mitigated by increasing the number of guards and guides and improving guidance for visitors to the archaeological sites. Planning, monitoring, and developing tourism and tourist products is the responsibility of the provincial branch of the IMCHTH, while the Hegmataneh Base manages visitors at the archaeological sites. Development of the tourism infrastructure is amongst the components of the short-, medium-, and long-term objectives of the management plan, which includes actions such as adapting historic buildings for tourism purposes, improving public spaces, lighting and street furniture, updating the entrance control system of the Hegmataneh archaeological site, enhancing tourist routes and visitor facilities, managing visitation time, educating visitors, training tour guides, and improving security.

There is an adequate legal and policy framework to encourage public participation in heritage conservation, as well as in cultural and economic life in general. Various departments of the provincial Office of the Governor-General, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in Hamedan, non-governmental organisations, as well as the Hegmataneh and Historical Centre of Hamedan Base and the IMCHTH, share the responsibility for ensuring the participation of local communities, including women and youth, in different activities and programmes. Participation of local communities in the management of the nominated property is enabled through the Steering Committee of the Hegmataneh and Historical Centre of Hamedan Base. However, the representatives of the Committee are drawn mostly from institutional partners. The link with the community is made through the chairpersons or representatives of the Chamber of Guilds, City Council, and non-governmental organisations.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Submit the maps of the revised property boundaries of the archaeological remains,
 - b) Develop the various research and conservation actions into a comprehensive conservation programme that allows for the long-term research, conservation, and presentation of the archaeological finds,
 - c) Redefine the role and legal status of the management plan and consider the identification of attributes, the integration of local community and the conservation plan in the management plan,
 - d) Further develop the documentation and enhance the monitoring system,
 - e) Submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the integrated Management Plan;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Sado Island Gold Mines, Japan**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Sado Island Gold Mines are a serial property located on Sado Island, some fifty-five kilometers west of the Niigata Prefecture coast. It is formed of three component parts articulated around two main mining areas – the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine – illustrative of different unmechanised mining methods implemented during the Edo period (1603-1868). The first cluster covers a large mining area used for placer gold mining, including waterways necessary for placer mining. The second cluster includes two component parts connected by a route today interrupted for a short section and corresponding to the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass. The two component parts of the second cluster cover two different mining areas – the Tsurushi Silver Mine and the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine Area. The latter also includes part of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, in which the remains of the Sado Magistrate's Office are found. Mostly tangible attributes reflecting mining activities and social and labour organisation are preserved as archaeological elements, both above and below ground, and landscape features.

Criterion (iv): The Sado Gold Mines is an exceptional example in the Asian context of the continuity of manual mining and smelting technology in a period when mechanisation was progressively being introduced elsewhere. The management system and social and work organisation deployed by the Tokugawa Shogunate at Sado made it possible to extract and process considerable quantities of high-quality gold for global standards in the 17th century. This is reflected in the mining area and settlement organisation. Based on the characteristics of ore deposits found on Sado Island, the Shogunate applied and integrated production organisation and methods most suitable for extracting and processing the ore. To guarantee the efficiency of operation, settlement, mining and processing functions coexisted in the same areas or in close proximity to one another.

Integrity

The Sado Island Gold Mines comprise the most important areas reflecting gold production processes applied on Sado Island during the Tokugawa Shogunate, such as mining methods adapted to different types of deposits, a series of production processes, and the transition of the controlled settlement system. The component parts still retain their key features, as past mining and settlement zones, and have not been destroyed or significantly altered. The property is a serial property comprising the two areas of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine. It is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the attributes of the OUV of the site. A significant number of remains of mines, and their associated settlements, survive both on the surface and underground within the nominated property.

The sites of mining and settlements within the nominated property are, as a whole, well preserved and managed appropriately by the owners or the custodial bodies based upon appropriate legal frameworks.

Authenticity

In Sado Island Gold Mines, the location of the key activities, the layout of land arrangements and modifications to carry out mining activities or to adapt them for

residential or production purposes, physical traces of mining-related operations such as tunnels, waterways, and headraces, terraces, post-holes, landforms, as well as of ore-processing and administrative functions demonstrates the past use and functions carried out at these sites. The settlement zones have maintained their original layout, although their built fabric has changed, as well as the way in which spaces are used. The key sources of information for the authenticity and understanding of the functioning of the nominated series are represented by ancient documentary records, especially drawings and images. These documents are crucial for understanding and interpreting the remains still on site.

Protection and management requirements

All component parts are designated as Important Cultural Landscapes or Historic Sites under the national Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The Important Cultural Landscapes designation relates to the inhabited areas, such as Sasagawa and Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, while the Historic Sites designation covers the mining areas. Protection is extended also to natural or artificial topographic features. Activities in both types of designation are regulated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which operates at the national level. Sado Municipality has issued guidelines to provide support in case of interventions within protected landscapes. For projects that may have the potential to have negative impacts on the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, heritage impact assessments will have to be carried out by the implementing body.

The buffer zone of Nishimikawa Area is protected under the Cultural Properties Act as an Important Cultural Landscape. The buffer zone for the Aikawa-Tsurushi component part is protected as Landscape Special District through the Landscape Act, including the portion encompassing the western offshore region of the buffer zone. A considerable portion of the land-based buffer zone to the west of Aikawa is also identified as an Important Cultural Landscape and hence protected under the Cultural Properties Act. This extends into the offshore region.

The heritage management system has established processes and protocols for ensuring connection at the national, prefectural and local government levels. The legislative and institutional frameworks ensure the protection of all three areas with a transparent hierarchy and referral of controls and decisions. Community engagement is enshrined in social processes and approaches from the national level down. The Sado City government structure allows for conservation activities to be complemented with programmes across other divisional areas, such as museums and tourism. It also allows for engagement with stakeholder entities, including the commercial and private sectors. Once inscribed a World Heritage Council will be established as a decision-making collegial body regarding World Heritage matters. The Council will be administered by Niigata Prefecture. Putting into operation decisions taken by the Council will be the responsibility of the World Heritage departments of the Niigata Prefecture and Sado City.

The Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP, January 2023) has been prepared as an umbrella document to clarify policies, procedures, concrete measures and the administrative management system. This plan is supported by existing preservation and management plans for the component parts (i.e. Nishimikawa, Tsurushi and Aikawa).

In the context of multiple land ownerships, both government and private, and local residents across the nominated property, the CMP provides guidance through flowcharts on decision-making processes and the operation of activities such as heritage impact assessments. It includes a section that provides for the roles of various stakeholders, including each level of government responsibility. Regarding some key stakeholders, such as Golden Sado, it is indicated that appropriate agreements will be made, including aspects such as management, public access and use.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Strengthening the protection of the entirety of the buffer zone of the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine component part by designating it as Important Cultural Landscape,
 - b) Embedding Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the Landscape Plan that are based on the potential impacts on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value and not on the size of the projects,
 - c) Developing a long-term archaeology strategy to ensure that future archaeological research is undertaken in a consistent and informed manner,
 - d) Developing guidelines for forestry management to ensure that disturbance of sub-surface archaeology is minimal,
 - e) Developing an interpretation and presentation strategy and facilities that comprehensively address, at the site level, the whole history of the property throughout all periods of mining exploitation,¹
 - f) Developing a carrying-capacity study and visitor management to ensure that a potential increase in tourism does not negatively affect the property,
 - g) Reviewing the plans adopted before the Comprehensive Management Plan to verify that their provisions are coherent with the aim of protecting the Outstanding Universal Value in the long term,
 - h) Considering, in the future, the designation of clearly identified former mining areas as nationally designated historic sites;
5. Requests the State Party to submit the map showing the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone revised in accordance with the ICOMOS recommendations as soon as they become available;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex, Malaysia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (v)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex, located in Niah National Park on the west coast of Borneo Island, is a group of archaeological sites that contain the longest-known records of human interaction with rainforests. Within a complex

¹ The World Heritage Committee takes note of the statement made by Japan, as regards the interpretation and presentation strategy and facilities that comprehensively address, at the site level, the whole history of the nominated property throughout all periods of mining exploitation as referred to in paragraph 4.e), which is contained in the Summary Record of the session (document WHC/24/46.COM/INF.17).

of colossal interconnected caverns and caves located in a limestone massif, are archaeological sites, rock paintings, and boat-shaped coffins. This rich evidence demonstrates a multifaceted process of human development and adaptation to the physical environment, specifically to the modification of the tropical rainforest from at least 50,000 years ago to the Mid-Holocene, including the transition from foraging to rice farming, arboriculture, and vegeculture. The findings here have contributed significantly to the debate over the nature of the early dispersal of ancient humans across this region and globally.

Criterion (iii): The Niah Caves Complex contains archaeological evidence that represents an exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions of the two disconnected populations in the distant past who existed from the Pleistocene to the Mid-Holocene, exhibiting the rainforest lifestyles, forest management systems (vegeculture), and elaborate funerary practices of prehistoric humans. It contributes significantly to the existing knowledge of human development, adaptation, and dispersal in Southeast Asia and in a global context.

Criterion (v): The Niah Caves Complex is an outstanding example of very early human settlement and land use in the Southeast Asian region, and of human interaction with a changing environment during prehistoric times.

Integrity

The property is of adequate size and contains all the attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value, including the entire rock massif and its complex of caves within which the excavated sites, rock paintings, and boat-shaped coffins are located, as well as the sites identified as having archaeological potential. The physical fabric and significant features of the property are in good condition, and the negative factors affecting the property are under control.

Authenticity

The geo-morphological features of the massif and caves have not changed significantly despite the slow dissolution of the limestone over time as a result of natural processes. The excavated sites are well preserved without backfill or other forms of later alteration, testifying to their authentic state at the time of their excavation. Although the locations of the objects extracted from these sites have been changed, these archaeological findings have been appropriately conserved, stored, and displayed in museums. The rock paintings are in their original locations, without any interventions.

Protection and management requirements

The property is state-owned and is legally protected at the national and state levels. At the national level, the property is included in the Bukit Subis Protected Forest that was established under the Forest Ordinance in 1951. Niah National Park was established in 1974 and is protected by the National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance and the Wildlife Protection Ordinance of 1998. At the state level, the property is protected by the Sarawak Heritage Ordinance, 2019. The Sarawak Forestry Corporation and the Sarawak Museum Department are the main governmental institutions responsible for implementing the legislative provisions. The buffer zone and a one-kilometre radius zone from the property boundaries provide additional layers of protection.

The management system is a collaborative and coordinated one between the main stakeholders, with the Sarawak Forestry Corporation taking the lead while the Sarawak Museum Department is responsible for the conservation of the cultural heritage. The local communities are involved in the management of the site in a number of ways. The management system is supported and advised by the Special Park Committee for Niah National Park. The management activities are guided by a number of plans, the most comprehensive being the Integrated Conservation Management Plan for the Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex (2024). The key

challenges that require long-term attention include securing sustainable funding and the expertise of the staff working on site, the fading of the rock paintings, and the algal growth at the excavated sites.

4. **Recommends** that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Submitting to the World Heritage Centre a comprehensive map indicating the boundaries of the World Heritage property and of its extended buffer zone, including the size of both areas in hectares, as well as the one-kilometre radius zone that extend around the perimeter of the property,
 - b) Restructuring the management system as proposed in the Integrated Conservation Management Plan for the Archaeological Heritage of Niah National Park's Caves Complex to solve the problems regarding sustainable funding and the expertise of the staff working on site,
 - c) Continuing research and monitoring to address the conservation issues of the rock paintings and algal growth at the excavated sites,
 - d) Developing and implementing a research plan to guide future academic activities and to secure appropriate funding for the research.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. **Having examined** Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. **Inscribes** the **Phu Phrabat Historical Park, Thailand**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (v)**;
3. **Adopts** the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Phu Phrabat Historical Park is the best representative of the Sīma stone tradition of the Dvaravati period (7th-11th century CE) in the world. In the global context, while boundary markers for sacred areas of Buddhist activities vary in materials, extensive use of stones is only found on the Khorat Plateau in Southeast Asia. The megalithic rock shelters at Phu Phrabat, which were shaped by the combined forces of glacier movement and differential erosion of the rock strata, were venerated by the prehistoric populations two millennia ago, as evidenced by the rock paintings covering the surfaces of forty-seven rock shelters depicting human figures, hand palms, animals, and geometric patterns. Following the arrival of Buddhism in the region in the 7th century, numerous Sīma stones were erected in the Khorat Plateau region, transforming the landscape of Phu Phrabat into a sacred Buddhist site used as a religious centre. Whilst the Sīma stone tradition has continued to the present day, most Sīma stones have been relocated and reused. However, the property area preserves the largest corpus in the world of in situ Sīma stones from the Dvaravati period, testifying to this tradition that once prevailed in the region.

Criterion (iii): Phu Phrabat preserves the largest corpus in the world of in situ Sīma stones from the Dvaravati period, with all the types of establishment patterns as prescribed in Buddhist scripture, and exhibits the majority of forms and artistic styles of this particular type of sacred boundary marker with a very clear evolutionary path. It is an exceptional testimony to the Sīma stone tradition of the Dvaravati period in a global context.

Criterion (v): The landscape of Phu Phrabat has been purposefully and extensively transformed by the erection of the Sīma stones over more than four centuries to fulfil Buddhist ceremonial functions, possibly linked to the forest monastic tradition. It is an outstanding example of land use that is representative of the Sīma stone tradition that once prevailed in the Khorat Plateau during the Dvaravati period.

Integrity

The property testifies to the major forms of Sīma stones and all the spatial arrangement patterns, illustrating the major evolutionary path of the Sīma stone tradition of the Dvaravati period. In the global context, the property is the most complete testimony to the Sīma stone tradition during the Dvaravati period. It is of adequate size, and all the attributes necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value are included within its boundaries. All the adverse impacts are under control.

Authenticity

The property preserves the largest corpus in the world of Sīma stones in their original locations, with their spatial arrangement patterns unchanged, and their physical forms and decorative art untouched, providing a truthful and credible source of information for understanding the Sīma stone tradition of the Dvaravati period in terms of form and design, materials, function, location, traditions, and spirit and feeling. Since it was converted into a Buddhist religious centre in the 7th century, the site has continued to be used as such.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by national and local legislation and governmental regulations, including the Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums, B.E. 2504 (1961), with its Amended Act (No. 2), B.E. 2535 (1992), and the National Reserved Forest Act, B.E. 2507 (1964).

The property is managed by a collaborative mechanism, with the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture taking the lead role, joined by representatives of the Royal Forest Department, Udon Thani Province, Ban Phue District, Muang Pan Sub-district Administration Organisation, and Klang Yai Sub-district Municipality. Mechanisms for local community participation are implemented in the management system. The site management is guided by the Master Plan for Conservation and Development of the Phu Phrabat Historical Park 2022-2026, which was developed in collaboration with the local communities. A risk preparedness plan is in place and functioning. However, Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms need to be incorporated into the management system. Tourism management is adequate, but the carrying capacity should be established to guide site management, and measures should be adopted to prevent the spirit of the site from being disturbed by tourism.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Enhancing the condition assessment of the rock paintings with high-precision instrumental monitoring,
- b) Undertaking an archaeological survey and excavations where possible within the property and buffer zones to better understand past human activities,
- c) Conducting an absolute dating of the rock paintings, the Sīma stones, the bas-reliefs and modified parts of the rock shelters, in order to understand the chronology of the property,
- d) Undertaking research on the original use and function of the property in the Dvaravati period,
- e) Incorporating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms into the management system of the property,

- f) Establishing the carrying capacity to guide site management and adopting measures to prevent the spirit of the property from being disturbed by tourism,
 - g) Expanding the buffer zones, through a minor boundary modification request, in order to protect the property from any potential development and ensure effective protection of the wider setting;
5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to “**Phu Phrabat, a testimony to the Sima stone tradition of the Dvaravati period**”.

C.4 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

C.4.1 New Nominations

Decision: 46 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Schwerin Residence Ensemble, Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Established on the shores of Lake Schwerin, the Schwerin Residence Ensemble is an architectural and landscape ensemble which fits very precisely within the context of the emergence and development of the historicist style in Europe, in the second half of the 19th century, and particularly in the German kingdoms and principalities. The establishment of the seat of Grand Ducal power in the 19th century led to the implementation in the city of Schwerin of an architectural and landscape programme that illustrates all the civil and religious functions of a capital city that was the seat of a monarch.

As result of the diversity of the architectural programmes, the ensemble provides a wide spectrum of buildings, which reflect the 19th-century historicist style, and in certain cases refer to the more regional “Johann-Albrecht” style, connecting the programmes even more closely to the history of the Grand Duchy. The choice made to establish the seat next to lakes and ponds, creating a landscape in which the architecture and gardens are reflected in the water, is a perfect illustration of the romantic taste in 19th-century Europe.

Criterion (iv): The Schwerin Residence Ensemble fits within the context of the emergence and development of the historicist style during the 19th century in Europe. Remarkably well-preserved, it constitutes an outstanding European royal residence ensemble of the 19th century by way of the richness and diversity of its architecture and landscape features, which express the whole spectrum of historicism, from neo-Renaissance to neo-Baroque and neo-Classicism, neo-Gothic and the regional “Johann-Albrecht” historicist style.

Integrity

The boundaries of the Schwerin Residence Ensemble encompass all the landscape, architectural and stylistic attributes, as well as the perspectives and visual axes, necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value. The property in its landscape context presents the necessary characteristics to express the importance of this well-

preserved historicist ensemble; it is not threatened by any unfavourable development or abandonment.

Authenticity

The location and setting, or form of the thirty-eight elements comprising the Schwerin Residence Ensemble have been preserved. These elements have evolved over time, and in many cases their use has changed, resulting essentially in adaptations and alterations to interior arrangements. The general design, structures and materials of the ensemble have been preserved. The relationship of the buildings to their landscape setting, whether with the gardens or the lakes and ponds, or with the perspectives and vistas, has also been preserved.

Protection and management requirements

The thirty-eight elements comprising the Schwerin Residence Ensemble are protected at Federal level and by the Monument Protection Act (DSchG M-V) of the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The elements are identified as properties whose preservation is a matter of public interest. The Federal Building Code (Baugesetzbuch – BauGB, 1960, amended in 2017) provides the basis for land use and urban planning; it includes provisions for the preservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Furthermore, the laws and regulations relating to the protection of nature and landscapes, and of water resources, also apply within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone.

A management plan has been prepared to be used as a control and planning instrument. It will have to be periodically assessed and updated. The World Heritage Coordination Office, supported by expert and advisory groups, is a crucial element to ensure the coordination and effectiveness of the management of the property. A rigorous strategy for the conservation of the buildings in the ensemble, and particularly of the interior layouts of those open to the public, and for the management of tourist flows inside the property and in the city, is essential to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained in the long-term.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Including a budgeted and prioritised schedule for preventive and remedial conservation interventions on the property in the management plan, in particular of the interior layouts of the buildings open to the public,
 - b) Drawing up a graphical documentary record (with plans, sectional views and elevations) of the various restoration and modification campaigns of the historic state of reference,
 - c) Developing sustainable tourism management measures associated with actions, both for the elements of the property that are open to the public, and for the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone; these actions should focus in particular on the management of visitor flows associated with indicators that measure their relevance and effectiveness,
 - d) Ensuring the regular monitoring of the implementation of the management plan, its assessment and its periodic updates,
 - e) Submitting a minor boundary modification request to enlarge the perimeter of the property around the Churches of St Paul and St Nikolai,
 - f) Providing updated figures for the revised areas of the property and its buffer zone.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **Via Appia. Regina Viarum, Italy**, with the exception of following component parts: Via Appia on the “tarantino” sheep-track (015), The Via Appia from the 14th to the 24th mile, with a branch to Lanuvium (003) and The Via Appia in the Pontine Plain, with a branch to Norba (004), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii), (iv) and (vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The serial property Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* is the oldest Roman road whose route is beyond doubt and among the first created. Built under the authority of the Censor Appius Claudius Caecus from 312 BCE onwards, the Via Appia was originally conceived as a strategic road for military conquest, connecting, via the most direct route, Rome to Capua. As Rome was continuing its territorial expansion, the Via Appia was extended towards *Beneventum*, *Tarentum* and *Brundisium*, thereby paving the way to conquest of the East and Asia Minor. The Via Appia, once the territories conquered by Rome had been stabilized, rapidly became a key route for trade and territorial and cultural development, and was open to everyone to use toll-free. In 109 CE, Emperor Trajan inaugurated the Via Traiana, an extension of the Via Appia intended to connect *Beneventum* to *Brundisium* more easily along the Adriatic coast.

Roman engineering resources were fully harnessed to build the Via Appia and Via Traiana, involving sweeping land reclamation works, the construction of major civil engineering works and the use of the most enduring and innovative techniques to build the carriageway. In addition, the road was equipped with numerous amenities to facilitate travel. At many points along it were military milestones indicating distances, fountains for people and animals, and way stations which were soon converted into accommodation and stopping places for travellers. A series of necropolises and funerary sites developed around the road and religious sanctuaries were established on the outskirts of towns. The road set the stage for a vast series of monumental works to be built, and enabled the cities it connected to grow too. New settlements emerged in connection with the Via Appia and an official land division system was introduced.

The Via Appia continued to be used throughout the centuries. It remains an access route to rural villages. At the beginning of the Middle Ages, the Church of Rome relied on it to spread Christianity by reviving agriculture. From the 11th century, the buildings lining the road were repurposed as defensive structures, and pilgrims and Crusaders travelled along it on the way to the Holy Land. Amid renewed interest in antiquity and its monuments during the Renaissance, the Papacy had restoration works carried out on the road due to its spiritual and historical value for Christianity. In the 16th century, the idea of archaeological conservation of the road began to take shape.

The Via Appia assumed significance in the collective memory, whether in literary or iconographic terms, or even musically speaking. It became a key stage of the Grand Tour.

Criterion (iii): The Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* is among the most enduring testimonies that Roman civilisation has bequeathed to posterity. Its construction was a feat of engineering and technical design which had an influence over much of the Mediterranean for more than a thousand years. The route is lined with all the structural and urban typologies that are characteristic of Roman civilisation.

Criterion (iv): The Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* bears witness to the outstanding organisational capabilities and administrative efficiency of Roman civilisation. The Via Appia is an example of the innovative technical prowess developed by Rome, the construction of which, in addition to the infrastructures directly associated with it, served as a point of reference for the division of land assigned to army veterans and promoted the regulation and *aggregation* of new urban residential areas along its course as it was often chosen as a *decumanus*. The Via Appia thus shaped the development of the ancient cities it connected or which were associated with it. The Via Appia is also accompanied by a monumental ensemble of temples, funerary monuments, aqueducts and villas, and at city entrances, triumphal arches, gates or such amenities as theatres, amphitheatres or baths which all bear witness to an age-old civilisation.

Criterion (vi): The Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* was a major vector for the spread of ideas and beliefs. It played a key role in the spread of the Christian religion and provided passage to the Holy Land for the Crusaders and huge numbers of pilgrims. Representative of Rome's power, the Via Appia was symbolically used from the 16th century onwards by numerous victorious generals or monarchs to celebrate their power or their victories. The Via Appia was celebrated by artists of the Renaissance. An object of study for archaeologists, architects and academics, it has fascinated generations of visitors embarking on their Grand Tour.

Integrity

The component parts of the Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* present notable differences in terms of size and character, which may be natural or urban. Their attributes differ in number, quality or significance and by their state of conservation. They all play a part in representing the Via Appia in its character, course and coherence. The component parts illustrate the major infrastructural achievement that is the Via Appia and its impact on the economic, social and political development of the regions conquered by Rome. The attributes are for the most part archaeological vestiges. They are identifiable and present a good state of conservation.

Authenticity

The Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* encompasses a vast ensemble of archaeological sites which still retain a number of attributes that are representatives of the role and functions of the road and the wider territory which was able to develop thanks to it. In this context, the initial concept and form have evolved over time but remain nevertheless. The same can be said for the materials and the substance. The road's primary function concerns the movement of people, goods and ideas. This has evolved without ever disappearing completely over the centuries of its use. Uses have evolved in terms of their motivation but not in terms of their purpose. The wealth of information and knowledge obtained about the Via Appia over the centuries through scientific research and also artistic and literary works also contributes to its authenticity.

Protection and management requirements

The component parts of the Via Appia. *Regina Viarum* are protected under the Code of the Cultural Heritage and Landscape (Codice dei beni culturali e del paesaggio), drafted pursuant to the Law of 6 July 2002. The Ministry of Culture is responsible for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, irrespective of ownership of the sites, guaranteed through the local offices for archaeology, fine arts and landscape (*Soprintendenze*), and coordinated centrally by the Directorate-General for Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape. This includes the definition and application of national standards for conservation, restoration and safeguarding to ensure the integrity of the property. Moreover, the Ministry of Culture is responsible for the presentation of its own cultural properties, thereby contributing to the overall management and promotion of the whole of the Via Appia. The regions, together with the local offices of the Ministry of

Culture (the *Soprintendenze*), are in charge of planning related to landscape and cultural properties, via Regional Landscape Plans.

Any modification or transformation is subject to an authorisation, a prerequisite to obtaining the building permit, which is issued by the region or, by delegation, a local authority (province or municipality) and is subject to agreement from the *Soprintendenze*. Lastly, environmental protection measures concerning the serial property and the buffer zones are provided for in the framework of Natura 2000 areas, natural protected areas and those defined by the Regional Territorial Landscape Plan (PTPR).

The management system provides for the designation of a single body as the focal point for coordinating the property's management. The role of this structure will be to maintain coordination between the different stakeholders and to carry out actions as part of a network to ensure the overall conservation and promotion of the management plan. It will oversee and manage the network of stakeholders and associated institutions.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Setting up as soon as possible the participatory foundation which will act as the transversal coordination structure of the management plan for the Via Appia,
 - b) Incorporating the conditions and arrangements for carrying out Heritage Impact Assessments into the management plan,
 - c) Implementing the planned conservation works for the damages affecting component parts The Via Appia from Sinuessa to the Pagus Sarclanus and The Appia Traiana from Beneventum to Aequeum Tuticum,
 - d) Continuing and stepping up the sustainable tourism projects facilitating a wider distribution of visitors,
 - e) Providing updated figures for the revised surface areas of the serial property as a whole and of each component part,
 - f) Submitting revised maps reflecting the changes in the surface areas of the component parts and buffer zones;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.23

The nomination of **Levadas da Madeira, Portugal**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, Romania**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i) and (ii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in the city of Târgu Jiu on the banks of the river Jiu in the southern sub-Carpathians of Romania, the Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is aligned in a 1,500-metre-long conceptual axis tangibly represented by the Avenue of Heroes punctuated in its median sector by the pre-existing Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. The monumental ensemble comprises the Endless Column in the Park of the Column, as well as the Table of Silence, the Gate of the Kiss, and the benches and the cubed hourglass seats of the Alley of Chairs – all located in the Constantin Brâncuși Park. The monumental complex, erected between the years 1937 and 1938, to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Romanian soldiers, police and ordinary citizens who died defending the city of Târgu Jiu during the First World War, represents a turning point in the history of monumental sculpture and public art. It is the seminal creation and the sole largescale public work by Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși who, instead of placing the monument in the city, “placed the city as a functional element in the centre of the monument”. The abstract simplicity of the monuments, the integration of monumental art, urban setting and landscape, the contrast between the verticality of the Endless Column and the horizontality of the surrounding park and the modest scale of the built fabric along the processional route of the Avenue of Heroes, the dynamic sequence and harmony of the monumental installations, the different textures of the sculptural works and their high aesthetic qualities demonstrate that the Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is a creative masterpiece of the 20th-century monumental art which played a key role in the dissemination of site-specific art, installation, landscape and public art.

Criterion (i): The Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is an exceptional composition, a fusion of abstract monumental sculpture, landscape design, engineering, and urban installation, offering a highly symbolic sequential commemorative experience and conveying an artistic statement at the urban scale of great, manifold, symbolic, and spiritual artistic force and purity. The combination of the artistic concept, excellence of execution, and engineering realisation of the Endless Column, in particular, contributes to the achievement of one of the most notable monumental public sculptures of the 20th century.

Criterion (ii): The Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu represents a turning point in the evolution of the 20th century history of monumental art and commemorative architecture. The innovative spatial composition and the abstract language of its elements inspired by Cycladic, African, and Romanian cultures fused with classical architectural elements and spatial compositional features, played a key role in the dissemination of site-specific art, installation, landscape and public art.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property include all the attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value; each element is preserved in its entirety and original locations, and all are included as part of the property. The physical fabric of the property and all its significant attributes are in good condition, and the impact of any potential deterioration processes is under control. The integrity of the conceptual axis of the monumental ensemble, manifested by a physical axis, is preserved through the entirety of designed commemorative urban open space. The property has suffered from some adverse development and neglect. Whilst the Endless Column in its park and the sculptures in the Constantin Brâncuși Park retain high visual integrity, the visual aesthetics of the Avenue of Heroes have been negatively affected by past urban development. This is to be assessed in the light of the urban breadth of this monumental artwork and how elements of the existing urban fabric and of the landscape were integrated into the composition. Some undesirable characteristics are reversible to a

certain extent, whilst in other cases mitigation measures have been implemented and planned.

Authenticity

The property, with its attributes, bears witness to a revolutionary approach to sculpture. For Constantin Brâncuși, sculpture is the language of content rather than the language of forms, and the Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu is the synthesis of his entire oeuvre. The attributes of the monumental ensemble remain in their original location and, through their form and design, materials, craftsmanship – including techniques of implementation and installation, convey credibly and powerfully how the property represents the synthesis of the entire oeuvre of Constantin Brâncuși. The commemorative function of the monumental ensemble gained new strength with the involvement of local administration over the past years. The artistic and recreational function of the monumental ensemble were firmly a part of its original concept and one often uppermost in the minds of the general visitor.

Protection and management requirements

The property and its buffer zone enjoy the highest level of regional and national protection, provided by the List of Historical Monuments, annexed to the Order of the Minister of Culture no. 2.828/2015 for the updating of annex 1 of the Order of the Minister of Culture and Cults no. 2.314/2004 regarding the approval of the List of Historical Monuments, updated, and of the List of Lost Historical Monuments, with further updates, from 24.12.2015, published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 113 bis, 15.02.2016. Legal protection is ensured by Law 422/2001 for the protection of historical monuments and by Law 564/2001 for the approval of the Ordinance of the Government of Romania no. 47/2000 regarding the protection measures of historical monuments inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Zoning Plan for the Protected Built Area of the Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble and its by-law approved by the City Council of Târgu Jiu in 2014 provide measures for protection and conservation of the property and its setting, and regulates urban development.

The Municipality of Târgu Jiu is responsible for the management of the property through the Constantin Brâncuși Research, Documentation and Promotion Centre, with a publicly appointed manager. The Protection and Management Plan of the property, developed by the Municipality of Târgu Jiu and approved by the Local Council in 2014, was updated in 2019. Long-term challenges for the protection and management of the property relate principally to its buffer zone and to its setting, where new development in the immediate urban context will be controlled by values-based planning policies.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property, including the upcoming project for passage and underground parking on Gheorghe Magheru Street, and integrate the approach and methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context into national mechanisms,
- b) Giving careful consideration to the choice of materials and design for repaving, urban furniture or lighting solutions in all ongoing and upcoming projects for the rehabilitation of the property and its setting,
- c) Collecting, in a hard or digitised form, the available archival documentation concerning the conception and construction of the property and making it easily available to the management body for research, conservation, and management purposes,

- d) Carrying a precise survey of the key attributes of the property, in particular the sculptural works, as a basis for ongoing research and conservation, as well as in the event of disasters,
- e) Making a more direct correlation between key monitoring indicators and the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value,
- f) Including scheduled reviews and updates in the planning documents to ensure effective ongoing protection of the property, buffer zone, and setting,
- g) Considering burying or redirecting the railway line that crosses the Avenue of Heroes to improve the visitor' experience of the monumental ensemble.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia, Romania**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii), (iii) and (iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia extended for more than a thousand kilometres along the western, northern and eastern borders of the Roman province of Dacia, from the Danube River on each end, and encompassing the Transylvanian Plateau and crossing the lowlands of Muntenia along the Olt River. It was part of the Roman frontiers for nearly 170 years, protecting it from 'barbarian' populations, ensuring the supervision and control of their movements at the northern fringes of the empire, and securing access to valuable gold and salt resources.

Dacia was the only Roman province located entirely north of the Danube River. The diverse landscapes and topography of the Dacian province include mountains, forests, valleys, plateaus, lowlands and river courses. A complex system was established with a wide range of military installations, including temporary camps, networks of watchtowers, artificial barriers (earthworks, walls), small fortifications, auxiliary forts and legionary fortresses, with their associated civilian settlements. Based on these formal characteristics, seven sectors of the frontier are evident (both land and riverine) and were integrated into a unitary border, an unparalleled situation in other sectors of the Roman limes. An eighth sector contains a cluster of high-altitude marching camps.

Established at the beginning of the 2nd century CE, with the conquest and annexation of the Dacian kingdom, the frontier of Dacia did not survive the late 3rd century crisis of the Roman Empire. It was officially renounced c.270/275 CE, when Emperor Aurelian withdrew the Roman army and administration from Dacia. The relatively short time that the Roman frontier of Dacia functioned was nevertheless eventful. The constant pressure on the border is reflected by its characteristics and evolution. It also prominently illustrates the extraordinary capacity of the Romans to adapt to the local topography and use it to their advantage.

Criterion (ii): The extant remains of Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia constitute significant elements of the Roman frontiers in Europe. The serial property exhibits an important interchange of human and cultural values at the height of the Roman Empire, through the development of Roman military architecture, extending the technical

knowledge of construction and management to the very edges of the empire. It reflects the imposition of a complex frontier system on the existing societies of the northern part of the Roman Empire, introducing military installations and related civilian settlements, linked through an extensive supporting network. The frontier did not constitute an impregnable barrier, but controlled and allowed the movement of peoples. This entailed profound changes and developments in terms of settlement patterns, architecture and landscape design and spatial organisation.

Criterion (iii): As part of the Roman Empire's general system of defence, Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia bears an exceptional testimony to the maximum extension of the power of the Roman Empire through the consolidation of its northern frontiers and constitutes a physical manifestation of Roman imperial policy. The property illustrates the Roman Empire's ambition to dominate the world in order to establish its law and way of life in a long-term perspective. It demonstrates the processes of Roman colonisation in its territories, the spread of Roman culture and its different traditions – military, engineering, architecture, religion, management and politics. The large number of human settlements associated with the defences contribute to an understanding of how soldiers and their families lived in this part of the Roman Empire.

Criterion (iv): The Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia is a remarkable example of Roman military architecture and technological development. The property testifies to the versatility and sophistication of the Roman response to specific topography and climate, set against the political, military and social backdrop of the time in the northern part of the empire. Stretching for more than a thousand kilometres, it is the largest segment of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire. It comprises both land and riverine sectors, characterised by varying types, locations and densities of military installations distributed across the landscape. Fortifications of different sizes, set at irregular intervals, artificial linear barriers (stone walls, earthworks), natural barriers (mountain ranges, rivers), packed or sparse networks of watchtowers were all integrated within the same provincial border. The Dacian frontier exhibits numerous structural changes throughout its nearly 170 years of existence allowing insight into an important timeline in the history of the Roman Empire.

Integrity

The property of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia demonstrates the complexity of the European frontiers of the Roman Empire. A well-considered rationale for the selection of the 277 component parts has been developed, enabling the property to represent the phased establishment and the workings of the Dacian Limes, including its adaptation to and use of diverse landscapes. Some of the component parts of the property have been affected by exposure to natural elements and human activities. Archaeological excavations, field surveys, aerial photography and non-invasive investigations have established the completeness of the component parts, and the intactness of most attributes is assessed as good to very good, showcasing the most important development phases. Despite processes of decay, many individual sites are very well preserved. With few exceptions, their exposure to threats is insignificant, and the boundaries are appropriately delineated.

Authenticity

The 277 component parts of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia demonstrate a very high degree of authenticity, due in part to the relatively short lifespan of the frontier and the relatively undisturbed rural locations of many of the component parts. Most of the sites remain free of modern constructions or later modifications, and the above and below ground structures retain their original form and design. Above-ground and excavated elements are conserved and generally in a good state of conservation, and non-invasive investigations indicate a good preservation of sub-surface archaeological materials. Since most of the areas in which the frontier component parts are located are

lightly populated, the authenticity of the landscape setting for most component parts is high.

Protection and management requirements

All 277 component parts of Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia are legally protected. All archaeological sites within the component parts are protected through their inclusion in the National Archaeological Record (RAN), and the process of designation of all of the component parts is in progress. The component parts, their buffer zones and immediate landscapes are also protected by laws for spatial planning, including the General Urban Plans which are being revised to ensure the recognition and protection of the component parts and clusters.

The management system integrates four levels of intervention, including the Ministry of Culture, County Councils, the National Institute of Heritage and the National Limes Commission. A UNESCO Organising Committee will be established to coordinate across these responsibilities. The National Limes Commission is responsible for the coordination of research activities and the scientific components of integrated management and monitoring. On an international level, the State Party continues to cooperate with partners within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Cluster.

The management framework is oriented around three key management themes: research, conservation and enhancement; factors affecting the property; and tourism, visitor management and interpretation. The monitoring arrangements are outlined, and an action plan is provided. Based on this over-arching framework, the National Institute of Heritage will coordinate the development of management plans for each component part/cluster to guide local decision making. A number of important elements of the management system are under development, including the interpretation strategy and Heritage Impact Assessment.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Completing as soon as possible the programme to update the General Urban Plans in areas where component parts are located,
- b) Developing the template for the management plans for each component part/cluster and completing these plans to ensure that there is an overall coherence in management, and identification of relevant actions,
- c) Conducting deposit models/cellar surveys for components parts in urban or peri-urban areas in order to establish accurate information about the levels of survival of, and disturbance to archaeological deposits,
- d) Developing inter-agency agreements between the National Institute of Heritage and the Forestry Administration with measures to mitigate the impact of agriculture and forestry on relevant component parts and their related buffer zones, incorporating appropriate measures into the individual management plans,
- e) Completing the process of inclusion of all component parts in the National Register of Historic Monuments,
- f) Improving access to all material related to the Dacian Limes through the implementation of the project to create a central digital information portal, including further work on the data sets presented in Annex 3 of the nomination dossier to provide site-specific conservation actions,
- g) Improving the monitoring system and indicators, ensuring that all attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are included, and align monitoring with the Periodic Reporting questionnaire,

- h) Progressing work to build an interpretive framework and implementation of interpretation and presentation actions, including a programme to update signage and interpretation boards,
 - i) Developing a sustainable tourism strategy,
 - j) Completing the Dacian Limes research strategy, including clear criteria for any future interventions,
 - k) Adopting as a priority, formal provisions for Heritage Impact Assessment for all development proposals within the component parts and buffer zones,
 - l) Implementing the design measures for mitigation of impacts from the construction of the A1 Trunk Road Scheme to component parts Racovița and Copăceni-Praetorium I,
 - m) Developing measures to encourage community participation and engagement in the care, protection, and management of the component parts;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Testament of Kenozero Lake, Russian Federation**, on the World Heritage List as a relict cultural landscape on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in Kenozero National Park in the north-western area of the European region of the Russian Federation, the picturesque Kenozero relict cultural landscape depicts the peasant lifestyle that evolved here from the 12th century, following the gradual Slavic colonisation of the region. It incorporates a large number of traditional rural settlements with vernacular wooden architecture set in an evocative landscape of lakes, rivers, forests, and fields that preserve traces of past traditional practices. Wooden churches, churchyards and chapels, many of which were originally decorated with painted ceilings, or “heavens”, are the key social, cultural, and visual landmarks of the area. The spatial organisation of these buildings, together with sacred groves, cemeteries, and wooden crosses dotting the landscape, bear witness to the spiritual connection of the inhabitants to this environment.

Criterion (iii): The exceptional collection of historic wooden buildings of Kenozero Lake, in all their rich diversity of types and uses, is an important representation of the cultural traditions of this region. Traditional woodworking and log construction bear witness to the evolution of early log structures into a sophisticated assembly of domestic and religious buildings. Historic rural settlement patterns and evidence of the use of natural resources in a scenic lake-river landscape are likewise a testimony to a cultural tradition in the Russian North.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property contain all the key attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value. A substantial number of traditional wooden buildings have been preserved in their authentic locations and settings within the property. Of the seventy-seven settlements that existed in the early 20th century, sixty-two have been fully preserved, containing 1,520 traditional religious and domestic wooden structures.

Authenticity

The property is authentic in terms of the preserved wooden architectural elements, the patterns of the settlements, and the setting. The monuments of wooden architecture have been preserved with respect for the authenticity of their materials, form, and design. The form and layout of fields and lakeshores around inhabited villages are also maintained. Despite modernisation and several restructurings of agriculture and production in the 20th century, the spirit and feeling of the cultural landscape remain complemented by surviving intangible heritage and traditional practices supported by the management of the property.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by several legal mechanisms at the national and regional levels. There is comprehensive legal protection from both cultural and natural sectoral perspectives. Kenozero National Park was established in 1991, and a 500-metre-wide protection zone was delineated in 1995 as an additional protection of the National Park. The protection zone is intended to ensure the preservation of the natural areas, the economic use of which directly affects the biological stability of ecosystems and the Kenozero cultural landscape, and to prevent potential adverse impacts by anthropogenic processes.

Kenozero National Park is the main management authority. The administration of the National Park includes local community members as well as professionals from the region. There are several national, regional, and local strategies in place to support sustainable development. Kenozero National Park oversees all issues regarding the property in coordination with the relevant sectoral institutions as well as local authorities of the respective municipalities.

The management plan of the property and its buffer zone covers the period 2021-2027 and is in the process of implementation. It introduces a unified approach to the management of the National Park, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and the property. The plan includes strategies for all these three different domains, integrating conservation and sustainable development within a holistic approach. The protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is the basis for the entire strategic planning process. The management plans for all cultural landscape complexes should be developed. The local communities are recognised as having a special role amongst the stakeholders.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Enlarging the boundaries of the buffer zone, through a minor boundary modification request, particularly where it coincides with the eastern boundary of the property, and extending the protection zone established in 1995,
 - b) Completing the definition of individual boundaries of all listed buildings and their protection zones,
 - c) Completing the management plans for all the landscape complexes,
 - d) Finalising and registering the revision of the Regulations for Kenozero National Park,
 - e) Ensuring the allocation of state funding for conservation on a permanent basis,
 - f) Determining the carrying capacity of the territory,

- g) Enhancing the monitoring system and aligning it with the Periodic Reporting questionnaire,
 - h) Completing the ongoing digitalisation of the documentation for the entire property;
5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to “**Cultural Landscape of Kenozero Lake**”.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.27

The nomination of **Bač Cultural Landscape, Serbia**, was withdrawn at the request of the State Party.

C.4.2 Significant boundary modifications of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 46 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Approves the significant boundary modification of **Christiansfeld, a Moravian Church Settlement, Denmark**, to include Herrnhut (Germany), Gracehill (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and Bethlehem (United States of America) and become the **Moravian Church Settlements, Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America**, 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 Moravian Church Settlements in Herrnhut (Saxony, Germany), Bethlehem (Pennsylvania, United States of America), Gracehill (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), and Christiansfeld (Jutland, Denmark) were established according to overarching planning principles that reflected the ideals of the Moravian Church, as expressed in their plans and democratic organisation. Herrnhut, founded in 1722 as the “mother settlement”, is a testimony to the original Moravian urban and architectural design principles, as well as the key attributes of the Church’s spiritual, societal, and ethical ideals. Bethlehem, established in 1741, is the first permanent, best-preserved, and most important Moravian Church settlement in North America. Gracehill, developed in 1759 and featuring a grid-like plan focused on a village square, is the best-preserved Moravian Church settlement on the islands of Great Britain and Ireland. Founded in 1773, Christiansfeld, with its intact central square and impressive collection of buildings, presents the best-preserved example of a northern European Moravian Church settlement. Each architectural ensemble bears witness to the Moravian Church’s vision of a unified, coherent urban design, inspired by the concept of an “ideal city” developed by the Church during its formative phase in the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

All four settlements have distinctive Moravian buildings, including a particular type of Gemeinhaus (congregation building), church, and choir houses (large structures

designed as communal dwellings for unmarried men, unmarried women, and widows), as well as a nearby God's Acre (cemetery). Each settlement has its own architectural character based on an original Moravian Church Civic Baroque style but adapted to local conditions. Together, these settlements represent the transnational scope and consistency of the international Moravian community as a global network. Present today in each component part is an active congregation whose continuation of traditions forms a living Moravian heritage.

Criterion (iii): The transnational series of Moravian Church settlements bears exceptional testimony to Moravian Church principles, which are expressed in their layouts, architecture, and craftsmanship, as well as the fact that numerous buildings are still used for their original functions or for the continuation of Moravian Church activities and traditions. The Herrnhut, Bethlehem, Gracehill, and Christiansfeld settlements, each possessing an exceptional range of tangible and intangible attributes, represent a vibrant worldwide network in which no settlement or congregation exists in isolation. Together, they highlight the Church's influence in colonisation processes and missionary work, and its structure as a network during its formative phase during the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. The continuing presence of Moravian Church communities in each of the settlements ties their historic layouts and structures to the living cultural tradition of the Moravian Church and to the larger Moravian Church community.

Criterion (iv): The transnational series of Moravian Church settlements are an outstanding example of religious town planning, within the Protestant tradition, combining both the spiritual aspects and the practical considerations of community life. Each architectural ensemble bears witness to the Moravian Church's vision of a unified, coherent urban design, inspired by the concept of an "ideal city" and anticipating Enlightenment ideals of equality and social improvement that became a reality for many only much later. The democratic organisation of the Moravian Church is expressed in its humanistic town planning and important buildings for the common welfare, and in the visual and functional connections between individual elements and with the landscape setting. These settlements, established during the formative phase of Moravian Church settlements, stand for the movement towards democratisation, offering the same standard of living to all its members and advancing the well-being of the group. Each settlement possesses distinctive functions and illustrates unity through homogeneous groups of buildings with shared styles, materials, and proportions (each adapted to local conditions), together with a high quality of craftsmanship.

Integrity

The transnational serial property includes all the attributes necessary to convey its Outstanding Universal Value, and is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features that express its significance. The property comprises four component parts that together illustrate the origins, evolution, and global spread of Moravian Church settlements during their formative phase. They represent the continuing religious heritage, each sharing a common set of attributes while contributing to the series, including through distinctive geographical and cultural reach, representative variations in urban plans, exemplars of specific building types, regional contributions in architectural style and local construction materials, temporal sequence of establishment, and linkages with other settlements and mission stations.

Urban plans remain legible and are largely intact. Visual and functional relationships within the settlements and, in some cases, with surrounding landscapes, are still largely extant and readable. None of the settlements suffer from neglect and none are threatened by irreversible change.

Authenticity

The transnational serial property is substantially authentic in terms of location and setting, form and design, materials and substances, and workmanship. Many of the buildings

remain in use by the Moravian Church. The continuity of the Moravian Church community contributes to safeguarding the authentic spirit and feeling as well as atmosphere of the serial property. The presence of an active community in each settlement sustains a living Moravian Church cultural tradition.

Most of the residential units have modernised interiors to be in line with contemporary living standards whilst aiming to retain their authenticity wherever possible. In some cases, renovations could have been implemented with more respect for authenticity, and aspects of historic construction materials and techniques could have been retained. Future modernisations, including interiors, should pay special attention to the conservation of historic fabric. Conservation and maintenance programmes should be developed for the key attributes, and the use of appropriate conservation techniques and materials should be ensured.

Protection and management requirements

Each component part of the serial property benefits from protection guaranteed through legislation and spatial planning regulations anchored in the respective protective mechanisms of each State Party. Responsibility for the protection of each of the component parts of the property rests with the national, regional, and/or local authorities, as the case may be.

The Moravian Church community has for the past three centuries provided traditional protection of its buildings through the requirements of the Church for their use, and remains very active in upholding its religious and social services. Such activities also sustain the spiritual, social, and ethical principles that underpin the significance of the settlements.

An overall management system for the transnational serial property has been established, with an International Management Plan and action plan approved by all key stakeholders. An International Governmental Committee, made up of national World Heritage Focal Points and/or a representative of the highest monument or heritage protection authority, will be responsible for matters at the level of States Parties and their obligations under the World Heritage Convention, while a Transnational Coordination Group will comprise representatives of each component part. A Moravian Church Transnational Advisory Group will provide a consistent viewpoint on matters of tangible and intangible attributes. Each component part will have a Site Manager/Coordinator and a Local Management Plan that conforms to the overarching International Management Plan.

4. Recommends that the States Parties give consideration to the following:

- a) Enhancing the presentation of the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value, and in particular the presentation of the Pilgrim House (Pilgerhaus) for visiting and retired missionaries, and of buildings that show aspects of everyday life such as the Common Laundry House (Alte Rolle, 1788),
- b) Developing a full and detailed analysis of the extent to which the urban layouts, individual buildings, and key structures of the component parts have retained their historic forms, materials, and functions in order to better inform the conservation, presentation, and management of the component parts,
- c) Further developing a common transnational strategy for interpretation and presentation, in cooperation with the Moravian Church and local communities, to present the entire network of Moravian settlements, their development, and their significance,
- d) Developing relevant inventories and conservation and maintenance programmes for the component parts and their individual key attributes that include guidelines and requirements on the use of appropriate conservation techniques and materials,

- e) Formally endorsing and implementing the International Management Plan and the individual Local Management Plans,
- f) Further developing monitoring indicators to make them more measurable and indicative, to encompass all the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and for easy integration of the outcomes into the Periodic Reporting questionnaire,
- g) Undertaking a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposal that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property before any decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse.

C.5 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

C.5.1 Nominations deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 46 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá, Panama**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Legally protect the whole heritage route as one entity,
 - b) Legally protect the sections of Camino de Cruces and Camino Real as cultural heritage,
 - c) Complete, legally adopt, and implement the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism,
 - d) Complete and implement a tourism and interpretation strategy for the nominated serial property as a whole;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Enhancing and strengthening the role of residents, local communities, Indigenous peoples and other rightsholders and stakeholders in the management system of the nominated serial property,
 - b) Continuing the conservation works in the component parts proposed for both Phase 1 and Phase 2,
 - c) Continuing research works for the component parts proposed for both Phase 1 and Phase 2, in particular the roads connections in Portobelo and Camino de Cruces,
 - d) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

III. STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 46 COM 8B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8B,
2. Adopts the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee:
 - Benin, Togo, Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba
 - Greece, Zagori Cultural Landscape
 - Guatemala, National Archaeological Park Tak'alik Ab'aj
 - India, Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of), The Persian Caravanserai
 - Italy, The Porticoes of Bologna
 - Lithuania, Modernist Kaunas: Architecture of Optimism, 1919-1939
 - Russian Federation, Astronomical Observatories of Kazan Federal University
 - Rwanda, Memorial sites of the Genocide: Nyamata, Murambi, Gisozi and Bisesero
 - Tunisia, Djerba: Testimony to a settlement pattern in an island territory
 - Türkiye, Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia.

IV. MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED FOR EXAMINATION

Decision: 46 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **20 COM VIII.A**, **41 COM 8B.3**, **44 COM 7B.79** and **45 COM 7B.3** adopted at its 20th (Merida, 1996), 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **W-Arly-Pendjari Complex, Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger**.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add, WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Maloti-Drakensberg Park, Lesotho, South Africa**;
3. Requests the States Parties to provide, with respect to cultural values, the following information by **1 December 2024** to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:
 - a) Additional maps with the location of the two layers of the buffer zone as well as the location of any archaeological sites located within it,
 - b) Further explanations on how the buffer zone was conceived and delineated to act as an additional layer of protection to the property from a cultural perspective,
 - c) Detailed information on the legal and complementary measures applicable within the buffer zone and in particular for the control of access to any existing archaeological sites and sites of cultural significance,
 - d) Further information about the governance and management arrangements for cultural heritage within the area of the buffer zone.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Himā Cultural Area, Saudi Arabia**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Implementing the proposal to declare the entire area (inscribed property and buffer zone) as an Archaeological Park,
 - b) Considering the need of minor modifications to the boundaries of component parts through a minor boundary modification request based on continuing archaeological survey and inventorying.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Hallstatt-Dachstein / Salzkammergut Cultural Landscape, Austria**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
- b) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Wachau Cultural Landscape, Austria**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **The Great Spa Towns of Europe, Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**;
3. Recommends that the State Party of Italy continues its efforts to extend the conservation area in Montecatini Terme, to comprise the remaining areas of this component part that are still not covered by it.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment), Austria, Germany, Slovakia**.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Abbey Church of Saint-Savin sur Gartempe, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Completing as a matter of urgency the management plan of the property that would consider the enlarged buffer zone, and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS,
 - b) Submitting details on how the SCoT and PLUi planning tools integrate the extended buffer zone and provide for its co-management by the different municipalities,
 - c) Integrating into the management mechanisms, recommendations of the landscape plan for the community of municipalities of Vienne and Gartempe regarding the creation of a no-wind-turbines zone to protect the vistas around the property,
 - d) Providing maps of the revised buffer zone boundaries at a more appropriate scale, in line with the Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Paris, Banks of the Seine, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party develop as a matter of urgency a management plan for the property that will cover the buffer zone and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Does not approve the minor boundary modification of **The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes, France**;
3. Encourages the State Party to submit a request for a significant modification to the boundaries to extend the property to include the valley of the Maine from the point of confluence with the Loire up to and including the historic centre of Angers.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl, Germany**;
3. Recommends the State Party to reinforce the protection of the historical landscape setting to the east and south of the property by undertaking Heritage Impact Assessments on any proposed development in this area.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Muskauer Park / Park Mużakowski, Germany, Poland**.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Colonial City of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Including the Municipality of Santo Domingo East (Santo Domingo Este) in the management system of the property and buffer zones, and involving it in the relevant inter-institutional agreements,
 - b) Establishing a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism that would further support the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 46 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add.2 and WHC/24/46.COM/INF.8B1.Add.2,
2. Taking note that on 24 June 2024 the World Heritage Centre received a request from the State of Palestine to process the nomination of **Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer** on an emergency basis at its present session,

3. Also taking note of the provisions under Paragraph 161 of the Operational Guidelines concerning nominations to be processed on an emergency basis, which are to “constitute an emergency situation for which an immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure their safeguarding” and to “unquestionably justify Outstanding Universal Value”,
4. Further taking note that, ICOMOS asserts that the nominated property is facing serious and specific dangers from natural events or human activities which would constitute an emergency situation for which an immediate decision by the Committee is necessary to ensure its safeguarding,
5. Noting that the nominated property has been placed under provisional enhanced protection by the Committee for the Protection of the Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict during its 18th session (December 2023),
6. Acknowledging that, given the short timeframe between the submission of the nomination of **Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer** to be processed on an emergency basis and the 46th session of the Committee, ICOMOS has not been able to assess the qualities of the property which may justify its Outstanding Universal Value,
7. Also noting the exceptional circumstances that have prevented a fully-fledged evaluation process and bearing in mind that the consideration of this nomination by the World Heritage Committee shall in no way constitute a precedent for future nominations processed on an emergency basis,
8. Inscribes **Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer, State of Palestine**, on the World Heritage List following to emergency procedure on basis of the **criteria (ii), (iii) and (vi)**;
9. Also inscribes **Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer, State of Palestine**, on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Takes note furthermore that a provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is under preparation and will be submitted for adoption by the Committee at its 47th session if possible;
11. Recommends that the State Party invites a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the situation on the ground allows, to establish a Desired State of Conservation and a program of corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025** or as soon as the situation allows, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Decision: 46 COM 8C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List (WHC/24/46.COM/7B, WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add, WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2, WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3 and WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.4) and the proposals for inscription of properties on the World

Heritage List (WHC/24/46.COM/8B, WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add and WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add.2),

2. Decides to **inscribe** the following property on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- State of Palestine, Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (Decision **46 COM 8B.44**).

Decision: 46 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/24/46.COM/7A, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3 and WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4),

2. Decides to **retain** the following 55 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley
- Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam
- Austria, Historic Centre of Vienna
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of), City of Potosí
- Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park
- Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Garamba National Park
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kahuzi-Biega National Park
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park
- Egypt, Abu Mena
- Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve
- Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)
- Iraq, Hatra
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
- Kenya, Lake Turkana National Parks
- Lebanon, Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Cyrene
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Sabratha
- Libya, Old Town of Ghadamès

- Libya, Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus
- Madagascar, Rainforests of the Atsinanana
- Mali, Old Towns of Djenné
- Mali, Timbuktu
- Mali, Tomb of Askia
- Mexico, Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California
- Micronesia (Federated States of), Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia
- Niger, Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves
- Panama, Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaeological Zone
- Romania, Roşia Montană Mining Landscape
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments in Kosovo
- Solomon Islands, East Rennell
- State of Palestine, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town
- State of Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Aleppo
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Damascus
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria
- Syrian Arab Republic, Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din
- Syrian Arab Republic, Site of Palmyra
- Ukraine, Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra
- Ukraine, L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre
- Ukraine, The Historic Centre of Odesa
- United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve
- United States of America, Everglades National Park
- Uzbekistan, Historic Centre of Shakhristab
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Coro and its Port
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid
- Yemen, Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib
- Yemen, Old City of Sana'a
- Yemen, Old Walled City of Shibam.

Decision: 46 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/24/46.COM/7A, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3 and WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.4),
2. Decides to **remove** the following property from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
 - Senegal, Niokolo-Koba National Park (Decision **46 COM 7A.54**).

8D. CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND AREAS BY STATES PARTIES

Decision: 46 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/24/46.COM/8D and WHC/24/46.COM/8D.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8D** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Also recalling that out of the 557 World Heritage properties subject to clarification, 36% are still to be submitted by the concerned States Parties;
4. 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;
5. 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;
6. Takes note of the clarifications of boundaries and areas provided by States Parties for the following properties, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/24/46.COM/8D and Document WHC/24/46.COM/8D.Add:

ARAB STATES

- Mauritania, Banc d'Arguin National Park

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Austria, Historic Centre of Vienna
- Austria, Semmering Railway
- Bulgaria, Boyana Church
- Bulgaria, Madara Rider
- Bulgaria, Rila Monastery
- Bulgaria, Rock-Hewn Churches of Ivanovo
- Bulgaria, Thracian Tomb of Kazanlak

- Czechia, Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc
 - Czechia, Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč
 - Germany, Abbey and Altenmünster of Lorsch
 - Germany, Castles of Augustusburg and Falkenlust at Brühl
 - Germany, Margravia Opera House Bayreuth
 - Germany, Pilgrimage Church of Wies
 - Germany, Wartburg Castle
 - Greece, Archaeological Site of Olympia
 - Greece, Delos
 - Italy, Historic Centre of the City of Pienza
 - Latvia, Historic Centre of Riga
 - Russian Federation, Kizhi Pogost
 - Spain, Doñana National Park
 - Spain, Tower of Hercules
 - Sweden, Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland
 - Switzerland, Old City of Berne
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, City of Bath
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Maritime Greenwich
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Old and New Towns of Edinburgh
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Tower of London;
7. Requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to continue the identification and collection of geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in nominations where the required information is not available or not adequate;
 8. Also 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 2024**, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, at its 47th session;
 9. Noting that the budget allocated to this activity may not be sufficient to cover the costs foreseen for the current biennium, invites States Parties to contribute financially to this end.

8E. ADOPTION OF RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Decision: 46 COM 8E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/8E,
2. Commends the State Party for the work accomplished in the elaboration of the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;
3. Adopts the retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/24/46.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage property:
ARAB STATES
 - Libya, Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna;
4. Notes that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger will be reviewed in priority by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to upload the two language versions of the above-mentioned retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value on its website.

9. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9A. UPSTREAM PROCESS

Decision: 46 COM 9A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/9A,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 9A** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), and its previous decisions concerning the Upstream Process,
3. Also recalling that upstream support should take place at an early stage, preferably at the moment of preparation or revision of States Parties' Tentative Lists, welcomes that States Parties from all regions make use of the Upstream Process;
4. Takes note of the progress made regarding the Upstream Process requests received from 2018 to 2023;
5. Also welcomes the submission of the Upstream Process requests received by the 31 March 2024 deadline, and the efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to process all requests received in the timeliest manner possible within the resources available;
6. Invites the States Parties to contribute extra-budgetary resources for the overall coordination and capacity building support of the Upstream Process;
7. Thanks the States Parties of Ireland and Kazakhstan for their financial support to the overall coordination of the Upstream Process;
8. Requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report on the support offered to Upstream Process requests received, for consideration at its 47th session.

10. PERIODIC REPORTS

10A. REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 46 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/10A.Rev,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 10A**, **43 COM 10B**, **44 COM 10C.5** and **45 COM 10D.3** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the efforts of all the States Parties in Europe and North America to fulfil their periodic reporting obligations, including through the completion and submission of Section I by all States Parties and a very high level of completion and submission of Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, and thanks the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies for their assistance in the Periodic Reporting process;
4. Also thanks the generosity of the States Parties of Ireland and Italy and the hospitality of the State Party of Montenegro for providing financial support and hosting a consultation and capacity-building activity with national Focal Points responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in South-East Europe in Kotor (Montenegro);
5. Further expresses its gratitude for the generosity and commitment of the States Parties of Ireland and Germany in providing financial support for the organisation of a three-day consultation workshop with States Parties from across the region, held in December 2023, to discuss the preliminary results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and to develop the draft regional action plan;
6. Welcomes with satisfaction the Third Cycle Regional Report in Europe and North America and encourages the States Parties to disseminate it widely among all relevant stakeholders in the region;
7. Endorses the Third Cycle Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America developed in cooperation with all States Parties in the region, further encourages the States Parties in Europe and North America to integrate the Regional Action Plan into their national and subregional heritage strategies and policies, including through the development of National World Heritage Action Plans, and invites States Parties to provide voluntary contributions to support its publication in a user-friendly format in order to facilitate its adoption and implementation by all States Parties;
8. Encourages States Parties in Europe and North America to initiate regular meetings at the regional and/or subregional level to ensure a continuous exchange of knowledge and experience in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan and to monitor overall progress in its implementation, including the adaptation of monitoring indicators, and invites States Parties to host such meetings and to provide voluntary contributions to enable the Secretariat to facilitate them;
9. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre to undertake a mid-cycle assessment of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan in 2027 and to prepare a report to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its session in 2028.

10B. MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD CYCLE ACTION PLAN IN AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Decision: 46 COM 10B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 10A** and **45 COM 10B.1** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively;
3. Commends the authorities of South Africa for their financial support in hosting the Regional Mid-Cycle Review Workshop for National Focal Points and also commends all relevant stakeholders for their support in the implementing of the Action Plan since its adoption in 2021;
4. Thanks the States Parties for their active participation in the mid-cycle assessment of the Regional Action Plan for Africa (2021-2027) and encourages them to widely disseminate the outcomes of the survey evaluation among all relevant stakeholders;
5. Encourages the States Parties to continue adopting the Action Plan and to integrate relevant actions into their national or site-specific action plans, as well as to collaborate in ensuring the implementation of joint actions to achieve the targets set by 2027;
6. Requests the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), and other relevant partners, to continue providing support to States Parties, where feasible, in implementing the Action Plan, taking into account the recommendations outlined for the way forward;
7. Also requests the Secretariat to continue monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the AWHF, the Advisory Bodies and relevant stakeholders in the region, with the aim of preparing a final assessment report reflecting its overall implementation, to be presented to World Heritage Committee at its session in 2028.

Decision: 46 COM 10B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 10A** and **45 COM 10C.2** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,
3. Expresses its sincere appreciation to the States Parties in the Arab States region for submitting the mid-cycle assessment forms;
4. Welcomes the mid-cycle assessment report on the implementation of the Third Cycle Action Plan in the Arab States;
5. Commends the efforts of the States Parties in pursuing the implementation of the Action Plan, focusing on relevant actions, and encourages them to continue with their efforts in

appropriating the Action Plan and integrating relevant actions in country or site-specific action plans;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the Secretariat, the Advisory Bodies and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in providing technical support to States Parties in implementing activities of the Action Plan, and requests that they continue to do so, whenever feasible;
7. Reminds the States Parties that have not already done so to submit to the World Heritage Centre their retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2025**, as well as clarifications of boundaries by **1 December 2024**;
8. Also requests the Secretariat to continue monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage, the Advisory Bodies and relevant stakeholders in the region, with the aim of preparing a final assessment report reflecting its overall implementation, to be presented to World Heritage Committee at its session in 2028.

10C. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING AND GENERAL REFLECTION ON PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 46 COM 10C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/10C,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 10A**, **42 COM 10A**, **43 COM 10B**, **44 COM 10D**, and **45 COM 10E** adopted respectively at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions;
3. Also recalling the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, the 2024 IOS Evaluation of UNESCO's periodic reporting on the Culture Sector's Conventions and Recommendations, and the Decision 219 EX/13 of the Executive Board of UNESCO;
4. Commends the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention for actively participating in and completing the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and notes with satisfaction the high rate of global submission of the periodic reports at both the national and World Heritage property levels;
5. Welcomes with satisfaction the successful implementation of the overall process of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and takes note of the feedback and recommendations formulated by the States Parties for the improvement of the Periodic Reporting of the Convention and the need to reinforce the technical platform to strengthen data upload for better reporting;
6. Decides to launch a one-year Periodic Reporting Reflection Period from July 2024 to June 2025 and requests the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report based on the overall outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and to present to the Committee a proposal for the revised format of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire for

the Fourth Cycle, as well as proposals for improving the process, relevance, analysis, and use of data for its examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;

7. Further requests the Secretariat to prepare a feasibility study to consider the practical modalities of enhancing the Periodic Reporting of the Convention including the practicality of reducing reporting cycles, establishing a common reporting deadline for all regions, consideration for specific questionnaires for cultural and natural properties as well as for transboundary and serial properties, and further developing synergies with other international instruments and programmes on cultural and natural heritage in a sustainable development perspective for examination at its 47th session;
8. Taking into consideration the IOS evaluation and in respect of Decision 219 EX/13, requests the Secretariat to also explore, within the above-mentioned feasibility study, the modalities of enhancing the Periodic Reporting of the Convention with the aim of facilitating a coherent analysis of global heritage trends and challenges, in preparation for their use in the UNESCO Global Reports on Cultural Policies;
9. Calls upon States Parties and other World Heritage stakeholders to provide extra-budgetary resources to ensure proper reflection, including through hosting Periodic Reporting reflection meetings with the participation of representatives of States Parties from all regions, Advisory Bodies, the Secretariat, UNESCO offices, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Category 2 Centres, as well as experts that have been involved in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting to ensure representation of all regions throughout the process.

11. REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE EXTENDED 45TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 46 COM 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/11,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 11** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Having examined the Background document prepared by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (April 2024),
4. Reaffirming that the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is at the core of the Convention, and equal attention needs to be given to inscription, protection and conservation, and management,
5. Also reaffirming the need to reduce the gaps, enhance representativity of heritage with Outstanding Universal Value, achieve a balanced and credible World Heritage List and to support the aspirations of non-represented and under-represented States Parties on the World Heritage List,
6. Requests the Advisory Bodies to undertake a review and an update of the 2004 Gap Analyses, including a consultative process, pending necessary financial support, to report about the progress, including a roadmap, to the 47th session and to submit the updated Gap Analyses, including an action plan for implementation, to its 48th session;

7. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and Category 2 Centres, to review existing and proposed new capacity building programmes and propose a mechanism to strengthen their funding and coordination including sustainability of results, focusing on Africa and SIDS, as well as under-represented and non-represented States Parties for the preparation of the Tentative Lists, nominations and long-term conservation, and ensure more awareness raising of stakeholders and decision makers on the processes and requirements of the Convention, and invite the States Parties to contribute financially to this end;
8. Strongly encourages States Parties to regularly revise their Tentative Lists to include under-represented categories of sites, and also recalling Paragraph 73 of the Operational Guidelines, encourages State Party dialogue at regional, sub-regional and inter-regional level;
9. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with Category 2 Centres, to present a proposal for the revision and simplification of the Nomination Format, and the corresponding revisions in the Operational Guidelines, also exploring options for developing an online platform for the submission of nomination dossiers, at its 47th session;
10. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies to update the Manual for Preparing Nominations, pending necessary financial support, and to submit it to its 48th session;
11. Further recalling the “Declaration of principles to promote international solidarity and cooperation to preserve World Heritage”, endorsed by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention in 2021, also strongly encourages Committee Members to refrain from having nominations examined during their mandate;
12. Also encourages an equal geographic representation of experts from all regions in the Advisory Bodies, including their inclusion in all stages of the evaluation and advisory processes, and an increased engagement of regional experts and Category 2 Centres for sustainable capacity building activities;
13. Recommends to carry-out an in-depth reflection on heritage in Africa, and the other regions, on understanding and application of authenticity as expressed by the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity and the 1964 Venice Charter on conservation and restoration, to reinforce the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and present a progress report to the Open-ended Working Group and to the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee;
14. Takes note of the intention by the State Party of Kenya to host a meeting in Kenya in May 2025 on the topic of heritage and authenticity in Africa;
15. Also recommends the establishment of an AFRICA 2035 Programme similar to the AFRICA 2009 Programme, with strategic objectives, inter alia, to reinforce the achievements of the AFRICA 2009 Programme, the Youth Heritage Africa Programme, to train young Africans on the dynamics of the inscription of sites on the World Heritage List, and to strengthen site management and conservation systems in the face of climate change in collaboration with ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre and other partners, including the Category 2 Centres;
16. In line with the Resolution **12 GA 30-48** adopted by the 12th General Assembly of States Parties and Paragraph 59 of the Operational Guidelines, further strongly encourages the States Parties with successful World Heritage nominations, to explore opportunities to

link each of their nominations with one nomination presented by a State Party whose heritage is under or non-represented; this entails full support for the whole process of the preparation of the nomination file, until the submission of both nominations preferably at the same cycle of evaluation;

17. Urges States Parties to develop genuine cooperation to reduce the imbalance of the List, by assisting a State Party that so requests in the process of preparing a nomination dossier;
18. Further recommends to explore the funding possibilities, including through the World Heritage Fund, to support the implementation of the above-mentioned programme and activities;
19. Decides to extend the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group until the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee.

12. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Decision: 46 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/12,
2. Decides to approve the following International Assistance requests:
 - a) “Consultancy services for the Revision of the Local Economic Development Plan of Le Morne Cultural Landscape World Heritage Property” (Mauritius) for an amount of US\$ 39,850 under the Conservation and Management-Culture budget; the finalized list of attributes will be one of the deliverables of the project and will be submitted to ICOMOS for review;
 - b) “Follow up to Reactive Monitoring Mission to Luang Prabang” (Lao PDR) for an amount of US\$ 74,620 under the Conservation and Management-Culture budget;
 - c) “Improving conservation knowledge in Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System” (Colombia) for an amount of US\$ 70,000 under the Conservation and Management-Culture budget;
 - d) “Capacity building in Environmental, Social and Visual impact Assessment for projects in vicinity of natural heritage sites in the United Republic of Tanzania” (United Republic of Tanzania) for an amount of US\$ 51,050 under the Conservation and Management-Nature budget;
3. Decides to increase the ceilings under International Assistance as follows:
 - a) US\$ 40,000 for Preparatory Assistance;
 - b) US\$ 40,000 for decision by the Chairperson;
 - c) US\$ 10,000 for decision by the Director of the World Heritage Centre;
4. Requests the Secretariat to reflect these modifications in the relevant paragraphs of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Encourages States Parties considering preparation of International Assistance requests to contact the World Heritage Centre for advice either on the topic and/or on the technicalities of their International Assistance requests well ahead the annual deadline of 31 October.

13. PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE BIENNIUM 2022-2023, REPORT ON THE EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2024-2025, FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 45 COM 15

Decision: 46 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/13,

Part One: Final reports on the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2022-2023

2. Takes note of the Financial Report for the biennium 2022-2023, which ended on 31 December 2023, as presented in Annexes I and II of document WHC/24/46.COM/13;
3. Recalls that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, as per Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention and calls upon all other States Parties, which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including for 2024, and including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid at their earliest convenience;
4. Thanks those States Parties which have already made supplementary voluntary contributions in recent years and also calls upon all other States Parties to consider making voluntary contributions as well as supplementary unrestricted voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, with the target of 10 or more States Parties doubling their annual contributions;

Part Two: Report on the implementation of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2024-2025

5. Takes note of the report on the implementation of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2024-2025;
6. Recognizing the need for additional human resources at the World Heritage Centre, calls upon States Parties to allocate voluntary contributions to the human resources sub-account of the World Heritage Fund;
7. Recalling paragraph 168bis of the Operational Guidelines, thanks those States Parties which have already made voluntary contributions to the sub-account dedicated to the evaluations of nominations to support the submission of Preliminary Assessment requests and nomination dossiers, and calls on all other States Parties to consider making such voluntary contributions;

Part Three: Follow-up to Decision 45 COM 15

8. Recalling its Decision **45 COM 15**,
9. Recalls that sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and the overall funding of World Heritage are strategic issues and a shared responsibility which concern all States Parties and relevant partners, affecting the overall credibility of the World Heritage Convention, not least the effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;
10. Recalling its Decision **42 COM 14**, paragraph 17, reiterates its invitation to all States Parties to support fund-raising events dedicated to the implementation of the Convention, and also encourages all States Parties to assist the World Heritage Centre in its fund-raising activities, in the form of secondments dedicated to fund-raising or in-kind/pro-bono consultancy in this field;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, at its 47th session, a progress report on the implementation of the 3 medium-term measures of the “Roadmap for the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund” adopted in 2017;
12. Invites the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to better present and provide additional financial information, in order to allow meaningful and detailed analysis of the average cost of evaluations and monitoring activities, and include in future reports to the World Heritage Committee historical trends dealing with these average costs.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

Decision: 46 COM 14

The World Heritage Committee,

Implementation of the Operational Strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (2023-2029) in the World Heritage Context

1. Recalling 42 C/Resolution 22 by which the UNESCO Operational Strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (2023-2029) was adopted in November 2023;
2. Also recalling the World Heritage Small Island Developing States Thematic Programme adopted in 2005;
3. Considering the growing threats of climate change to the islands and to their World Heritage properties inscribed on the List or on the Tentative Lists;
4. Notes the efforts made by the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the implementation of the World Heritage Small Island Developing States Thematic Programme and the UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy, notably through its Accelerator Programme 3;
5. Thanks the donors and appreciates the cooperative efforts in assisting the Small Island Developing States in the protection of the tangible heritage;
6. Calls upon the Member States, including the Group of Friends of Small Island Developing States in UNESCO as well as the private-public sector, the multilateral funds and

institutions, to provide support to the SIDS in the implementation of the Strategy, by assisting Small Island Developing States non represented and under-represented in the preparation of their indicative lists and nomination files, by ensuring capacity building in conservation and protection of World Heritage properties as well as of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and on actions and preparedness in the context of climate change;

7. Calls upon all relevant stakeholders to continue strengthening the implementation of the World Heritage Small Island Developing States Thematic Programme;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to regularly present to the World Heritage Committee, starting from its 47th session, under a separate item, a progress report on the implementation of the UNESCO SIDS Operational Strategy, notably its Accelerator Programme 3 and also in the context of World Heritage, in line with the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and the Programme and Budget for 2022-2025, for examination.

15. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 46 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Recalling its Decision **19 EXT.COM 3** adopted at its 19th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2023), which elected its Bureau whose mandate will be until the end of its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
2. 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;
3. 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 language of the Committee (English and French), or another official working language recognized by the United Nations, should be in compliance with UNESCO's rules, regulations and procedures;
4. Decides that its 47th session will take place in **Sofia (Bulgaria)**, from **6 to 16 July 2025**;
5. Also decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, its Bureau with the following composition:
 - a) **Prof. Nikolay Nenov (Bulgaria)** as Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 46th session of the Committee (New Delhi, 2024) until the end of the 47th session of the Committee,
 - b) **Belgium**
Mexico
Republic of Korea
Zambia and
Qatar

as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 46th session of the Committee (New Delhi, 2024) until the end of the 47th session of the Committee,

- c) **Ms Joelle Bucyana (Rwanda)** as the Rapporteur of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandate will begin at the end of the 46th session of the Committee (New Delhi, 2024) until the end of the 47th session of the Committee;
6. Further decides that the Bureau of the 48th session (2026) will be elected at the end of the 47th session of the Committee in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

16. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 46 COM 16

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/16,
- 2. Adopts the following provisional Agenda:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (New Delhi, 2024)
- 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. Progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa

- 5D. Progress report on World Heritage Convention and Sustainable Development
- 5E. Progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) including the Operational Strategy for the SIDS 2023-2029 in the context of World Heritage
- 6. Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related category 2 centres
 - 6A. World Heritage-related Capacity-Building activities and Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy
 - 6B. Progress report on the activities concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by 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. Nomination process
 - 8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2025
 - 8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List
 - 8C. Update of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger
 - 8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties
 - 8E. Adoption 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. Upstream Process

PERIODIC REPORTS

- 10. General Reflection on Periodic Reporting

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

11. Report of the Open-ended Working Group

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

12. International Assistance
13. Report on the execution of the budget for the biennium 2024-2025, Budget proposal for the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2026-2027 and Follow-up to Decision **46 COM 13**

CLOSING SESSION

14. Other business
15. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee
16. Provisional Agenda of the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee
17. Adoption of Decisions
18. Closing session

17. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

No Decision.

18. CLOSING SESSION

No Decision.